

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS BY THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Background: In 1994, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines introduced its National Student Loan Scheme. Funds for the scheme were originally provided by the National Insurance Scheme and on loan to students by participating financial institutions. The requirements for accessing loans through the financial institutions prohibited the poorest segment of the population from accessing loans.

The Government has secured a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank to continue funding its Student Loan Scheme. A portion of this loan will be used specifically to assist the poorest segment of the population. The poor is defined as those households with annual income below \$10,000.00 per year.

The principal beneficiaries under this programme are those persons in the population who have the capacity, but insufficient financial and other resources to qualify for assistance under the standard Student Loan Scheme. Priority among eligible applicants is therefore accorded to low-income households and others with special problems of access to needed financial resources.

Students accessing loans under this programme will be required to sign a Bond for the amount of the loan.

Eligibility: In addition to the CDB's Student Loan Scheme guidelines (revised 1997), an applicant would be eligible to benefit under the programme if he/she is from a household that exhibits most of the following characteristics: -

- Be of good academic standing (results of examinations approved by the MOE).
- A member of a household with annual income below \$10,000.00.
- Lack of assets (especially land and monetary savings) and can demonstrate that they do not qualify for credit.
- Lack of productive, remunerative work and a heavy concentration in low productivity, informal type occupation.
- Households with few earners and a high dependency ratio.
- A member of a large household (two adults and four children below the age of eighteen (18) years).
- A member of a single-parent headed household.
- Member of a female-headed household.
- Households where the principal income earner has become displaced (eg. farmers in the banana industry).
- Member of vulnerable groups (eg. children of disabled or indigent parents).

APPENDIX 1

**NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMME
APPLICATION FORM**

Appendix 1 should be completed only by applicants who wish to benefit under the special Student Loan Fund allocated for Economically Disadvantaged persons.

A limited amount of funds are available specifically to assist persons from households with low income and with special problems of access to needed financial resources. An applicant would be eligible to benefit under the programme if he/she is of good academic standing; is from a low income household; lacks assets or can demonstrate that he/she does not qualify for credit under the standard Student Loan Programme.

Applicants who wish to access these funds must complete the following: -

1.	Name and Address of Applicant Monthly Salary \$	Name and Address of Employer
2.	Father's Name and Address Occupation: Monthly Salary \$ Highest Level of Education: Primary [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Technical/Vocational [] Total years completed including primary school:	Name and Address of Employer
3.	Mother's Name and Address Occupation: Monthly Salary \$ Highest Level of Education: Primary [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Technical/Vocational [] Total years completed including primary school:	Name and Address of Employer
4.	Spouse's Name and Address Occupation: Monthly Salary \$ Highest Level of Education: Primary [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Technical/Vocational [] Total years completed including primary school:	Name and Address of Employer

5. Number of persons in household employed:
6. Names of members of household: -

NAMES	RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT	Tick (√) if person is below the age of 18
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.....

7. Total family income (Please indicate income from all sources, including support from relatives abroad) for last year:

8. Please indicate type of housing in which you live (tick one)
 Own [] rented [] other [] please explain

Value of property.....

Is the home mortgaged? Yes [] No []

If your answer is yes, please state:

Value of Mortgage:

Amount repaid to date:

Name of mortgager/Lender:

9. Please state the reason why you should be considered under this programme:

.....
 Signature of Applicant Signature of Head of Household Date

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Recommendation by Evaluation Committee:

Signature: Date:

Please submit application to the Ministry of Education