Fourth Session of the 12th Parliament

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT
Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

HEAD 78: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

ALLOCATION: $5,794,673,200

A Summary of the Department's Projects Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.
Publication
An electronic copy of this Guide can be found on the Parliament website: www.ttparliament.org

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services for the period 2018-2024. It provides Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry’s responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure, 2024;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme, 2024;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme 2024; and
- the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2022.
Head 78: Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Ministry Overview

Mission
To lead in the enhancement of lives, with emphasis on the vulnerable, through a network of integrated, effective and accessible social services.

Vision
A dynamic, people-centred organization achieving sustainable human and social development.

The Ministry is the core social sector Ministry with responsibility for coordinating the implementation of Government’s social and human development objectives. The MSDFS is mandated with responsibility for addressing the social challenges of poverty, social inequality and social exclusion. Particular emphasis is placed on developing and executing programmes and services that protect and assist vulnerable and marginalized groups in society such as women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the poor/indigent, the socially displaced, ex-prisoners, deportees and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Guided by the tenets ‘Helping, Empowering and Transforming Lives’, the Ministry seeks to empower its clientele through rehabilitative and skill enhancement initiatives, which promote human prosperity in the context of sustainable development. The MSDFS is also responsible for developing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating social sector policies and programmes to ensure sustainability, cultural relevance and economic viability.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services seeks to deliver its mandate in alignment with its Vision, Mission and Core Values.

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The major roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services are:

- Serving as a central coordinating body for the social sector with respect to the conduct of research, policy and programme planning and development; and monitoring and evaluation;
- Facilitating networking, information and data gathering and dissemination within the social sector and with external agencies;
- Initiating and operationalizing programmes for subsequent hand over to relevant social sector Ministries;
- Developing systems, strategies and programmes to realize positive attitudes and behaviour in the citizenry;
- Identifying gaps and making recommendations for the drafting and amendment of legislation relevant to the sector;
- Fostering peace, harmony and social justice through programmes such as community mediation;
- Fostering good governance through the promotion of participatory development approaches;
- Delivering social services and providing social support for vulnerable groups, towards sustainable enhancement of their well-being.

The Ministry’s seven (7) Strategic/Corporate Objectives according to its core stakeholder groups are as follows:

- Poverty Reduction - To reduce the incidence of the poverty in society;
- Persons with Disabilities - To increase the level of participation of persons with disabilities in society toward the realisation of their full potential;
- The Elderly - To sustain and enhance the well-being of all elderly persons;
- Social Displaced - To reduce the number of socially displaced persons;
- Substance Abuse - To reduce substance abuse in the population;
- Research, Policy Monitoring and Evaluation - To develop, monitor and evaluate the policy framework for the effective delivery of social services; and
Organizational Development - To achieve a high performance, customer focused organization that meets its operational and strategic objectives in an efficient and effective way.

Executive Team:

- **Minister**: Senator the Honorable Donna Cox
- **Permanent Secretary (Accounting Officer)**: Mrs. Lenor Baptiste -Simmons
- **Permanent Secretary**: Mr. Ryan Ramcharan
- **Deputy Permanent Secretary**: Mrs. Wendy Guy-Hernandez
- **Deputy Permanent Secretary**: Mrs. Vera Deonanan Balkaran

Responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services as stated in the Gazette on September 09, 2020 are as follows:

- Adult Education
- Ageing Division
- Disbursement of funds/Sponsorship
- Policy and Monitoring Interdisciplinary
- Child Development Centre
- Integrated Social Services
- National Family Services
- National Social Development Programme
- Senior Citizens Homes
- Social Impact Assessment and Review
- Social Planning, Development and Monitoring
- Social Policy
- Social Research

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Social Services Delivery and Policy (Change Management, Citizen Engagement, Disability Affairs, Halfway Houses, NGOs, Poverty Alleviation Policy, Social Displacement, Social Welfare, Support for persons who cannot pay Utilities, Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme Policy)

Social Services Measurement and Policies

Statutory Board and Other Bodies

Supporting Statutory Boards and agencies\(^3\) all work in unison to achieve the objectives set by the Ministry’s mandate:

- Adoption Boards
- Social Welfare District Boards
- Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children
- Trinidad and Tobago Association in Aid of Deaf
- Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association

TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED - $58,974,346,830.34

3.8 During the financial year 2022 expenditure was incurred under forty-two (42) Heads of Expenditure as detailed on the Statement of Expenditure included with the Treasury Statements. Table 3.1 below highlights those areas where expenditure was in excess of one billion dollars and reflects the percentages of total expenditure.

Table 3.1 Actual Expenditure in Excess of $1Bn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head of Expenditure</th>
<th>Actual Expenditure ($)</th>
<th>% of Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78 - Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</td>
<td>5,424,770,920.72</td>
<td>9.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Transfers

3.14 Current Transfers under Sub-Heads 04 - Current Transfers and Subsidies and 06 – Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies totalled $31,673,676,197.66 or 54% of actual expenditure for the financial year 2022. Presented below are transfers and subsidies to Heads of Expenditure in excess of $1Bn:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head of Expenditure</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 - Treasury Division (Comptroller of Accounts)</td>
<td>4,119,107,174.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - Pensions &amp; Gratuities</td>
<td>3,069,497,080.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - Ministry of Education</td>
<td>1,683,368,263.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 - Ministry of Health</td>
<td>4,846,082,189.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 - Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</td>
<td>5,257,123,430.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3.15 With effect from October 1, 2019, a Treasury decision was taken to decentralise the payment of contract gratuities to ministries and departments. Ministries and departments are now required to bring to account contract gratuities under 04 - Current Transfers and Subsidies/007 - Households/40 - Gratuities to Contract Officers. Ministries and Departments Appropriation Statements recorded $183,345,509.83 expended to meet the payments of contract gratuities.

Table 3.3 Contract Gratuity Payments as per Appropriation Account 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Ministries / Departments</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</td>
<td>5,995,665.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commitments

3.17 Comptroller of Accounts Circular No. 15 dated July 27, 2022 required ministries and departments to present in the Notes to the accounts at Note 21(i) of the Appropriation Accounts a statement showing total outstanding commitments in respect of each sub-head of expenditure as at September 30, 2022. Presented below in Table 3.4 are the commitments recorded by Ministries and Departments at Note 21(i) of their Appropriation Accounts.

Table 3.4 Commitments as per Note 21(i)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Ministries / Departments</th>
<th>Commitments as per Note 21(i) ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</td>
<td>40,979.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head 78 - Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Section D - Notes to the accounts
Note 5 Statement of Bank Accounts held

3.66 Note 5 discloses the bank balances of two (2) accounts held in two (2) banks namely, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago in the name of Social Welfare and a bank in the name of Conditional Cash Transfer Programme. Evidence of reconciliation of the bank statements with the cash book as required by Financial Instruction 217 was not produced.

Follow-up of Data Analysis of Grants Administered by Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSD&FS)

3.67 A follow-up review was conducted between December 2022 and February 2023 on the database in use to administer grants by the MSD&FS. The review included an assessment of the integrity of the data stored in the relevant databases and examination of clients’ files at eight (8) local board offices of the Ministry. It was noted that the Ministry is undertaking a data sanitisation process at the local board level to clean up the data. The databases examined were in respect of senior citizens’ pensions, food support, public assistance and disability assistance.

3.68 In 2021, audit had identified deficiencies in the databases used in the payments of certain grants. These included but are not limited to the following:

- Missing data that may affect the analysis
- Incomplete and/or inaccurate data
- Instances of duplicate records
- Non standardisation of the date of birth field
- Non standardisation of the National ID card number field.

3.69 Overall, there were improvements in the integrity of the data held in the database.
STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

4.4 Section 24 (1) (c) of the Act, Chapter 69:01 as amended by Act No. 23 of 1998 requires Receivers of Revenue to prepare and transmit to the Auditor General their Statements of Receipts and Disbursements in such a form as the Treasury may direct.

4.5 Statements of Receipts and Disbursements for the financial year 2023 were not received in the Auditor General’s Department from the following Receiver of Revenue:

- SD1 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2022/2023, the following statement was made by the Minister of Social Development and Family Services, in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services for fiscal year 2023:

“The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to diligently pursue its mandate of maintaining the social safety net providing the support needed by the poor and vulnerable as we deal with an uncertain economic climate. In fiscal 2022, the Ministry prioritized three separate but related goals: assisting those in need of our help; modernizing and upgrading our service delivery system to serve them better; and advancing our legislative agenda to accomplish the first two. […] we are in the midst of a transformation process that will involve not only digitalization of our services and redesign of our organizational structures, but also major positive shifts in attitudes and behaviours internally. The Ministry will also pursue the required legislative changes to accomplish the goals it has set for accomplishment. [...] In fiscal 2023, having been allocated the sum of $5.4 billion, [...] And in this regard, the Ministry will continue to advance towards the expansion and improvement in service delivery to our clients and their representatives.

- Minister of Social Development and Family Services

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The GORTT is committed to improving the delivery of social services to better serve the needs of the vulnerable in society, including socially displaced persons, differently-abled persons, children, and the elderly. A total of $26.4 million was expended for the implementation of various programmes geared towards improving the well-being and standard of living of vulnerable groups.

**Services to Differently-Abled Persons**

A multi-sector committee established by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) commenced the development of an Operationalisation Plan for the Development Centre for Persons with Challenges – National Enrichment Resource Centre (NEC) located in Carlsen Field. The Committee conducted meetings with a non-governmental organisation to finalise the required equipment for five (5) therapeutic rooms, including a paediatric gym, a pediatric sensory room, a resource room, a daily living suite and an adult gym. Additionally, the installation of a fire-and-safety system at the NEC was completed at a cost of $0.9 million.

**Establishment of Social Displacement Centres**

In order to prepare socially displaced persons for reintegration into society, the MSDFS is seeking to provide suitable transitional living facilities, whereby persons can undergo assessments and benefit from counselling, training, medical screening and other rehabilitation programmes. A total of $2.5 million was expended for the provision of Social Displacement Centres.

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The MSDFS acquired a property in Penal consisting of six (6) apartments which will be refurbished to accommodate the Penal Transitional Facility for socially displaced persons. Contracts valued at $0.5 million and $0.8 million were awarded for the conduct of external works and upgrade of the plumbing systems respectively.

Additionally, the MSDFS awarded a contract valued at $0.9 million for the installation of fire- and-safety equipment at the Carapo Transitional Living Facility. The project advanced to 60 percent completion in fiscal 2023, and will significantly enhance the safety for residents of the Facility.

**Care of the Elderly**

The outfitting and remodelling of the Hernandez Place Residential Facility, located in Arima, was completed at a cost of $0.5 million. The facility will provide accommodation to elderly persons who have been displaced and require specialised care and treatment. The procurement process for the engagement of an operator to manage the Facility has commenced.

**Implementation of a Social Mitigation Plan**

A total of $0.5 million was utilised for the *Implementation of the National Social Mitigation Plan (NSMP)* which seeks to mitigate the negative social impacts of the economic downturn in Trinidad and Tobago. The major achievements under the NSMP included:

- remodelling and outfitting of a call centre and hotline at the Couva Social Services Centre; and
- payment of outstanding sums to a consultant for the conduct of an assessment of the civil society sector and the Food Support Programme.
Supplementation of Appropriation for fiscal year 2023

During fiscal 2023, it was necessary to have a Supplementation of Appropriation of resources to fund urgent and critical expenditure.

**Recurrent Expenditure - $348,172,814**

- 04/007/02 - Senior Citizens Grant - $314,990,068
- 04/007/003 - Social Assistance - $14,210,660
- 04/007/08 - Disability Grant - $18,972,086

Supplementary funding was required to meet a short fall in allocation under sub-items above due to the current trend of expenditure and as a result of the payment of the one-time transport grant.

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The Ministry’s total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2018 to 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
<th>National Budget</th>
<th>Percentage of National Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$4,695,656,512.00</td>
<td>$54,211,726,813.00</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$5,109,037,840.00</td>
<td>$54,581,467,181.00</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$5,437,381,261.00</td>
<td>$57,388,076,726.00</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$5,444,022,155.00</td>
<td>$56,498,472,820.00</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$5,424,770,921.00</td>
<td>$58,974,346,470.00</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>$5,705,814,500.00</td>
<td>$67,063,358,456.00</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>$5,769,494,200.00</td>
<td>$68,384,229,740.00</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated a decrease in the allocation to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services by .1% between the Fiscal 2023 and 2024.

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8 For the Fiscal Years 2018-2022, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry’s total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Ministry’s total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024.
9 Total Allocation for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund
10 The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund
Where the Ministry spends its money

2024 Estimates of Expenditure\(^{11}\)

The budget allocation of $5,794,673,200 for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of $5,732,744,200; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of $61,929,000 include:
  - Consolidated Fund - $36,750,000.00; and
  - Infrastructure Development Fund - $25,179,000.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - $45,982,400;
- 02 Goods and Services - $147,099,200;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases - $2,824,600;
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies - $5,495,738,000; and
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies - $41,100,000.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is 8.8%;
- Development Programme Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is 1.1%; and
- Development Programme Infrastructure Development Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is 0.8%.


Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
Total Allocation - $5,794,673,200

$5,732,744,200; 98.93%

$251,790,000; 0.43%

$367,500,000; 0.63%

Recurrent Expenditure
Consolidated Fund
Infrastructure Development Fund
**Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2018-2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2024 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Personnel Expenditure</td>
<td>$39954,595</td>
<td>$41389,782</td>
<td>$40124,093</td>
<td>$38530,685</td>
<td>$37072,273</td>
<td>$44646,000</td>
<td>$45982,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Goods and Services</td>
<td>$97736,138</td>
<td>$82756,126</td>
<td>$104880,474</td>
<td>$109266,781</td>
<td>$117943,893</td>
<td>$121084,500</td>
<td>$147099,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Minor Equipment Purchases</td>
<td>$486,435</td>
<td>$86,209</td>
<td>$50,428</td>
<td>$924,070</td>
<td>$3111,269</td>
<td>$2236,000</td>
<td>$2824,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Current Transfers and Subsidies</td>
<td>$4519534,933</td>
<td>$4950806,172</td>
<td>$5248102,142</td>
<td>$5246320,315</td>
<td>$5215333,801</td>
<td>$5492348,000</td>
<td>$5495738,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards &amp; Similar Bodies</td>
<td>$34438,931</td>
<td>$33624,886</td>
<td>$39781,446</td>
<td>$39728,202</td>
<td>$41789,629</td>
<td>$35000,000</td>
<td>$41100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$4692151,032</td>
<td>$5108663,175</td>
<td>$5432938,583</td>
<td>$5434770,053</td>
<td>$5415250,865</td>
<td>$5695314,500</td>
<td>$5732744,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
Analysis and Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases, Current Transfers and Subsidies and Current Transfers to Stat. Boards and Similar Bodies.

- The Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 was estimated $5,732,744,200 which represents approximately 98.93% of the total budget allocation of $5,794,673,200 received by the Ministry for the FY2024.

- **Personnel Expenditure** for FY2024 increased by $1,336,400 in comparison to the FY2023 (Revised) figure of $44,646,000. This represents approximately a 3% increase between the two financial years.

- The largest portion of the allocation has consistently gone to **Current Transfer and Subsidies** for the years 2018-2024. This Sub Head will receive approximately 95.87% of the total allocation for FY2024.

- In FY2024, **Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, and Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies** will account for 0.8%, 2.57% and 0.72% respectively of the Ministry’s total recurrent expenditure.

- **Minor Equipment Purchases** has received the lowest portion of the Ministry’s allocation for the period 2018 to 2024 receiving approximately 0.05% of the Ministry’s total recurrent expenditure for FY2024.
- The total actual/estimated expenditure for the five (5) sub heads has fluctuated over the seven (7) year period. On average, the Ministry received approximately **$5,358,833,201** over the same period.
2024 Estimates - $5,732,744,200

- $549,538,000; 95.87%
- $41,100,00; 0.72%
- $4,598,240; 0.80%
- $147,099,200; 2.57%
- $282,460; 0.05%

01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
05 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies
Staff and Pay

The allocation of staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2024 was $124,868,400 which represents an increase of approximately 19.56% from the last fiscal year 2023. The following chart provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2022-2024.

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**Summary of Staff and Pay Expenditure 2022-2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenditure</td>
<td>$37072,273.00</td>
<td>$44646,000.00</td>
<td>$45982,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling and Subsistence</td>
<td>$5210,031</td>
<td>$5809,000</td>
<td>$6800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms</td>
<td>$13,624</td>
<td>$18,100</td>
<td>$76,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Employment</td>
<td>$30889,889</td>
<td>$32850,000</td>
<td>$46290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>$74,370</td>
<td>$114,000</td>
<td>$620,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term Employment</td>
<td>$13322,820</td>
<td>$20980,000</td>
<td>$25000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees Assistance Programme</td>
<td>$20,700</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$86603,707.00</td>
<td>$104438,100.00</td>
<td>$124868,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services that may not feature in other ministries or departments.

### Expended Unique to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2024 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04-007-02 Senior Citizens Grant</td>
<td>$3553245,345</td>
<td>$3846556,192</td>
<td>$4062735,944</td>
<td>$4236563,433</td>
<td>$4239885,107</td>
<td>$4463090,000</td>
<td>$4463090,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-007-03 Social Assistance</td>
<td>$391385,916</td>
<td>$356875,829</td>
<td>$488250,684</td>
<td>$353121,459</td>
<td>$320006,856</td>
<td>$329000,000</td>
<td>$329000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-007-08 Disability Grant</td>
<td>$513471,887</td>
<td>$565697,681</td>
<td>$613074,082</td>
<td>$622603,199</td>
<td>$614681,188</td>
<td>$643972,000</td>
<td>$643972,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-007-04 Urgent Temporary Assistance</td>
<td>$19820,390</td>
<td>$143174,505</td>
<td>$42915,939</td>
<td>$11305,599</td>
<td>$14405,108</td>
<td>$32000,000</td>
<td>$30000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development Programme\textsuperscript{15} is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes human resources, economic and social development.

The allocation of $61,929,000 for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2024 is presented in one part as follows:

- Funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund = $36,750,000 ; and
- Funds disbursed directly from the Infrastructure Development Fund = $25,179,000.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{lcccccccc}
\hline
Social Infrastructure- Consolidated Fund & $1204,731.00 & $374,665 & $2280,423 & $4348,709 & $4279,940 & $3500,000 & $14000,000 \\
Multi-Sectoral and Other Services- Consolidated Fund & $2300,749.00 & $- & $2162,255 & $4903,393 & $5240,116 & $7000,000 & $22750,000 \\
Social Infrastructure- Infrastructure Development Fund & $- & $- & $- & $- & $- & $5000,000 & $23179,000 \\
Multi-Sectoral and Other Services- Infrastructure Development Fund & $- & $- & $- & $- & $- & $- & $2000,000 \\
\end{tabular}
\caption{Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2018-2024}
\end{table}

In accordance with the Vision 2030 Theme “Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset”, the GORTT will continue to invest in the delivery of social services to protect and support vulnerable citizens in the society, so that no one will be left behind. The programmes that will be implemented under the Social Sector will seek to enhance the efficiency of the social safety net, reduce the dependence on social assistance and close existing gaps in the social protection floor. As such, funding in the amount of $45.4 million will be provided for the continuation of social projects to better serve the needs of elderly persons, children, differently-abled persons, and other vulnerable groups.

**Establishment of Social Displacement Centres**

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) will invest a total of $8.0 million for the provision of transitional housing facilities at Pointe-a-Pierre, Couva, Penal and Port of Spain. Socially displaced persons will receive opportunities to learn important life skills, to enable a seamless reintegration into society at the proposed transitional facilities. The planned programme of works will include upgrade of the buildings, installation of CCTV cameras, construction of a perimeter fence, and other miscellaneous works.

**Development Centre for Persons with Disabilities (National Therapeutic and Resource Centre)**

The MSDFS will seek to finalise the outfitting of the National Therapeutic and Resource Centre in Carlsen Field with the appropriate therapeutic equipment to facilitate the treatment/rehabilitation of various categories of disabilities. Additionally, an elevator will be installed to facilitate seamless access for persons on wheelchairs. An allocation of $5.5 million will be provided in fiscal 2024 to the MSDFS.

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for the execution of project activities related to the operationalisation of the Centre. Persons with disabilities will be able to access integrated services including diagnosis and treatment at the facility.

**Implementation of a Social Mitigation Plan**

A total of $0.5 million will be provided for the following initiatives under the National Social Mitigation Plan:

- review of existing legislation and policies; and
# Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2018-2024

The table below lists the projects that have been noted due to uncharacteristic variances in estimates for funding: 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>004-14-C-044</td>
<td>Establishment of Social Displacement Centres</td>
<td>$90,562</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$778,109</td>
<td>$1,041,901</td>
<td>$1,781,510</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004-14-C-096</td>
<td>Development Centre for Persons with Challenges</td>
<td>$224,423</td>
<td>$190,294</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$764,318</td>
<td>$879,283</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005-06-A-032</td>
<td>Establishment of an Integrated Social Enterprise Management System/ E Pass</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,162,255</td>
<td>$4,340,533</td>
<td>$2,093,400</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$3,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2017 and 2018

For the financial year 2017 and 2018, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion\(^\text{18}\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>004-14-C-129</td>
<td>Implementation of a Social Mitigation Plan</td>
<td>$35,520</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$138,750</td>
<td>$1,237,369</td>
<td>$1,055,790</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004-14-C-130</td>
<td>Refurbishment of Hernandez Place</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$465,543</td>
<td>$537,187</td>
<td>$524,116</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005-06-F-003</td>
<td>Outfitting of Buildings for MSDFS Divisions</td>
<td>$1,343,588</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$644,731</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Status of New Projects for the Financial Years 2020 and 2021

The new projects that received funding in the financial years 2020 and 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>004-14-C-132</td>
<td>Refurbishment of Older Persons Home</td>
<td>$5,100</td>
<td>$767,934</td>
<td>$39,241</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005-06-A-034</td>
<td>Min. of Soc. Dev. and Family Serv.- PBX Upgrade</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$562,860</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Removed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2022

The new projects that received funding in the 2022 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>005-06-A-036</td>
<td>Digitization and Migration – Social Service Management Information System</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005-06-A-038</td>
<td>MSDFS Enterprise Business Continuity Solution</td>
<td>$2,501,985</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2023

The new projects that received funding in the 2023 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09-005-06-A042</td>
<td>Enterprise Wireless Solution</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-004-14-C001</td>
<td>Establishment of an Assessment Centre for the Socially Displaced</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>$23,179,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Projects for the Financial Year 2024

The new projects that received funding in the 2024 financial year:\n
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDF- 005-06-F001</td>
<td>Construction of a Head Office for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Committee Inquires Related to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

*Public Administration and Appropriations Committee*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Report Status</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Key Recommendations(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Twenty-Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination into the delivery of projects and programmes by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services | Presented in HOR: 26.06.2020 | Laid in HOR: 03.07.2020 | - The Ministry should seek to fill the key positions in the Project Implementation Unit to ensure the efficient oversight of its projects. A status update on this should be submitted to Parliament by September 1, 2020.  
- The MSDFS should provide a status update on its request for substantive public service positions to the Director of Personnel Administration and the Ministry of Public Administration.  
- The MSDFS should make a request to the Service Commissions Department for additional staff who are capable to complete the job. |
| | Senate: 23.06.2020 | Senate: 02.07.2020 | |

\(^2\) Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry
### Fifth Report on an Inquiry into the State’s Capacity to provide support for victims of Domestic Violence and Family Conflicts (with specific focus on the availability of support mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Report Status</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Key Recommendations²⁴</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th Parliament</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The OPM-GCA in collaboration with the MSDFS should resume work on the Strategic Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence. The report should be revised to reflect such and resubmitted to Cabinet within six months of the presentation of this report.
- Nationwide updated Communication Strategy on DV. The communication strategy should be engaging enough to capture the attention of various age groups, be gender sensitive and take into consideration different socio-economic and cultural nuances found within Trinidad and Tobago. This is seen as an on-going endeavour and should be spearheaded by the OPM-GCA in collaboration with MSDFS.
- Overall increase of safe housing/shelters needed in Trinidad and Tobago. There is need for an increase of shelters specifically for abused men and boys. The state should also support the

²⁴ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry.
establishment of shelters that serve the LGBTQI+ community. Furthermore, in light of the growing migrant population, there should also be safe housing/shelters available. This recommendation can be pursued through a multi-ministerial approach, in collaboration with private sector stakeholders and NGOs. This should be spearheaded by the OPM-GCA in collaboration with the MSDFS.

- Transitional housing or Transitional housing programmes to assist survivors in the path to safety and stability is needed. Transitional housing can support economic empowerment and survivor autonomy by not only providing safe housing (a basic primary need) but by providing the tools and a foundation to establish economic self-sufficiency through ameliorative and transformative goals for their futures. The establishment of transitional homes can be initiated by the next fiscal year (2023-2024) and should also take a multi-ministerial approach with the MSDFS, OPM-GCA, MHUD as well as collaboration among private sector stakeholders and NGOs.

- Expansion of hotline services – establishment of dedicated hotline services for persons with protection orders to report breaches or threats of breaches for immediate police response. The establishment of this hotline service can be spearheaded by the
| | | | MSDFS in collaboration with the TTPS and should be officially launched six months after the presentation of this report.  
- The MSDFS should develop and implement standardized risk assessment tools and procedures that can be used across different agencies and Ministries. This will assist with ensuring the provision of consistent support and safety of all victims and survivors of Domestic Violence. It is proposed that this standardized risk assessment toolkit can be developed within 6 months of the presentation of this report.  
- Additionally, MSDFS and OPM-GCA should initiate the development of Standard Operating Procedures that are grounded in interagency coordination and incorporate clear referral pathways and timelines where necessary to improve responsiveness of service. The development of these SOPs can also be presented within 6 months of this report.  
- Monitoring systems should be implemented for training programmes and awareness drives to ensure the effectiveness of these programmes to their targeted audience. While each organization usually conducts its own M&E, standardized criteria can be spearheaded by MSDFS. This criteria can be developed three months after the presentation of this report and should be made available via the Ministry’s website. |
Second Report on an examination of unemployment during the Covid-19 pandemic and the State’s capacity to provide support to persons who became unemployed as a result of the pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presented in:</th>
<th>Laid in:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.O.R:</td>
<td>H.O.R:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.04.2022</td>
<td>24.06.2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate:</td>
<td>Senate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.04.2022</td>
<td>28.06.2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and the Ministry of Finance should collaborate with the Ministry of Digital Transformation to improve their application processes. […]
- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services should conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of its communication strategies inclusive of public views in order to improve its information dissemination systems and processes. Efforts should be made to complete this assessment by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2022.
- As part of its Ministerial Response to this Report, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services should provide the Committee with an update on outstanding payments owed to eligible citizens who applied for assistance.

11th Parliament

Fifteenth Report on a follow-up inquiry into an examination of existing Arrangements and possible options for regulating Geriatric care facilities/old age homes in Trinidad and Tobago

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presented in:</th>
<th>Laid in:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.O.R:</td>
<td>H.O.R:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.07.2020</td>
<td>10.12.2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate:</td>
<td>Senate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.07.2020</td>
<td>11.12.2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- That as a matter of urgency, the MSDFS seek to collaborate with the Public Service Commission toward the enhancement of the capacity of the Ministry’s Monitoring and Evaluation Division. In the short-term, the Ministry may seek to engage the Personnel Department and support this Division with contracted employees.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Eleventh Report on a Follow-up inquiry into the effectiveness of the State's interventions directed at socially displaced persons</strong></th>
<th><strong>Presented in:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Laid in:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Remarks:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.O.R: 08.11.2019</td>
<td>HOR: 07.02.2020</td>
<td>- That the MoSDFS recruit additional personnel to adequately resource the SDU with a view to improving the Unit’s capacity to execute its mandate;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate: 25.10.2019</td>
<td>Senate: 28.01.2020</td>
<td>- That the MoSDFS develop an employment support programme in collaboration with NGOs and the business Community to assist socially displaced persons who have been rehabilitated in sourcing employment opportunities;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Seventh Report on an Inquiry into the Management of the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Presented in:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Laid in:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Remarks:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOR: 22.03.2019</td>
<td>HOR: 07.06.2019</td>
<td>- The MSDFS should undertake a social impact assessment of the TCCTP on poverty reduction by the end of fiscal year 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate: 19.03.2019</td>
<td>Senate: 28.05.2019</td>
<td>- That a framework is established and implemented by the Ministry to capture the details of persons who graduated from the development component of the programme.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- That the MSDFS commence a series of community outreach/awareness initiatives specific to the TCCTP. These initiatives should mirror the approach and objectives of the ‘Direct Impact’ initiative while taking into consideration the financial constraints currently faced by the Public Service.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- That the Ministry assess the need to fill the nineteen (19) contract positions for Social Welfare Field Officers and begin the process of filling these vacancies on a needs basis;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A cost-benefit analysis of the introduction of a National Biometric Registry/identification system should be undertaken by May 2019.

That MSDFS conduct a Cost/Benefit analysis of the TCCTP;

The Ministry should consider implementing an appropriate IT system that would facilitate monitoring and evaluation through the capture and analysis of data; and

That the Ministry’s development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for its operations as well as for the programmes and initiatives under its purview be completed and fully implemented at the end of the fiscal year 2019;

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**JSC Human Rights Equality and Diversity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Report Status</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Key Recommendations²⁵</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
• that the MSDFS conduct staff training sessions: |

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²⁵ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry
| Matters, Policies and Access to Programmes and Services |  |  | o on the Public Assistance Act, Chap. 32:03 in order to reiterate the MSDFS’ policy on the qualifying criteria for the distribution of the programmes and services; and o to mitigate the cultural stereotypes which may impact access to programmes and services.  
  
- that the OPM, MSDFS, and the VWSU develop programmes or revise existing programmes and services to address the unique needs of single parents.  
- that the MSDFS allow for fathers who are injured and unable to work to have access to welfare assistance to allow for them to keep up with their maintenance payments until they are able to continue work.  
  
| Seventeenth Report On An Inquiry Into Persons Living In Poverty And Extreme Poverty In Trinidad And Tobago With Specific Focus On Vulnerable Groups | Presented in HOR: 01.07.2020 | Laid in HOR: 09.11.2018 |  
|  | Senate: 29.06.2020 | Senate: 17.11.2018 |  
|  |  |  |  
|  |  |  | - The Committee recommends that the MSDFS collaborate with the requisite NGOs to sensitize vulnerable groups on the current MSDFS programmes and services (as identified in Table 4) and seek proposals of NGOs on making programmes and services of the MSDFS more accessible to vulnerable persons living in poverty.  
- The Committee recommends that the MSDFS expands its outreach activities and utilise a targeted approach to ensure
that the persons who are living in poverty and extreme are aware of the available programmes and services.

- Given the negative customer service experienced when applying for programmes and services at the MSDFS identified by many of the NGOs as a challenge, the Committee recommends that the MSDFS conduct continuous training with all members of staff on customer service.

| The Second Report of the 1st Session 12th Parliament on the human rights of socially displaced persons in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on their treatment and relocation from Port of Spain public spaces. | **Presented in** | **Laid in** | **The MSDFS should establish a database of persons in receipt of social welfare grants and care/support at institutions with information sharing capabilities across the divisions of the MSDFS;**

The Committee recommends that MSDFS collaborate with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies to negotiate for socially displaced persons at the transitional facilities, once their care plans allow, to be incorporated into programmes available to the public to facilitate a seamless transition into society.

- The MSDFS should implement the following improved administrative and oversight measures to improve scrutiny to avoid recurrence of persons residing at the CSDP and in receipt of grants from the MSDFS: | HOR: 06.05.22 | HOR: 05.07.22 | Senate: 10.05.22 | Senate: 06.07.22 |
|   |   | i. An alternative approach to the management of the disbursement of monies to NGOs;  
|   |   | ii. Establishment of a system of information sharing between the CSDP with other State Funded and Community Care providers; and  
|   |   | iii. Improved investigative procedures for applicants of grants from the Social Welfare Division. |
## Recent Legislative Development

### Acts of Parliament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act No.</th>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Related Bill</th>
<th>Date of Assent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 of 2019</td>
<td><strong>The Non-Profit Organisations Bill, 2019</strong>&lt;br&gt;An Act to provide for the registration of non-profit organisations, the establishment and maintenance of a register of non-profit organisations, the obligations of non-profit organisations and for related matters.</td>
<td>Progression</td>
<td>23-Apr-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 of 2020</td>
<td><strong>The Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;An Act to amend the Domestic Violence Act, Chap. 45:56 to provide for emergency protection orders and for related matters</td>
<td>Progression</td>
<td>07-Jul-2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Subsidiary Legislation

<p>| Third Session (2017/2018) of the Eleventh Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date Laid</th>
<th>HOR</th>
<th>Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>The Senior Citizens’ Pension (Amendment of Schedule) Order, 2018</strong></td>
<td>11.01.2019</td>
<td>18.12.2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Useful Information

- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/social-development-poverty-reduction
- Department of Social Services, AUSTRALIA: https://www.dss.gov.au/
- Department of Social Development, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA: https://www.dsd.gov.za/