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TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CARE PROJECT (TLP-CSC)

CONTRACTOR(S)/GRANTEE(S): THE CARIBBEAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CCDC), THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES OPEN CAMPUS, & THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DURATION: 2014-2017

TOTAL PROJECTED INVESTMENT: \$1.456 MILLION

FUNDING SOURCE: DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

The Transitional Living Program for Children in State Care Project (TLP-CSC) is the first of its kind in Jamaica and involves a multi-dimensional approach to preparing wards of the State, who are at an increased risk for poor outcomes on leaving care, to transition into independence. The goals of the project are to improve the transition to independent living for Jamaican children leaving residential care at 18 years, and reduce the risk factors associated with low education or job skills, inadequate life skills and poor self-image. This will be accomplished through the development of an exit-readiness program on life skills and job skills training, to address employability, lifestyle choices, health, family and the environment, and secure public-private partnership for employment opportunities. The project will also facilitate the creation of a safe and appropriate transitional living facility for 40 children who have nowhere to go on leaving state care.

The project is expected to yield both short-term and long-term benefits. It is expected that during the 3 year life of the project, the intervention will result in an improvement in the behaviours and attitudes towards independent living of youth exiting state care. The long term outcome is expected to be improved and standardized training for independent living among youth in state care, undertaken by staff and appropriate accommodation for the neediest subset.