



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT

BACKGROUND

The Local Economic Development Grant (**LEDG**) has been established by the Social Development Commission (SDC) to assist with the growth and expansion of local economic initiatives (LEIs) operating primarily at the community level. The **Grant** will be used to create a platform from which grassroots businesses can grow thereby increasing employment and wealth creation. It is expected that the grant of low amounts will be used to enhance the capacities, marketability, sustainability and viability of local economic initiatives.

OBJECTIVES

- This Grant facility is being positioned to:
 - Strengthen Local Economic Initiatives (LEIs) capacities and capabilities in business management, production and operations
 - expand production and employment
 - increase registration of local economic initiatives as small businesses

AREAS OF FOCUS

The Local Economic Initiatives (LEIs) will be able to apply for grants under the following four (4) themes:

1. Capacity Building

- Skills Training
- Training in Financial Management, Book keeping, social marketing, sales etc.
- Funding support to attend seminars / workshops designed to improve business operations and management

2. Procurement of Inputs for Business Expansion

- Local Economic Initiatives can submit proposals to obtain funding support to:
 - E.g. purchase equipment, tools, supplies and raw materials

- E.g. acquire facility layout designs, procure materials to **improve** factory space and operations

3. Marketing

- LEIs can apply for funding support to strengthen their marketing capabilities:
 - E.g. procure packaging, labelling, profile for product development and standardization, product certification, website design
 - E.g. Personal Protective Equipment such as branded double-breasted jacket, toque - chef's hat, branded shirts, aprons etc;
 - E.g. obtain intellectual property rights protection *e.g.* patent, trademark etc;

4. Business Registration

- LEIs can submit proposals to acquire financial assistance to register their businesses as a **Company**

Note:

- **Local Economic Initiatives (LEIs) can apply in not more than two (2) thematic areas per call.**

WHO CAN APPLY

- Local Economic Initiatives (**LEIs**) owned and operated by the Community Development Committee (**CDC**) / Development Area Committee (**DAC**) / Parish Development Committee (**PDC**)
- Local Economic Initiatives (**LEIs**) co owned and operated by the Community Development Committee (**CDC**) / Development Area Committee (**DAC**) / Parish Development Committee (**PDC**)
- Local Economic Initiatives(**LEIs**) **affiliated to** the Community Development Committee (**CDC**) / Development Area Committee (**DAC**) / Parish Development Committee (**PDC**)

CRITERIA FOR GRANT AWARDS

- The **Local Economic Initiative (LEI)** must be in existence for more than 12 months
- The name of the **Local Economic Initiative (LEI)** must be identified by the Social Development Commission's Local Economic Initiatives listing as at **31 December 2020**
- The **Local Economic Initiative (LEI)** must possess a Local Economic Development Support Plan
- The **Local Economic Initiative (LEI)** must possess a Business Model. **NB:** The possession of a Business Plan is an asset
- The **Local Economic Initiative (LEI)** must have participated in at least two (2) Social Development Commission (**SDC**) organised and executed Business Fairs and one (1) Social Development Commission economic development related capacity building session in the past **24** months

Note: *Successful Local Economic Initiatives (LEIs) can only apply once per year.*

FUNDING SOURCE AND GRANT AMOUNT

The Local Economic Development Grant (LEDG) is being funded by the Government of Jamaica and, for Financial Year 2020/2021 the maximum amount to be awarded to each successful applicant is **JMD\$250,000**.