

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- *The NGO Common Training Strategy Committee*

Capacity development of NGOs is considered important given that they play a major role in the economic and social development of the Country.

A number of institutions (NGO Trust Fund, MACOSS, NSA Unit, DCP) having mutual interest in strengthening the capacity of NGOs, have agreed to work together to build capacity of NGOs both at generic and specific level with a view to making good use of resources and avoiding duplication in the delivery of training programmes.

As a result, the NGO Common Training Strategy Committee has been set by the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI to coordinate capacity building initiatives in the NGO Sector.

- *The collaborative venture between the DCP, UNDP and the NGO Trust Fund*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Decentralised Cooperation Programme (DCP) are two major partners of the Ministry and they fully collaborate in pursuing the capacity building strategy of NGOs through the NGO Common Training Strategy Committee of our Ministry.

Both the UNDP and the DCP are fully appreciative of this partnership approach which builds synergy and ensure effective use of resources.

In this context, both development partners have expressed interest to collaborate with the Ministry and the NGO Trust Fund through a joint venture to build synergy on actions relating to capacity building of NGOs.

- *Rationale*

The proposed collaborative venture aligns with the Government Programme 2015-2019 which relates to “**Achieving Meaningful Change**”.

An overview of the sector highlights the following:

- i. capacity gap in service delivery is a major shortcoming in the NGO sector;
- ii. the Marshall Plan on poverty alleviation which is grounded on a community-centric institutional framework in meeting needs of the community and addressing its priorities will require NGOs and Civil Society in its implementation;

- iii. The global trend is towards professionalisation of social work practice and aligning with the international trend will define the parameters of practice, permeate values and skills of social work practice and improve service quality;
- iv. the importance of investing in human capital; and
- v. the professionalisation and structuring of the sector will create a labour market for social work practitioners especially those who are following undergraduate courses in social work in different Universities.

- ***The National Certificate in Social Work Practice Level 2***

The National Certificate Level 2 Social Work Practice provides a basic introduction to the skills and knowledge involved in social work practice within the sociocultural context of Mauritius.

Holders of the NC Level 2 social work Practice are able to demonstrate introductory knowledge, skills and attributes of social work within agreed standards of practice.

- ***RPL in Social Work Practice Level 2***

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is generally defined an assessment process that recognises skills and knowledge acquired outside formal education system against a given set of standards, competencies and learning outcomes.

The RPL process is carried out by way of an assessment for a duration of 3 months and the preparation of a portfolio which culminates in the issue of a recognised certificate which is equivalent to a certificate obtained successfully through a formal course of study.

CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Candidates should:-

- i. be supported by their respective NGOs/ Institutions;
- ii. have **at least 3 years of experience in the Social Sector**;
- iii. work in direct delivery of services to Beneficiaries;
- iv. work towards either the empowerment of the vulnerable groups or the welfare of the community in general; and
- v. preferably demonstrate some proficiency in English and French.

2. Sponsoring NGOs should:-

- i. have a legal identity;
- ii. be run on a non-profit basis;
- iii. work towards either the empowerment of the vulnerable groups (the disabled, elderly, homeless, ex detainees) or the welfare of the community in general;
- iv. have a proven track record of activities or experience in their respective field for the last 3 years;
- v. operate on a non sectarian basis and should not discriminate on the basis of race, place of origin, political opinion, colour or creed;
- vi. have a financial management system which exhibits transparency; and
- vii. be able to submit certified/ audited annual financial statements for the last 2 years.

B. QUALIFICATIONS

- i. Candidates should at least possess a form 3 level.

C. APPLICATIONS

- i. Applications should be made on the prescribed forms (see Annex 2 for NGO Volunteers/Staff & Annex 3 Staff of Public Institutions working in the Social Sector).
- ii. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- iii. Applications should be supported by relevant documents as prescribed in the application form.
- iv. **Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.**

D. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

- i. A maximum of 150 Candidates, satisfying the eligibility criteria, will be selected.

- ii. 25 seats will be reserved to Candidates from Institutions working in the Social Sector.

E. BOND

- i. Selected Candidates will be required to sign an agreement.

F. TIMEFRAME

National Certificate in Social Work Practice in Social Work Level 2

- i. The National Certificate in Social Work is a 200-hour course span over 4 to 5 months.
- ii. The course will be delivered **twice or more per week**
- iii. Interested Candidates will need to have release approval from their respective NGOs/Institutions.
- iv. To obtain the National Certificate in Social Work, Candidates will have to sit for an examination at the end of the course.

RPL in Social Work Practice Level 2

- v. Candidates have **3 months** to prepare their portfolios.

G. PROCESS

National Certificate in Social Work Practice in Social Work Level 2

- i. The National Certificate in Social Work will be run by a MQA Approved Institution.
- ii. The delivering Institution will determine the schedule for the course and time table will be delivered by the Institution to Candidates directly.
- iii. The National Certificate in Social Work (MQA Approved) will be subjected to a final examination.

RPL in Social Work Practice Level 2

- iv. The RPL process is of a duration of 3 months with the following steps:
 - Selected candidates will undergo an orientation session.
 - Selected Candidates will have to fill the MQA prescribed application form.
 - Each candidate will be required to prepare a portfolio and will be assigned a facilitator who will provide mentoring support.
 - Once the portfolio is ready, it is submitted to the Awarding Body for the purpose of assessment.
 - The candidate is subject to an assessment by a Panel of the Awarding Body.
 - Upon satisfying the assessment requirements, the candidate is awarded the National Certificate Level 2 in Social Work.