

 **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 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, Bookkeeping, Social Media Marketing, Sales, Customer Service
	* 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, raw materials
		+ E.g. procure materials to **improve** factory space and operations, acquire facility layout designs
3. **Marketing**
* LEIs can apply for funding support to strengthen their marketing capabilities:
	+ - E.g. procure packaging, labelling, profile for product development and standardization, acquire product certification and 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;
1. **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)** identified by the Social Development Commission’s Local Economic Initiatives listing as at **March 31, 2023,** which can be:
* Individually owned
* Wholly owned and operated by the Community Development Committee (**CDC**) / Development Area Committee (**DAC**) / Parish Development Committee (**PDC**) or
* Co-owned and operated by 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 **March** **31, 2023**
* 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 one (1) Social Development Commission **(SDC)** organised and executed Community Markets and or 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 apply ONLY once per financial year***

**CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT**

* All Grants approved must be utilized within twelve (12) months of date indicated on approval Letter
* Grant Funds will be paid to Supplier (s) **ONLY** on submission of original invoices

* Invoice(s) submitted **must** have the following:
	+ Customer listed as the Social Development Commission for name of LEI/Business and business operator/proprietor
	+ Suppliers’ Tax Registration Number (TRN) or General Consumption Tax (GCT) Number, contact details to include: address, telephone number, date etc.;
	+ Invoices should show: item, quantity, unit cost and total cost
	+ Supplier’s signature
* Grant funds not used for its intended purpose **MUST BE RETURNED** to the Social Development Commission (SDC). Non-compliance will result in penalties being applied
* Grant funds must be used solely as per grant proposal approved. If applicant requires change to project scope a letter must be sent to:
	+ **The Executive Director**

Social Development Commission

22 Camp Road, Kingston 4.

Email: dorahj@sdc.gov.jm

* A Project Completion Report must be submitted by successful applicant. Non- submission will result in applicant being ineligible to apply for another grant.

*See SDC’s website for Project Completion document*.

**FUNDING SOURCE AND GRANT AMOUNT**

The Local Economic Development Grant (LEDG) is being funded by the Government of Jamaica and, for Financial Year 2023/2024 the maximum amount to be awarded to each successful applicant is **JMD$250,000.00**