



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 28 June 2022

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

### **Social Development distributes SEED grants to 91 beneficiaries**

Port-of-Spain --- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services earlier today, June 28, hosted a brief ceremony, for the distribution of grants for the Sowing Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development Programme (SEED), to a group of twelve (12) recipients from the different regions across Trinidad and Tobago, at its Head Office on St Vincent Street, Port of Spain.

The Ministry provided support for ninety-one (91) applicants in total, who are set to either start up or expand a micro business enterprise of their choice. This investment by the Ministry amounts to One Million, Three Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Eleven Dollars and Nine Cents (\$1,319,611.09).

This move by the Ministry comes at a time when small businesses are still faced with financial challenges related to COVID-19 restrictions. Twelve (12) recipients under the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services' Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme, received their letters today to either start or expand a micro-business enterprise.

Noting the timely distribution of the grants that come one day after the commemoration of the United Nations Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day celebrated globally on June 27th, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox delivering the feature address told attendees that the distribution of the SEED grant is a strategic investment in the lives of the ninety-one recipients.

According to Minister Cox, "The SEED Programme reiterates its continued commitment to empower poor and vulnerable citizens who have an interest in starting or improving their own business but are unable to gain access to funding on their own or to engage in skills training and development. Each recipient has the opportunity to become successful business owners, who can grow their businesses and become household names in your communities."

Minister Cox further encouraged the recipients to make good use of this opportunity, and ensure that it is a stepping stone which leads to income generation and a better quality of life.

Among the twelve persons who received funding, some persons will be pursuing catering, landscaping, cosmetology, organic foods, woodworking, fashion design & production, graphic design, craft production, agriculture/food production and garment construction.

The Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme transforms the lives of beneficiaries through the provision of equipment, materials or specialized training, to initiate or expand a micro enterprise. The grant is valued at up to 15,000.00TTD for establishment or expansion of a micro business enterprise or \$7,500 TTD to facilitate skills training at a recognized / accredited institution to assist in gaining employment. To access the SEED grant, persons must undergo a Standard Means Test, must be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago and unemployed / underemployed, as well as willing to undergo training to develop their competencies.

Also present at the Ceremony were Permanent Secretary, Sheila Seecharan, and Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Wendy Guy-Hernandez and Jasmine Pascal.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to empowering vulnerable individuals to create a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

END



Minister Cox delivers remarks at the SEED Grant Distribution Ceremony



Patricia De Leon Henry, National Director of National Social Development Programme delivers opening remarks





Minister Cox presents a letter of approval for the SEED Grant to Chantal Bartholomew, who will be pursuing cosmetology.



Minister Cox presents a letter of approval for the SEED Grant to Rajendra Mahase, who will be pursuing landscaping.



Minister Cox and some of the SEED Grant recipients





Minister Cox and some of the SEED Grant recipients





Minister Cox gives words of encouragement to SEED Grant recipients