

Restructured Guidelines for State Marriage Assistance Scheme for Poor Girls

Introduction:

1. State Marriage Assistance Scheme for poor girls is a scheme meant for poor girls of marriageable age who belong to either AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) or PHH (Priority Households) ration card holder families, who shall be paid financial assistance @ Rs.50,000/- (one time) for getting married. The financial assistance shall have to be paid before her marriage.
2. Deputy Commissioners shall submit the cases of eligible beneficiaries after due verification **on fortnightly basis** to Social Welfare Department to ensure that all the eligible beneficiaries get the financial assistance well before the date of marriage.

Norms for availing benefit under the scheme :

3. While sanctioning the financial assistance following norms are to be observed/fulfilled:-
 - a. The identified beneficiary girl should be of legally marriageable age belonging to either AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) or PHH (Priority Households) ration card holder family.
 - b. The minimum qualification of the beneficiary girl has to be 8th Pass or equivalent. However, in case of school drop outs, following guidelines shall apply;
 - i. During the next three years i.e., from financial year 2022-2023 to 2024-2025 restructured guidelines shall be implemented irrespective of the education status of the beneficiary girl.
 - ii. From 01-04-2025 onwards beneficiary girl has to compulsorily produce a certificate for having passed 8th Class or equivalent.
 - c. The identified beneficiary girl should not have availed the financial benefit for the same purpose under any other UT/Centrally Sponsored Scheme especially Ladli Beti Scheme. She can avail benefit only once under the scheme.
 - d. The identified beneficiary girl should apply **at least one month in advance** (before date of marriage) to the concerned District Social Welfare Officer along with proof of marriage, proof of age, copy of AAY or PHH ration card and Aadhaar card.

Benefits

4. The eligible beneficiary girl shall receive an amount of ₹50,000/- (rupees fifty thousand only) as one time financial assistance before her marriage. The financial

Annexure 'A' to Government Order No.49-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 22-03-2022

assistance shall be directly transferred into the individual bank accounts of the beneficiaries (marriageable girls) through DBT mode.

Implementing Agencies

5. The scheme will be made operational in all the districts across the UT. The applicant girl shall apply to concerned District Social Welfare Officer **atleast one month** before her marriage along with proof of age/ date of birth, copy of AAY or PHH ration card, marriage card, education qualification certificate and Aadhaar card. DSWO shall verify the details of the beneficiary regarding her marital status & age and shall submit the case before the Deputy Commissioner along with all requisite documents and his/her recommendations. It is also to be ensured mandatorily by the DSWOs that the same beneficiary should not have availed the financial benefit for the same purpose under any other UT/Centrally Sponsored Scheme especially Ladli Beti Scheme.

Deputy Commissioner shall get a survey conducted (through Chief Education Officer) of school drop out girls especially from PHH and AAY families and motivate them to join formal/informal schooling and ensure that such girls attain education atleast upto 8th Class so that they may not be deprived of financial assistance under SMAS. Deputy Commissioners shall also ensure that such school drop out girls avail benefits under scholarship schemes.

As per the revised guidelines, the Deputy Commissioner shall sanction the financial assistance in favour of the beneficiary girl after determining the eligibility, and reasonably satisfying himself/herself about the genuineness of the case. All DC offices shall submit the sanction lists to the Department of Social Welfare on **fortnightly** basis. The amount of prescribed financial assistance shall be released by Social Welfare Department **through DBT mode**. The receipt of applications as well as transfer of assistance shall be in online mode only.


Director Finance
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