



## **BACKGROUND**

The Local Economic Development Grant (**LEDG**) is being 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 the local economy can grow thereby increasing employment and wealth creation. It is expected that the grant of low amounts will be used to enhance the marketability, sustainability and viability of local economic initiatives.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- This Grant facility is being positioned to
  - expand production and employment
  - improve/ strengthen the operational capacities and capabilities of existing local economic initiatives (LEIs)
  - 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 three themes:*

### **1. Procurement of Inputs for Business Expansion**

- Local Economic Initiatives can submit proposals to obtain funding support to:
  - E.g. purchase equipment, tool, supplies and raw materials
  - E.g. acquire designs for facility layout

### **2. Marketing**

- LEIs can apply for funding support to strengthen their marketing capabilities
  - E.g. procure packaging, labelling, profile for product development and standardization
  - E.g. obtain intellectual property rights protection (*e.g.* patent, trademark etc.)

### **3. Business Registration**

- LEIs can submit proposals to acquire financial assistance to register their businesses

**Note: Local Economic Initiatives (LEIs) can apply in one thematic area per call.**

## **WHO CAN APPLY**

- Local Economic Initiatives owned and operated by the Community Development Committee (CDC) / Development Area Committee (DAC) / Parish Development Committee (PDC)
- Local Economic Initiatives co owned and operated by the Community Development Committee (CDC) / Development Area Committee (DAC) / Parish Development Committee (PDC)
- Local Economic Initiatives *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 30 September 2018
- 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 organised and executed Business Fairs and one (1) Social Development Commission led capacity building session in the past **24** months

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

## **DEADLINES, PROCESS AND RESPONSE TIME**

The Call for Proposals will be issued in the month of January, 2019 and applications will be invited through the following media: **SDC's website and print media (The Gleaner and or Observer)**. The overall processing and response time *that is*, from the receipt of application to the disbursement of funds will be six (6) weeks.

**Upon receipt of application, a Parish Selection Committee consisting of the Parish Manager, Field Supervisor, Community Development Officer, Local Economic Development Coordinator, two members of the PIAN and one member of local Business sector will meet to objectively screen/shortlist applications. The supporting documents such as the checklist will be provided**

Thereafter, shortlisted applications will be submitted to SDC's Head Office where the LED Grant Screening Committee will appraise applications and recommend suitable projects based on the established criteria. Subsequently, the LED Grant Selection Committee will determine the final projects approved to receive grants.

#### **FUNDING SOURCE AND GRANT AMOUNT**

The Local Economic Development Grant (LEDG) is being funded by the Government of Jamaica and, for this Financial Year 2018/2019 a total of **JMD\$2,700,000** will be disbursed. As the LED Grant advances, the Social Development Commission will be actively pursuing public private partnerships to expand of the pool of funds made available to support the growth of local economic initiatives.

The maximum amount to be awarded to each successful applicant in FY2018/2019 is **JMD\$100,000**.

#### **MONITORING EVALUATION AND LEARNING**

The SDC's Local Economic Development Coordinator (LEDC) with the support of the Community Development Officer (CDO) will provide ongoing monitoring, coaching and evaluation during project implementation. Additionally, grantees will be required to submit a project completion report. Of note, the submission of the project completion report substantiates the eligibility of the Local Economic Initiative (LEI) for future grants or assistance from the Social Development Commission.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS – Promotions and Advertisement**

The pictures, interviews and printed materials of all applicants and selected projects will be used in SDC's promotions and advertisement campaign. The Social Development Commission reserves the right to visit selected projects during and after project completion.