THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is the core social sector Ministry with responsibility for coordinating the implementation of Government’s social and human development objectives. It currently offers programmes, services and grants to vulnerable persons including the family, youth, poor, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the socially displaced and other vulnerable individuals and groups within the society.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Some of the Grants provided under the Social Welfare Division include:

- Senior Citizens Pension
- Public Assistance
- Disability Assistance Grant
- General Assistance Grants
  - Household Items
  - Medical Equipment
  - Home Help Aid
  - Clothing Grant
  - Funeral Grant
  - Education Grant
  - Rental Assistance
  - School Supplies
  - Dietary Grant
  - Pharmaceutical
  - Special Child Grant
  - Prosthetics
- Special Achievers Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departments</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Items</td>
<td>$7,000.00 (Generally)</td>
<td>I.D Card</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate from furniture store</td>
<td>Plus fire report</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,000.00 (Disaster)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Equipment</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
<td>I.D Card</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate from supplier</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medical records (depending)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing Grant</td>
<td>$1,000.00 (per person in</td>
<td>I.D Card</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>family disaster only)</td>
<td>Estimate from Supplier</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fire/Police report/ERR form</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funeral Grant</td>
<td>$7,000.00</td>
<td>Applicant’s ID Card</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NIS form</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Death Certificate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIAL WELFARE</td>
<td>Education Grant</td>
<td>$200.00(Secondary School)</td>
<td>ID Card School from</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Assistance</td>
<td>$7,500.00(3 months’ rent)</td>
<td>ID Card Letter from landlord Landlord’s ID Card utility bill</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>School supplies Grant</td>
<td>$700.00 per child (Primary) $1,000.00 per child (secondary) Disaster only</td>
<td>ID Card Estimate from supplier Fire/Police report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens Grants</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
<td>ID Card NIS form Bank Statement Passport</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Grant</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
<td>ID Card NIS form Doctor’s Certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Assistance</td>
<td>$1,150.00 for 1 person $1,400.00 2 persons $1,600.00 for 3 persons $1,750.00 for 4person</td>
<td>ID Card NIS form Doctor’s certificate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dietary Grant</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>ID Card Letter from hospital nutritionist List of expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Help</td>
<td>$1,800.00(minimum of 3 months not exceeding 6 months)</td>
<td>ID Card Must be living alone Illness temporary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical Grant</td>
<td>$2,500.00 (for 3 months’ supply)</td>
<td>ID Card Estimate for materials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Child Grant</td>
<td>$1,100.00 (for a year)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information contact the Ministry at 623-2608, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or connect with us on Facebook.

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NATIONAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NSDP)

Through the National Social Development Programme, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, seeks to ensure that needy citizens and underdeveloped communities of Trinidad and Tobago have access to a reliable and sustainable supply of pipe borne water and electricity in their homes. The programme also seeks to improve sanitary plumbing facilities and homes that are in uninhabitable conditions, in an effort to raise standards of living and assist in improving the quality of life of citizens. The areas of services under the NSDP include:

- Improved Water Supplies
- Electrification and Lighting of Community Facilities
- House Wiring Assistance Facility (material and labour not exceeding $25,000.00)
- Materials for Sanitary Plumbing Assistance (material and labour shall not exceed $15,000)
- Minor House Repairs (material up to $15,000 and no more than $20,000 in the case of disasters)
- House wiring Facility - material and labour not exceeding ($25,000.00).
  - Rewiring
  - First Time Wiring
  - Materials only Assistance
- Materials for Sanitary Plumbing - Total Material Cost shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000.00);
- Minor House Repairs - materials provided for minor structural repairs to their homes - ($15,000.00) and up to ($20,000.00) in cases of disasters.

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NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services through the National Family Services Division provides a range of programmes and services to promote healthy family life in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Division can assist and or intervene in a range of issues and situations faced by the family, including domestic violence, depression, parenting support, abuse or incest, marital challenges and drug abuse. They also provide free counselling and support to families. For a listing of shelters contact 800-SAVE. You can reach Family Services Division at

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POVERTY ALLEVIATION GRANTS
FOR INDIVIDUALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- **SOWING ENTREPRENEURIAL EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT (SEED) GRANT**
  If you are over the age of 18, and receiving welfare or other state benefits, but want to start your own business, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services can help. Through the Sowing Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development (SEED) programme, grants of up to $15,000.00 are provided to assist persons in starting a business or improving their skill set. For more information contact the Ministry at 623-2608, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or connect with us on Facebook.

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- **REGIONAL MICRO PROJECTT FUND**
  Did you know the Regional Micro-Project Fund (RMPF) provides micro-grants to Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to implement poverty reduction projects within their communities? Offered through the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, groups can access a maximum of TT$50,000.00 to fund joint projects between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Government Organisations to undertake activities in all sectors of the economy, e.g. Agriculture, Education, Food and Nutrition, Health, Information Technology, Environment, Tourism, Sports, Life and Vocational Skills. For more information contact the Ministry at 623-2608, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or connect with us on Facebook.

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- **Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED)-Grant of up to $15,000**
  - Start-up or potential business owners
  - Existing mini-micro business owners.
  - Persons who have a desire to be trained in a specialized area for gainful employment.

- **The Regional Micro Project Fund (RMPF)-Provides a grant of up to TT$50,000.00 per project to community based, faith based, non-governmental, PTAs and other organisations to carry out projects with the poor and vulnerable in their communities.**

- **Micro Enterprise Loan Facility-(MEL)**
  - Bank for the poor’ helps to enhance the lives of the poor and vulnerable by granting them an opportunity to access affordable loans up to $10,000.00 at low interest rates for the purpose of business development.

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FOOD SUPPORT VIA THE TARGETED CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER SYSTEM (TT FOOD CARD)

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services offers food support to vulnerable persons and families in need through The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme, better known as the Food Card. Through this programme, recipients are able to purchase the basic items they need to meet their daily nutritional requirements, thereby enhancing the health and dignity of their household and reducing the incidence of poverty. The Programme uses a multiple variable index to determine eligibility as follows:

CRITERIA:
- Net Income
- Housing
- Assets
- Education

TT (Food) Cards are provided in temporary and long term versions. The programme allows a head of household to receive on behalf of the family a monthly cash credit on their food purchases to a stipulated amount as indicated hereunder:
- Households with 1-3 persons - $410
- Households with 4-5 persons - $550
- Households with 6 or more persons - $700

Food card recipients are required to participate in Programmes which provides families in extreme poverty with access to critical services in an effort to move them out of poverty. For more information contact the Ministry at 623-2608, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or connect with us on Facebook.

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PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES PROVIDED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services through the Disability Affairs Unit promotes programmes, practices and attitudes which facilitate the full inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of life. Moreover, the Disabilities Affairs Unit:
- Co-ordinates and monitors implementation of the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities;
- Coordinates and monitors the establishment of a Registry of persons with Disabilities;
- Provides technical support and referral for persons with disabilities, their families and all other persons interested in learning about disabilities;
- Evaluates requests for assistance from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and individuals.
- Networks with pertinent NGOs, mass media and international organisations to collect and disseminate information on disabilities;
• Implements programmes that empower persons with disabilities;
• Seeks to sensitise and increases public awareness of issues pertaining to persons with disabilities;
• Conducts research and collect data on persons with disabilities.

The Ministry provides a Disabilities grant in the sum of $1,800.00 to vulnerable families of persons with disabilities.

CRITERIA: Doctor’s Certificate, National Identification Card

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DID YOU KNOW?
The Day of persons with Disabilities is celebrated annually on December 3rd as proclaimed by United Nations

• ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME
Do you want to further your education? The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services administers the Adult Education Programme. This programme provides educational opportunities to adults and persons who are out-of-school, and have not yet graduated at the secondary level. This is done through remedial education, occupational courses, literacy programmes and family life education. Persons are NEC Certified upon completion. To learn more, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or contact the Ministry via Facebook.

Have you been thinking about the right skill to help you discover your true potential, earn a sustainable income and achieve financial independence? The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services through its Adult Education Programme offers a second chance to Adults fifteen (15) years and over who due to circumstances have been unable to fully participate in the world of work and or entrepreneurship. Opportunities are available in thirty (30) N.E.C Level 1 Courses, in basic skills development, Literacy & Numeracy and leisure time. Persons are NEC Certified upon completion. To learn more, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or contact the Ministry via Facebook.

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• **GERIATRIC ADOLESCENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (GAPP)**

If you are between the ages of 17 and 35 and are interested in taking care of the elderly, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services needs you. Through the Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP), young persons and young adults learn how to care for the elderly through classroom sessions and supervised field placements in public and private homes and other institutions within their communities. To learn more, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or contact the Ministry via Facebook.

Are you between the ages of 17 and 35 and passionate about caring for the elderly? The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services through the Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) can make your dream of becoming geriatric caregiver a reality. Come learn how to care for the elderly with job placement opportunities for successful graduates as caregivers in private homes and/or institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. For more information contact the GAPP Programme office at 621-5471 and or 624-8430.

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• **RETIREE ADOLESCENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (RAPP):**

Did you know that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services offers the Retiree Adolescent Partnership Programme better known as RAPP? This intergenerational programme seeks to utilize the skills and experience of retired persons to provide assistance and supervision for challenged youth (9-21 yrs.) Through this initiative, young persons in communities across Trinidad and Tobago are provided with supplemental and remedial classes, exposed to sports, culture, life skills and mentorship. It also involves engaging the youth and retired persons in the important process of nation building.

Research shows that interactions with young people allow older adults to relate to another generation, learn about new technology and trends and serve as role models for children growing into tomorrow's adults. Through our Retiree Adolescent Partnership Programme, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to meet this target by utilizing the skills and experience of retired persons to provide assistance and supervision for challenged youth aged 9-21 years. To find out more about this ground-breaking initiative of the Ministry of Social Development, through our RAPP programme, call us at 621-0884 or 621-3554.

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• **SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS THROUGH THE DIVISION OF AGEING**

**Senior Activity Centres:** The seven Centres are multi-service facilities which provide educational and recreational activities for seniors aged 55 years and over. The services are provided through NGOs which receive a subvention from the Ministry for this purpose.

**Senior Citizens’ Homes:** Ten Homes for the Aged, to rescue and provide shelter for the elderly who were displaced, had no relatives, or needed community care. Similarly, these are operated and managed by NGOs supported by Government subventions.
**ELDAMO Transportation Service:** Transportation is provided to Seniors across our country through the Public Service Transport Corporation (PTSC). Bookings should be made in advance by calling 800-RIDE.

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**DIDI YOU KNOW?**
The Day of Older persons is celebrated annually on October 1st, as proclaimed by United Nations

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT**
If you have a family member or friend who is addicted to drugs and alcohol and is ready to get help, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services may be able to assist. Through the PIPARO EMPOWERMENT CENTRE, the Ministry provides residential treatment, rehabilitation and skills training for male substance abusers over 18 years of age. Recovering substance abusers are provided with in-house Skills Training, external training through YTEPP and the Retraining Programme or other providers such as the Ministry of Food Production and Ministry of Community Development. All in an effort to rehabilitate and enable them to lead sustainable lives.

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**SUPPORT TO SOCIALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**
Did you know the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services provides treatment and care for socially displaced persons? Through the Social Displacement Unit the Ministry operates the New HORIZON CENTRE which provides viable support alternatives to street dwelling and to meet the long term care and rehabilitation needs of the socially displaced. For more information contact the Ministry at 623-2608, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or connect with us on Facebook.

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**COLLABORATION WITH NGOs THROUGH THE NGO UNIT**
The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services provides support to Non-Governmental Organizations doing critical work to help vulnerable groups throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Support is in the form of a subvention or one-off grant for the implementation of a range of social projects in communities or at a national level. Services are offered to the following:

- Services for persons with disabilities
- Hostels and halfway houses
- Family Life and Counseling Services
- Socially Displaced persons
- Rehabilitation of Ex-prisoners/deportees
- HIV/AIDS
- Other Social Services
For more information contact the Ministry at 623-2608, visit the Social Welfare Office in your area or connect with us on Facebook.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

*The Ministry, in 2016, completed four social dialogues across Trinidad and Tobago with key stakeholders and members of the public? This emanated from a call for the Ministry to develop a Social Mitigation plan to cushion any negative effects of the downturn in the economy. It is expected that the data will assist in informing the Ministry’s strategic direction with regard to social programming.*

*The discussion on this issue also arose as the Ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Enterprise Development to address matters related to retrenched workers and the social support necessary for this target group.*