



## **ANTIGUA & BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK**

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**Date: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

### **The Direct Assistance Grant Scheme is now OPEN for APPLICATIONS**

Registered businesses and firms in Antigua and Barbuda have up until March 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 to apply for grant funding from the well-known Direct Assistance Grant Scheme being facilitated by the Caribbean Export Agency with the support of the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank (ABDB).

In order to qualify, legally registered businesses must demonstrate their potential to export goods and services and meet the established eligibility criteria of the scheme. Having met the eligibility criteria, the successful firms will have at their disposal up to in excess of one hundred thousand dollars based on verifiable needs to be used for exporting of products and services across the Caribbean region and or internationally.

The grant funding is being provided by the Regional Private Sector Development Programme (RPSDP) under the European Union (EU) 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

The Direct Assistance Grant Scheme is a reimbursement grant funding facility specifically designed to provide financial assistance to legally registered firms, individuals and Business Support Organisations (BSOs) who have a desire to build production capacity, improve competitiveness as well as opening new markets etc

The Caribbean Export Agency and the ABDB have already signed a Memorandum of Understand whereby the Bank will provide bridge – financing to those Antigua and Barbuda owned firms who have qualified for Assistance under the Scheme. Interested parties will need to submit an on-line application.

**For More information:** Details on the Direct Assistance Grant Scheme can be found at [www.carib-export.com](http://www.carib-export.com) or contact the Executive Department at ABDB – Tel: 562-5983. **END**