

Direct Aid Program Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Can consultants be funded under the Direct Aid Program (DAP)?**
- A.** On a case-by-case basis, the High Commission may consider providing funding for consultants or staff *specifically* for project implementation or design. The cost must not exceed 10% of the project's overall budget.
- Q. Our project involves providing refreshments for an after school program. Can snacks and beverages be funded under DAP?**
- A.** Refreshments/catering/hospitality of any kind are not eligible for funding under DAP.
- Q. Our community is keen on building a computer lab for at-risk youth. Can the purchase of laptops, tablets and desktops be funded under DAP?**
- A.** The purchase or servicing/repair of office or IT equipment or appliances are not eligible for funding under DAP (e.g. photocopiers, computers, stoves, refrigerators).
- Q. I submitted an application that was beneficial to the community, but it was declined. Feedback that I received was that sufficient supporting documents were not included. What does this mean?**
- A.** Applications that are not accompanied by the required supporting documentation will not be considered for funding. See the DAP Fact Sheet or the High Commission's website (<https://trinidadandtobago.highcommission.gov.au/ptsp/cooperation.html>) for a list of what supporting documentation is required.
- Q. What are some of the things you look for in a good application?**
- A.** A project must demonstrate it has a direct development impact for the community involved (i.e. that it contributes to sustainable economic growth and/or poverty reduction) and that it is sustainable. It must also demonstrate that there is community buy-in i.e. that members of the community are willing to contribute by providing in-kind support (labour, expertise) or have a vested interest in the project's success.

- Q. There is an unregistered organisation in my community that does good work, but they need help in project management. Can I apply on their behalf?**
- A.** While the High Commission encourages individuals to apply on behalf of organisations, funds will not be paid into personal bank accounts. The organisation would need its own bank account.
- Q. Some of the items that are needed for our project are not available locally, and we need to order these overseas. Can we order materials from overseas?**
- A.** While applicants can order materials from overseas, the High Commission does not cover freight/shipping or associated charges. If the items are not available locally, the High Commission could consider granting funds to purchase these items overseas, once the organisation demonstrates it has funds to cover shipping costs.
- Q. Our project was successful and we were granted funding to complete the project. The organisation made some changes to the project without notifying the Australian High Commission. Is this okay?**
- A.** To receive funding under DAP, successful applicants are required to agree to and sign 'Conditions of Offer' – a legally-binding document that outlines the conditions of funding. This document states that any intended changes to a project must be approved by the High Commission. Failure to do so would mean that the recipient is in breach of the agreement and may be required to repay the funds.
- Q. The deadline for our approved project was close, so our organisation spent the remaining funds on items that were not approved. We were happy that we were able to complete on time submit our acquittal and supporting documents. We were surprised to hear that we needed to repay the sum of the unapproved expenditure funds. Is this possible?**
- A.** As per the answer above, the Conditions of Offer require all changes (including for expenditure) to be approved by the High Commission. Failure to obtain approval would mean that the recipient is in breach of the agreement and may be required to repay the funds.