



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Over 340 families to benefit from Home Improvement Grants

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago – June 6, 2024 – In a significant move to ensure citizens have access to adequate and affordable housing¹, over 340 families are set to benefit from Home Improvement Grants in the weeks ahead. Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Adrian Leonce made the announcement yesterday at a cheque distribution at the head office of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on South Quay in Port of Spain.

Minister Leonce said: “In the last fiscal year, the programme supported 762 families with an expenditure of \$11.43 million. For the current fiscal year, \$12 million has been allocated, and we expect to assist 800 families. The overwhelming response, with over 1,500 new applications, underscores the programme's critical need and public appreciation.”

During the ceremony, cheques were distributed to 25 beneficiaries who form part of a larger group of 342 recipients from North West Trinidad. These beneficiaries hail from various communities, including Champs Fleur, Santa Cruz, Laventille, Diego Martin, Morvant, Trincity, Belmont, Cascade, and Port of Spain. Minister Leonce praised their resilience and spirit, emphasizing the transformative power of the grants. Minister Leonce said other distribution ceremonies of more Home Improvement Grants for other parts of the country will be announced soon.

The HIG programme provides non-refundable grants of \$15,000 to low-income households for essential home repairs, improving safety, functionality, and aesthetics. Managed by the Housing Programme Facilitation and

¹ Vision 2030 – National Development Strategy 2016-2030, Theme I, Goal 3

Implementation Unit (HPFIU), the initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to enhance the national housing stock and foster healthier living conditions.

Minister Leonce outlined the Programme's key objectives, which include preserving existing homes, enhancing living conditions, beautifying neighbourhoods, and supporting annual home repairs. Eligibility criteria ensure that the grants reach those most in need, requiring applicants to be citizens of Trinidad and Tobago with an annual household income of \$60,000 or less.

Minister Leonce also reminded recipients of the responsibility that comes with the grants. He stressed that funds must be used strictly for agreed repair works, with any changes requiring prior approval from the HPFIU. Misuse or delays could result in the Ministry requesting repayment. Beneficiaries should refer to their Agreement's Schedule B and Approved Estimate, save all original bills and receipts, and ensure timely project completion. Inspections will be conducted to verify that repairs meet required standards.

As the ceremony concluded, Minister Leonce urged beneficiaries to view the grants as investments in their communities' future. He extended heartfelt congratulations to the recipients, emphasizing that the grants symbolize the government's commitment to their well-being and collective belief in a brighter, stronger Trinidad and Tobago.

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