



PROJECT PROPOSAL

REFURBISHING OF THE PHYSICAL PLANT

January 8, 2018

BACKGROUND

National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) is a private non-profit organization involved in the development and integration of persons with disabilities into the wider community. Following the polio outbreak in the 1950s, NCPD was established as a vocational rehabilitation centre primarily for those who were affected. It was established on December 5, 1964 and registered under the Companies Act of Trinidad and Tobago in May 1984 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. A nine (9) member Voluntary Board of Directors which is involved in policy formation and fund raising governs the organisation.

INTRODUCTION

The day-to-day administration of NCPD is under the direction of a Chief Executive Officer and supported by a team of professional and administrative staff. The Centre is operating at full capacity (250 persons). Its target population covers persons with physical, visual, development and learning disabilities and hearing and speech impairments from age fourteen (14) years. Individuals are referred from special schools, social and community workers, medical personnel as well as self-referral. Seventy percent (70%) of the persons accessing services at the Centre have no primary education and the Centre is their first contact with socialization outside their family.

Since its establishment in the 1960s, there have been significant changes and improvements of NCPD. Of major importance are the novel developments and expansion of services in keeping with the Centre's critical role of advocating for the integration of persons with disabilities within the wider society. The organization has grown from a sheltered workshop to an outstanding vocational, rehabilitation, training and employment institution nationally and regionally.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

NCPD has contributed and continues to contribute to the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities through its training and job placement programme. The Centre aims to enable persons with disabilities to meet the demands of the competitive labour

market in a society which is still not fully appreciative and sensitized to persons with disabilities. The Centre continues to seek ways to provide a wide choice of training programmes in its quest to maximize the individual's vocational pursuits, interest, aptitude and abilities.

The Centre offers vocational training in the following areas:

- Agriculture/Horticulture
- Beauty Culture
- Bookbinding
- Food Preparation
- Garment Construction
- Information Technology
- Office Administration
- Printing
- Welding
- Woodwork
- Upholstery

The curriculum also includes computer literacy, remedial education, life skills and entrepreneurial training. Extra-curricular activities include music, art and craft and sports.

The skill training programmes are certified by the National Training Agency (NTA) and the National Examinations Council (NEC), Ministry of Education.

There exists an Independent Living Skills Unit which is located at a separate venue. The Unit targets those persons whose disabilities are so severe that they are unable to engage in skills training. The Unit provides such individuals with basic life skills that will allow them to be as independent as possible along with developing their social skills.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over the years, NCPD has embarked on a series of adjustments to its facilities in order to make its accommodation comfortable, accessible and safe for its trainees, employees and the public. The Centre is currently faced with a number of areas for improvement in order to make the work spaces comfortable and safe. Three areas of concern are listed as follows:

1. **Replacement of fence securing the compound:** The Centre is enclosed by a front wall and chain link wire. Within this enclosure are two buildings and an agriculture programme. Over the years unable to install 24 hours security, the Centre has been a target of larceny of its growing crops, plants and fruits. The wire fencing has been repaired but requires removing and replacing to ensure safety and security.
2. **Repainting of facilities:** The Centre would like to have its external walls and internal walls repainted.
3. **Refurbishing of the Kitchen in the Food Preparation Department:** The challenge faced by the Centre is that due to increased demands there exist a need to expand the physical space within the kitchen area of the Food Preparation Department as well as the need to acquire new equipment. The Centre would like to extend the kitchen by approximately 20 feet by 12 feet.

TARGET POPULATION: The project is directly geared to the current training population of 250, staff, parents and the general public.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT: The goal of the project is to improve the physical plant ensuring a safe and comfortable environment.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The outcomes would be:

- Safe and comfortable environment conducive to learning and working
- Secure environment for the protection of equipment, tools and materials