



MINISTRY OF TOURISM



Tourism  
Enhancement  
Fund

# Resourcing the Recovery of Jamaica's Tourism Industry

**“Retooling the Tourism Industry for COVID- Resilient Operations”**

# CONTENTS

**Message from the Minister of Tourism..... 3**

**Message from the Executive Director, TEF..... 4**

**The Need..... 5**

**Sub Programmes..... 6**

**• Resilience Packages for SMTEs..... 7**

**• Facilitating use of the REDI-II Project..... 8**

**• SMTE Loan Facilitation..... 9**

**• SMTE Loans..... 10**

**• MOFPS's CARE Programme for Tourism Enterprises..... 11**

# Message from...



**Hon. Edmund Bartlett, CD, MP**  
**Minister of Tourism**

As we gradually re-open our borders to international visitors, we have ensured that the health and safety of the Jamaican people and that of our visitors remain our top priority by developing world-class safety protocols and providing well needed resources to facilitate the recovery of our sector.

Sadly, most of our tourism workers and business owners have been displaced due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore had to find a way to facilitate economic recovery and reduce the impact of the pandemic on the country's economy. In fact, based on our own projections, Jamaica is expected to lose J\$146 billion from April 2020 to March 2021, due to the downturn in tourism caused by COVID-19.

Hence, we had to provide some salvation to the many tourism enterprises that right now are at severe economic risk. With this in mind, the Tourism Enhancement Fund has put together well-needed resilience packages for SMTEs that will help to protect frontline tourism workers and visitors alike.

Additionally, the TEF, working in collaboration with the EXIM Bank and Jamaica National, will continue to provide SMTE loans to enable such organizations to get affordable credit. This initiative will complement the grants being provided by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, under their CARE programme for tourism enterprises. Similarly, business operators will also have access to grant funding under the REDI-II project and a credit enhancement facility through the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ).

I must congratulate the TEF for leading the charge in providing urgently needed funding and protective equipment for our industry workers and businesses during these challenging times. If you are one of those affected, I urge you to utilize one of the many financial products outlined in this brochure, which were specially designed with you in mind.

# Message from...



**Dr. Carey Wallace, Executive Director  
Tourism Enhancement Fund**

The global outbreak of COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill with tourism being the worst affected of all major economic sectors. Many aspects of the sector have been negatively impacted, especially our Small and Medium Tourism Enterprises (SMTEs) who have been forced to find more creative ways to earn a living.

We recognize that our SMTEs form the lifeblood of the sector and as a policy directive from the Minister of Tourism, the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) has placed special focus on building the capacity of SMTEs as a major part of our growth strategy.

The Tourism Linkages Network, a division of the TEF, has been driving several initiatives to enable our SMTEs to capitalize on the tremendous earning potential Jamaica has in providing authentic experiences that can significantly boost arrivals and tourism earnings.

These initiatives have continued and with the onset of COVID-19, have become even more necessary to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic. We are pleased to have created and identified avenues to help resource the recovery of the sector through our SMTEs, who can now access well needed funding as well as protective equipment to carry out their operations in this new way of doing business.

As a heavily tourism dependent country, it is imperative that the sector recovers quickly and even better, so the country and many livelihoods can continue to benefit. Our SMTEs will be an integral part of that recovery and so I encourage these enterprises to make the most of the initiatives being offered.



# The Need

COVID-19 has cost Small and Medium-sized Tourism Enterprises (SMTEs) an average of \$2.5M each.

The Government of Jamaica recognizes the need for assistance to power through and overcome COVID-19. Therefore, the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) wants to take the opportunity to remind SMTEs about a suite of products that are available.



\*SMTEs must be TPDCo-Certified.



# Sub-Programmes

- **Resilience Packages for Small and Medium Tourism Enterprises (SMTEs)**
- **The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI-II) Project**
- **SMTE Loan Facilitation**
- **SMTE Loans**
- **Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) Grants**

# Resilience Packages for SMTEs

In support of small tourism properties during COVID-19, the Tourism Enhancement Fund will be providing five hundred (500) SMTEs with Tourism Protective Kits. This is to effectively protect frontline workers and visitors, while meeting the guidelines of COVID-19 Ministries of Tourism and Health & Wellness Safety Protocols.

Packages will include:

- Two (2) touchless garbage bins
- Two (2) touchless hand sanitizer dispensers
- Two (2) infrared thermometers

# Facilitating use of the REDI-II Project

A man wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and a blue baseball cap is working in a field of green plants. He is leaning over, using a knife to cut a plant. The background is a lush green field with trees in the distance.

The World Bank's Loan that is administered by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) for the Rural Economic Development Initiative II (REDI-II) was developed to enhance access to markets and climate resilient approaches for agricultural and rural SMEs.

From this initiative, \$100M has been allocated to assist small and medium-sized tourism enterprises (SMTEs) in their recovery during COVID-19.

These funds will assist SMTEs to become JTB-licensed and COVID-compliant as the tourism economy gradually re-opens. In addition, the expanded REDI-II programme will include funding for communications, monitoring officers, manuals, personal protective equipment, training and technical capacity-building.

\*For more information, contact the JSIF at (876) 968-4545 or visit their website at <https://jsif.org/>.



# SMTE Loan Facilitation

## Partner with a business development agency

to get hands-on, step-by-step guidance on applying for loans.

Gain access to  
Grant and Loan Facilitation opportunities  
offered by the Development Bank of  
Jamaica (DBJ).

### • Voucher for Technical Assistance (VTA) Grant

Receive a voucher to partner with an approved, professional business development agency when applying for loans. DBJ covers 70% of specific service costs with vouchers ranging from \$50,000-\$500,000.

### • DBJ Credit Enhancement Facility (CEF)

Access the DBJ's partial loan guarantee if you don't have enough collateral to access loans.

DBJ guarantees:

- 50% (maximum \$30 million) for SME loans.
- 80% (maximum \$5 million) for small loans totaling \$6.25 million or less.
- Tenure: Up to the maturity of the loan or up to 10 years, whichever is less.
- Fee: 2%
- Moratorium: 1 year

\*For more information, contact the DBJ at (876) 929-4000 or visit their website at <https://dbankjm.com/>.

# SMTE Loans

Utilizing the balances in the current EXIM Bank and Jamaica National Small Business Loan (JNSBL) revolving loan scheme, seeded by the TEF, to provide low interest loans to SMTE's to retool.

The current (COVID- induced) moratorium is three (3) months starting from April 1, 2020. The moratorium will be extended until December 31, 2020.



## EXIM Bank

✓ Borrow between J\$5 up to \$25 million

✓ 4.5% interest

✓ 7 years



## Jamaica National Small Business Loan

✓ Borrow up to J\$5 million

✓ 5% interest

✓ 5 years

\*For more information, contact the EXIM Bank at (876) 630-1400 or <https://www.eximbankja.com/>; or the JNSBL 1 888-725-6267

# **MOFPS CARE Programme for Tourism Enterprises**

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The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's (MOFPS) COVID Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) Programme was announced in Parliament March 25, 2020. This grant funding will be available small hotels and tour operators, attractions, transportation and entertainment companies.

All applications must be submitted to the multi-stakeholder COVID Tourism Grant Committee.

## **Requirements for SMTEs include:**

- Audited financials and management accounts.**
- Projected cash flow statement.**
- Viable recovery plan, statement of personal assets, and liabilities, evidence of tax compliance.**
- Grants will be available to all operators and priority to tourism-related businesses below threshold size.**