



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 11 September 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIORITY: High

Social Development Distributes \$3.5M in Home Repair Grants

Three million, four hundred and four thousand, seven hundred and ninety-seven dollars and fifty-two cents (\$3,404,797.52) in Home Repair Grants were distributed for fiscal 2024 under the Ministry's National Social Development Programme. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services hosted a brief distribution ceremony earlier today (Wednesday, 11 September 2024), at the Port of Spain City Corporation to present letters of approval to some of the beneficiaries.

During her feature address, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, indicated that the Programme, which specifically targets poor and vulnerable groups in society, is an instrumental component of the Ministry's plan to ensure that poor and vulnerable citizens throughout the country reside under habitable conditions. She further stated that for fiscal 2024, approximately \$3.5 million will be distributed to beneficiaries.

“As part of the National Social Development Programme, we are pleased to announce that two hundred and twenty-four (224) applications or eight hundred (800) persons have benefitted from our House Repair Programme. The cost is approximately \$3.5 million for this year so far. A breakdown of the funds we are distributing today is as follows: two million, three hundred and thirty-eight thousand, two hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents (\$2,338,226.50) for minor house repairs; five hundred and seventy thousand, one hundred and eleven dollars and eighty cents (\$570,111.80) in sanitary plumbing assistance; and four hundred ninety-six thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine dollars and twenty-two cents (\$496,459.22) in house wiring assistance. A significant portion of this funding will go toward victims of disasters, some of whom are sitting with us here today,” said the Minister.

She also highlighted that a significant portion of this funding will be allocated to disaster victims. Additionally, she encouraged persons to take advantage of the available counselling and psychosocial support, emphasizing the importance of mental health support following a disaster.

“Some persons here had their roofs blown off, others experienced infrastructure damage to their homes due to flooding and earthquakes. While you endeavor to recover from the loss of the physical infrastructure of your house, your psychosocial health is equally important. I therefore encourage you to utilize the services of our National Family Services Division if you are still in need of counselling or psychosocial support” said Minister Cox.

She further stated that adequate housing is listed as Goal number 3 in the Government’s Vision 2030 for the development of this country which specifies that the Government will increase the number of households to benefit from the Home Improvement Grants to 1500 annually, increase the number of Home Improvement Subsidies to 650 annually and increase the number of New Home Subsidies to 1000 annually.

The National Social Development Programme is a unit in the Ministry with the core function of improving the living conditions of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago through the provision of basic infrastructure for essential utility services. These services include minor house repair assistance, sanitary plumbing assistance, and house wiring assistance. For further information on these grants, please visit the Ministry’s website at www.social.gov.tt

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For more information:

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Minister Cox, joined by recipients take a photo following the distribution of Home Repair Grants on September 11, 2024 at the Port Spain City Hall.



Minister Cox presents Mr. Paul Hernandez with his approval letter for the Minor House Repair and Sanitary Plumbing Assistance Grants.



Minister Cox presents Ms Wendy Mohammed with her approval letter for the Minor House Repair and House Wiring Assistance Grants.

