



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

### Constituency Offices benefit from Virtual Information Session on Social Grants and Services

In its continuous efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to engage Members of Parliament and Constituency Offices, with information on its various grants and services and how such could be accessed by those in need. Earlier today, April 4, 2022, staff attached to the Siparia, Mayaro and Tabaquite Constituency Offices benefited from a Virtual Public Information, Education and Sensitization Series commonly referred to as PIES.

PIES main focus is to bring relevant and pertinent information about the Ministry's various programmes, grants and services, directly to citizens in their respective communities, with the aim of clarifying issues related to access, whilst treating with concerns and responses from the Ministry. The session included representatives of the core delivery units such as Social Welfare Division, National Family Services Division, Division of Ageing and the National Social Development Programme (NSDP), where the SEED Programme, as well as grants for housing repairs, sanitary plumbing and electrical wiring were highlighted.

Delivering opening remarks, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services stated that the Ministry is committed to developing a more resilient and sustainable society through collaboration and deeper partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, faith-based and civil society organisations towards the achievement of human and social development.

According to Minister Cox, "We at the Ministry are aware that persons don't always receive accurate information on our grants and services. Therefore, a major area of priority for me as Minister is to ensure that all our various stakeholders, including Members of Parliament and Local Government representatives, continue to hear from us and receive up to date information, so that you all can assist us in reaching those we are unable to reach."

Minister Cox also took the opportunity to shed light on two projects under the ambit of the National Social Mitigation Plan; the Social Services Empowerment Unit (SSEU) and Social Transformation and Empowerment Unit-Uplifting People (Step-Up). She noted that the programme will allow families to improve, identify and develop their own capacity to successfully navigate community and other resources to resolve issues.

During the engagement, several issues were raised concerning the eligibility for grants and special circumstances where exceptions may be given for the access to grants. These concerns were noted for follow up action to be undertaken. Rushton Paray, Member of Parliament (MP) for Mayaro commended the Ministry stating that within his six years of being MP, this is the first time he has been given the

opportunity to be apprised of the services of the Ministry and also provide recommendations for greater collaboration and improved service delivery.

The Ministry will continue to engage its key stakeholders and the general public to ensure that the most vulnerable has all the information necessary to access the programmes, grants and services in an efficient and effective manner. For more information on how a PIES session could be conducted for your NGO, FBO or CBO, persons may contact the Corporate Communication and Education Unit via email, [cceu@social.gov.tt](mailto:cceu@social.gov.tt)

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Minister Cox delivers remarks during the Ministry's Virtual Information Session on Social Grants and Services