

## **Resilience Cayman begins new Housing Repair Programme with a \$1.5M donation from R3 and CIG**

**Grand Cayman, 9 February 2021:** Resilience Cayman is pleased to announce a new Housing Repair Programme supported by [a CI\\$1.5 Million grant](#) from R3 Cayman Foundation and the Cayman Islands Government.

Resilience Cayman will manage and operate the programme to inspect and repair Caymanian-owned homes previously damaged by storms or otherwise unable to withstand future natural disasters, as identified by the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development.

Resilience Cayman Chairperson Jan Gupta says the programme is responding to a pressing need in the community:

"Resilience Cayman is thrilled to partner with Government and R3 on this much needed initiative that will expand the number of homes eligible for housing repairs assistance. Many low-income Caymanians, including families with children, are living in homes that are severely damaged. As a relatively new non-profit that began in 2020 to address community needs during the COVID crisis, we are honoured to be selected to run this new programme that will improve the lives of many Caymanians. Our team is gearing up to assist as many eligible families as we can before this year's storm season."

R3 Chairman Bryan Hunter says the foundation first partnered with Resilience Cayman in the aftermath of the COVID-19 lockdown to ensure vulnerable families were able to keep food on the table, water running and lights on, and is looking forward to working together once more to provide safe shelter to families in need across Grand Cayman.

"There are people in our community who have not had a safe, structurally sound house to call home since Hurricane Ivan devastated the Cayman Islands 18 years ago. This new programme aims to speed up the delivery of urgently needed repairs to the most vulnerable in our community – families with children who don't know if the next storm will be the one to leave them homeless, elderly people who are homebound because their house lacks basic accessibility features," he said. "With sound governance and financial accountability structures in place to ensure the entirety of the \$1.5 million donation goes towards making homes safe and liveable, this cross-sectoral initiative will fundamentally change people's lives for the better."

### **How the Programme Works**

The Programme provides a one-time grant for home rehabilitation to households identified by the Ministry of Investment, Innovation & Social Development. Eligible

repairs may include structural, electrical, plumbing, windows, doors, roofs, improved accessibility, fire safety and other safety-related enhancements that help individuals stay in their home.

“Although the Government has identified eligible households, our work will be to prioritise urgent repairs to homeowners based on the applicant's personal status and the relevant property's condition,” Ms. Gupta explained. “Resilience Cayman has a rating system in place to prioritise homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable, and those with young children in the household. There is a single application per household and homeowners are required to sign a contract stating they will live in their homes after the repairs are completed.”

Resilience Cayman will be responsible for vetting each household and verifying all required documentation, such as house title, mortgage documents and available insurance coverage. Properties in foreclosure are not eligible.

Resilience Cayman will purchase materials directly from approved suppliers to reduce the overhead cost in each home repair. A selected number of local contractors will receive an invitation to quote for labour costs. The Housing Repair Grant is paid directly to the contractors and service providers and the completed work has to pass an inspection by a licensed inspector; no cash is provided to the applicant.

The controls around disbursement of funds to contractors, materials suppliers, and service providers are supervised by Resilience Cayman's Board and a proper progress reporting process is in place with the Government and R3 to ensure full transparency for the programme.

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## **About Resilience**

Resilience Cayman was formed in 2020 in response to COVID19 to address the immediate and long-term issue of financial insecurity for many workers who have been hit hard through job loss and business closures. Since April 2020, Resilience Cayman has provided food and utilities assistance to more than 3,300 families in the form of food vouchers, daily meals, and CUC relief. We have also provided summer internship opportunities and grants to 35 young Caymanian college students to ensure that they are able to continue their education and develop workplace skills for their future careers. More information about Resilience is available at [www.resilience.ky](http://www.resilience.ky)

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# R3FOUNDATION

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## About R3

R3 Cayman Foundation is a private sector-led, charitable organisation focused on disaster Readiness, Relief and Recovery in the Cayman Islands. Our mission is to help our three islands proactively prepare for, resiliently cope with and sustainably recover from manmade or natural emergencies and disasters. Established in 2020, our support enables community partners to maximise their positive impact in our community. To learn more and see our work in action, please visit [www.r3foundation.ky](http://www.r3foundation.ky).

Organisations and individuals seeking funding from R3 are encouraged to visit [www.r3foundation.ky](http://www.r3foundation.ky) to download the application form. To donate to R3, please email [info@r3foundation.ky](mailto:info@r3foundation.ky).

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