

Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs
Community Development Fund

Status Update Report

Matura Women's Group

Project Title: Matura Educational Skill and Social Support Services		
Approval Date: January 09, 2006		Project Start Date: May 2006
Planned End Date: February 2007		Projected End Date:
Total Project Costs: \$47,150	CDF Funding: \$16,350.00	Group Contribution: \$30,800
Actual Expenditure to Date:	Commitments;	Balance on Allocation; \$11196.23
Date of Visit: August 17,2006		
Persons Interviewed: Mrs Genevieve Guy, Coordinator; Ms Nisa Lutchman, Librarian; Ms Keisha Guy, Computer Tutor		
CDF Personnel on visit: Nerle Robertson Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		

Reason for Project Visit

A routine visit to determine whether current rate of implementation can support the request for materials for programme.

Project Objectives

- To provide a structured after school programme for 60 children and young persons between the ages of 5 and 25 from the target communities.
- To train 12 persons from the community to become tutors in order to conduct literacy classes in the communities

Current Status of Project:

At time of visit the schools were on vacation and the after school programme was not being run. Three children were attending computer classes conducted by one of the tutors. There are 6 students who attend classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. These classes which were a continuation of the previous project started on May 18 and ended

on August 10. An outing has been arranged for 35 children and adults to the National Library and the LOGOS (book ship).

The training of persons to be literacy tutors was done by ALTA and commenced in April. Five persons were selected and are now preparing to enter the schools with the Reading Enhancement programme. Children between the ages of 5 and 12 will be taught at the Centre.

Constraints

Parents are not accepting that their children and even themselves have reading problems, therefore the response is not as good.

There is need for a fax machine to transmit information related to tutoring from ALTA to the Centre. This would reduce the cost and time required to get materials to the Centre

Action Taken

The organizers have had to go into the community and convince persons that the programme is not mainly for those who cannot read but that reading needs to include understanding what is read. Persons who have participated in literacy programme testify about the benefits for themselves and their children.

The name of the programme has been changed from Literacy Programme to Reading Enhancement Programme in an attempt to remove the stigma associated with ALTA and illiteracy.

A request was made to the CDF to use unused funds to purchase a fax machine. This was agreed to and the procedure for purchasing has been initiated.

Inventory of Items

Tutor set books, wooden alphabet, games, 3 wall fans

Other information:

Of the 20 persons interviewed for training as tutors only 8 could qualify and five were available for the training. Four persons were dyslexic and would be able to join the classes taught by the new trainees. The five persons who were trained would commence these literacy classes on Thursday September 14.

Since the organization did not have to pay for tutelage but for teaching materials and stationery funds were available to purchase the fax machine.

Comments & Recommendations

The next set of training by ALTA is scheduled for October when 7 persons would be trained. The coordinator has been able to engender interest in literacy by motivating members of the community. The efforts have also been extended to persons in nearby communities. It is evident that the support given to this project is well placed.

Signature and Date of Report