

Minister of Community Affairs
Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA

Statement for Legislative Assembly

Supplementary Appropriations for the
2016/17 Financial Year

Mister Speaker, I rise to elaborate on the former Ministry of Community Affairs, Youth and Sports supplementary appropriations for the financial year of 2016/17 in accordance with Section 11 (6) of the Public Management and Finance Law.

Mister Speaker, I will begin by detailing the supplementary appropriations for the Needs Assessment Unit.

Needs Assessment Unit (NAU)

Based on budget trends, the Needs Assessment Unit advised the Ministry that some of the allocated funding was insufficient to provide services through until the end of the financial year. Hence, Mister Speaker, the Ministry reshuffled its budget to increase funding to welfare areas that were projected to be overspent and off-set this by decreasing funding in welfare areas that were not being fully utilised.

In August 2017, therefore Mister Speaker, appropriation changes were approved by Cabinet in the amount of \$719,500 to reallocate funding as follows:

1. Increased **TP 43 Poor Relief Vouchers** used to pay for food for families in need by \$449,000, **NGS 68 Rental Assistance** to pay for

rental accommodation for persons in need by \$250,000, **TP 75 Needs Assessment Support** used to pay for utilities, medical equipment, medical travel, summer camps, exam fees, school-related expenses for persons in need by \$20,500; and

2. Decreased **TP 41 Poor Relief Payments** used to pay permanent financial assistance for persons in need, mainly older persons and those permanently disabled, by \$719,500.

Mister Speaker, in November 2017, the Needs Assessment Unit required an additional reallocation of funds. The Ministry, therefore, identified savings which could be reallocated. Accordingly, Cabinet granted approval for the additional reallocation of funds in the amount of \$865,000 as follows:

1. Increased **TP 43 Poor Relief Vouchers** by \$350,000, **NGS 68 Rental Assistance** by \$430,000 and **TP 75 Needs Assessment Support** by \$85,000; and
2. Decreased **TP 41 Poor Relief Payments** by \$100,000, **TP 47 Ex-Gratia Benefit Payments to Seamen** by \$665,000 and **TP 48 Benefit Payments to Ex-Servicemen** by \$100,000.

Lastly Mister Speaker, in January 2018, Cabinet granted approval for another reallocation of funds in the amount of \$260,000 as follows:

1. Increased **TP 43 Poor Relief Vouchers** by \$65,000, **NGS 68 Rental Assistance** by \$115,000 and **TP 75 Needs Assessment Support** by \$80,000; and
2. Decreased **NGS 68 Burial Assistance** by \$25,000, **NGS 63 School Feeding Programme** by \$10,000, **TP 50 Pre-School Grants** by \$35,000, **TP 47 Ex-Gratia Benefit Payments to Seamen** by \$75,000 and **TP 48 Benefit Payments to Ex-Servicemen** by \$115,000.

Department of Children and Family Services

In September 2017, the Department of Children and Family Services advised the Ministry that they were in need of additional funding in the **NGS 72 Therapeutic Services for Young Persons** appropriation in order to continue to provide services to young persons. In fact, Mister Speaker, the allocated funding had been exhausted prior to the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

The Ministry, therefore, identified savings within the **TP 57 Children and Family Services Support** appropriation which could be reallocated to **NGS 72**. Given this Mister Speaker, the Ministry increased **NGS 72** by \$25,000 and decreased **TP 57** by \$25,000.

Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation

Mister Speaker, during the 2016/17 financial year, the Ministry also had requests for additional funding from the Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation. As you are aware, CAYS assists the Government in meeting its legal obligations under the Children Law and the Youth Justice Law for children placed on court orders.

In the 2016/17 financial year, CAYS was operating at the same funding levels from the 2014/15 financial year where there were only two facilities; the Frances Bodden Children's Home and Bonaventure Boys Home with a staff complement of 25.

Since the 2014/15 financial year, Mister Speaker, CAYS expanded its services in order to meet client needs and obligations under the Children Law. In 2016/17, CAYS operated an additional wing for boys on Care Orders at the Frances Bodden Children's Home and secure accommodation at Phoenix House (on the Bonaventure site) with an increased staff headcount of 39.

This resulted in an average monthly operating deficit of approximately \$50,000, which did not allow a stable position for CAYS to meet its financial obligations. Furthermore, Mister Speaker, the numbers of residents continued to increase and CAYS were reporting both sites being at 95% occupancy.

The facilities, therefore, were operating at capacity and, without additional funding, would not have been able to deliver an acceptable level of service to the residents. The allocated funding was found to be insufficient to carry CAYS through to the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

In August 2017, the Ministry identified savings of \$350,000 within the **EI 54 Equity Investment** appropriation which was, in turn, reallocated to CAYS (**CAY 2 Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation**). Mister Speaker, the savings in **EI 54 Equity Investment** was a result of an unforeseen delay in the timeline of a budgeted capital project to expand Bonaventure Boys Home.

Mister Speaker, in October 2017, CAYS advised that they were still in need of additional funding to be able to sustain operations. The Ministry, therefore, identified savings once again within the **EI 54 Equity Investment** appropriation due to the aforementioned delay of a capital project. Cabinet, therefore, granted the reallocation of \$1,400,000 from **EI 54** to **EI 41 Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation** to cover operational losses.

Hope Foundation

In November 2016, the Hope Foundation advised the Ministry that they were in need of funding to carry out their programmes. Hope for Today Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organisation which provides support to recovering addicts and alcoholics in their transition from treatment to community life, through a half-way house in West Bay. It is funded through fundraising initiatives and donations.

The Ministry requested appropriation changes to the 2016/17 Budget in the amount of a \$10,000 re-allocation from **TP 72 Other Youth and Sports Programmes** to **TP 49 Youth Programmes and other Non-Governmental Organizations**.

Bridge Foundation

In February 2017, The Chairman of the Bridge Foundation approached the Governor/Deputy Governor requesting the secondment of Dean Miller, Counsellor at Caribbean Haven Residential Centre to The Bridge Foundation for a six months period. The former Programme Manager with the Bridge Foundation is of ill health and is not in a position to continue to oversee the services provided through the halfway houses under their remit. In order for the facility not to have to shut down its half-way houses, The Bridge Foundation has requested that Government lend support and technical assistance through the secondment of Dean Miller who is currently employed as a Counsellor at The Caribbean Haven Residential Centre.

The Ministry requested appropriation changes to the 2016/17 Budget in the amount of a \$50,000 re-allocation from **TP 48 Benefits Payments to Ex-Servicemen** to **HCA 30 Counselling Support Services**.

Conclusion

In closing Mister Speaker and Honourable Members of this House, I have explained the exceptional circumstances that made it necessary for the approval of the supplementary appropriations in the 2016/17 financial year for the former Ministry of Community Affairs, Youth and Sports.

I thank you for your indulgence as the Ministry works to support its agencies in continuing to provide essential human and social services to the people of the Cayman Islands.

Appendix I - 2016/17 Supplementary Appropriations

Appropriation Reference Number	Appropriation Name	Appropriation Amount \$
HCA 27	Policy Advice and Support to the Minister of Community Affairs, Youth and Sports	(26,324)
HCA 30	Counselling and Support Services	50,000
HCA 31	Supervision and Support of Children	17,760
CAY 2	Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation	350,000
NGS 63	School Lunch and Uniform Programmes	(10,000)
NGS 68	Rental Accomodation for Persons in Need	795,000
NGS 70	Burial Assistance for Indigents	(25,000)
NGS 72	Therapeutic Services for Young Persons	25,000
TP 41	Poor Relief Payments	(819,500)
TP 43	Poor Relief Vouchers	864,000
TP 47	Ex- Gratia Benefit Payments to Seamen	(740,000)
TP 48	Benefit Payments to Ex-Servicemen	(265,000)
TP 49	Youth Programmes - Churches and other Non-Governmental Organizations	10,000
TP 50	Pre-School Assistance	(35,000)
TP 57	Children and Family Services Support	(25,000)
TP 72	Other Youth and Sports Programme Assistance	20,000
TP 75	Needs Assessment Support	185,500
EI 54	Ministry of Community Affairs, Youth & Sports	(2,950,000)
EI 41	Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation	1,400,000

