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Govt to continue funding centre for street children

KUALA LUMPUR — Yayasan Chow Kit (YCK) has clarified that Putrajaya did not stop funding its KL Krash Pad centre that assists street children amid government aid cuts from activist groups in Chow Kit.

Its founder, Hartini Zainudin, said Women, Family and Community Development Ministry officials informed her at a meeting yesterday the non-governmental organisation (NGO) was requested to submit another proposal for four months' funding.

"They said our funding has not been cut off because we didn't receive an official letter," Hartini told *Malay Mail Online*.

"We have to submit another proposal and if it's approved, it will only be for four months. They'll review funding every four months. It's good news."

Hartini said the ministry had told the NGO to request for less than RM300,000 and that the foundation had yet to decide on how much funding to ask for.

The child rights activist had said earlier the ministry decided not to

continue with its annual RM300,000 funding to KL Krash Pad.

Another NGO, SEED, which runs Pusat Bantuan Khidmat Sosial (PBKS) which helps transgenders, sex workers and people living with HIV in Chow Kit, said it had yet to hear from the ministry.

SEED said the ministry wrote it a letter on Dec 4 saying it had decided not to continue funding the centre.

"The MAC (Malaysian AIDS Council) verbally said will help us for the first month. Nothing from the ministry yet.

At least with MAC's help, it gives us time to source for another place, too," SEED's acting executive Mitch Yusmar Yusof told *Malay Mail Online*.

The ministry has been giving RM700,000 annually for the past seven years to the centre, which was started by former minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil in 2007.

Shahrizat said last Wednesday she would plead with the minister, Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim, to continue funding the centre and KL Krash Pad.