



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

COVID-19 SOCIAL RELIEF MEASURES

Question and Answers

1. What are the COVID-19 Grants?

The Income Support Grant (ISG) and the Salary Relief Grant (SRG) are measures implemented and funded by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to provide financial relief to persons who have suffered a loss of income as a result of the restrictions implemented in May 2021, by the Government to curb the spread of COVID-19.

2. Is there a difference between the ISG and the SRG?

Yes. Please see the table below for a description of both grants.

Type of Grants	Description
Salary Relief Grant (SRG)	<p>The SRG will be administered by the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago (NIBTT) on behalf of the Ministry of Finance (MOF). Applicants for the SRG must fit the following criteria:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suffered loss of income/employment as a result of the restrictions implemented in May 2021 in the specific sectors outlined in the Public Health Ordinance;• <u>The applicant must be registered with the NI System and have a valid NI number;</u>• Must be a national or permanent resident of Trinidad and Tobago;• Between the ages 18 - 65 years.
Income Support Grant (ISG)	<p>This grant will be administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS). Applicants for the ISG must fit the following criteria:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suffered loss of income/employment as a result of the restrictions implemented in May 2021;• <u>Individuals who are registered with the NI System and possess a valid NI number are not eligible to apply for this grant;</u>• Must be a national or permanent resident of Trinidad and Tobago.

3. Can I apply for both grants?

No. Persons may only apply for one (1) grant based on the criteria provided at the description in number 2 above. The SRG is for persons with a valid National Insurance (NI) number, the ISG is for persons who do not possess a valid NI number.

4. Am I guaranteed to receive the grant once I apply?

No. The grant would only be provided to applicants that meet the criteria outlined at the description in number 2 above. Any application made under the programme will be considered for prospective relief only.

5. Can I apply for a grant if I'm self-employed?

Yes. Self-employed individuals may apply for the Income Support Grant (ISG) being administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, once they meet all other criteria for that grant.

6. Where can I access the application form?

The application process will be **strictly online only**, in keeping with the COVID-19 restrictions. Online application forms for the SRG and IRG will be available on the websites of the MOF (www.finance.gov.tt), from May 19th, 2021 and MSDFS (www.social.gov.tt) from May 21st, 2021, respectively.

7. I do not own or have access to a computer to apply online. Can I send my application via TTPOST or drop off at one of the Ministries' offices?

No. Only online applications will be accepted. Applicants may seek assistance from their Member of Parliament (MP) and Local Government Councillors.

8. How do I follow up on my application after submission?

Applicants may email salaryreliefgrant@gov.tt to follow up.

9. How much is the SRG and ISG?

The SRG and ISG are up to a maximum of \$1,500 each for the month of May 2021. Once eligible, **persons whose income was suspended/terminated at the beginning of May 2021** will receive \$1,500 and persons whose income was suspended/terminated from May 8th, 2021 will receive \$1,000.

10. How long after my application is submitted, would I receive payment?

Once approved, applicants should receive the grant in approximately one month from submission.

11. Where can I access more information on these grants?

More information on these initiatives will be made available to the public by the respective Ministries by **May 21st, 2021**. Further, persons are advised to take note of the following:

- The Ministry of Finance will be responsible for administering and disseminating further information on the SRG and;
- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services will be responsible for administering and disseminating further information on the ISG.

12. What other Relief Measures are available and how can I access them?

Additional measures announced by the Minister of Finance are as follows:

Relief Measure	Ministry/Government Agency	For information
Food Basket Programme (for 3 months)	Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries in collaboration with Members of Parliament	Persons should contact the office of their respective Member of Parliament.
Emergency Food Cards	Ministry of Social Development and Family Services	Persons should contact the office of their respective Member of Parliament.
NEDCO Grants for SMEs	National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO)	Visit https://nedcottfunding.com/ for further details.

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