

Creation of Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities

Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to State Governments/UTs and to autonomous organizations/Institutions under the Central or State Government, for various activities relating to the Act, particularly for creation of barrier free environment for persons with disabilities. This sub-scheme is in existence since 1999. Non-recurring grant-in-aid is mainly provided for construction of lifts, ramps, modification of toilets, tactile flooring, hand rails, etc. in the existing Government buildings, so as to make them barrier free for the PwDs. Grant-in-aid is also released for making the websites of the Central/State/District level offices accessible to PwDs. On receipt of complete proposals from the Implementing Agencies, all proposals are placed before the Screening Committee of the SIPDA Scheme upon whose recommendations, the proposals are processed further.

1.0 Entities entitled for financial assistance under Creation of Barrier Free Environment

Funds will be released to the Implementing organizations / institutions directly. Financial assistance will be provided by way of Grants-in-Aid to the following agencies:

- a. Departments of the State Governments / Union Territories.
- b. Autonomous Bodies / Statutory Bodies / Public Sector Undertakings set up by the Central / State Governments / UT including Central / State Universities.
- c. National Institutes / CRCs / DDRCs / RCs / Outreach Centers under MSJ&E.
- d. Central / State recognized Sports Bodies & Federations.

Note: The above Government entities must have the ownership of the concerned building where the standards of Barrier Free Environment to be established.

2.0 Scope of work

- i) To provide barrier free environment for the persons with disabilities which include access to built environment in schools, colleges, academic and training institutions, offices and public buildings, recreational areas, health centres / hospitals etc. This would include provision for ramps, rails, lifts, accessible toilets for wheelchair users, brail signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring,

causing curb cuts and slopes to be made in pavement for the easy access of wheelchair users, devising appropriate symbols of disability, etc.

ii) To make Government websites at the Centre / State and District levels accessible to PwDs as per guidelines for Indian Government website issued by NIC or Meity as well and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (D/o AR&PG), Government of India, which are available on their website “<http://darpn.nic.in>”.

iii) To promote accessibility of libraries, both physical & digital and other knowledge centres.

iv) Grant to the State Governments / UTs for the Offices of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for infrastructure facilities.

v) Construction of special recreation centres / development of parks for PwDs where the appropriate Governments / local authorities have their own land and providing barrier-free standards in existing parks and other urban infrastructure.

vi) Support to meet the expenditure relating to engagement of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) required for formulation of new schemes / projects.

vii) Financial assistance for any other activity specified in the Act for which financial assistance is not being provided / covered by the existing schemes of the Department.

3.0 Activities

A. Outdoor features for persons with disabilities

(i) Construction of Accessible route/approach

(ii) Accessible Parking as per the Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons as issued by Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and notified under RPwD rules or any other extant rules/guidelines applicable.

(iii) Accessible Entrance to Building (A ramp to be provided next to stairs along with Handrails, signages as per specifications referred in Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disability and

Elderly Persons as issued by Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and notified under RPwD rules or any other extant rules/guidelines applicable.

(iv) Accessible Corridors and Tactile Flooring

B. Indoor features for persons with disabilities

(i) Accessible Reception (Low Height counter)

(ii) Accessible Corridors and Tactile Flooring

(iii) Tactile Path

(iv) Accessible Corridors and Tactile Flooring

(v) Accessible Lift (Minimum 13 passenger lift, Braille buttons with auditory announcements, signages to be provided outside of the lifts)

(vi) Staircase with Handrails

(vii) Accessible Toilets

(viii) Accessible Drinking Water facility

(ix) Signages (Indoor and Outdoor)

Note: All features of accessibility to be provided as per the Harmonized guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons as issued by Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and notified under RPwD rules or any other extant rules/guidelines applicable.

C. Specification

- Geo tagging for constructed lifts, toilets and Parks
- Audio instructions for blind
- Special footpath from entrance of the building to maintenance for blind, deaf etc where frisking for security is done.

4.0 Conditions for Assistance

4.1 The proposals for release of grant-in-aid under Barrier Free and Accessible India component will be examined by a Screening Committee of the Department consisting of Joint Secretary (SIPDA), Director / Deputy Secretary (SIPDA) and two experts in the field of disability, to be nominated by the Department.

4.2 Implementing Agency is required to follow the General Financial Rules, 2017 and/or any other extant guidelines/'Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for persons with Disability and Elderly Persons' issued by the MoHUA and/or any other extant guidelines/ CVC Guidelines in the matters of contract/financial transactions.

4.3 Implementing Agency will be open to inspection by an officer / third party agency authorized by the Department or the State Government / UT Administration / National Institutes/ Internal Audit Wing under CCA etc.

4.4 When the Government of India has reasons to believe that grants-in-aid is not being utilized for the approved purpose, the amount would be recovered from the Implementing Agency with penal interest and no further assistance would be given to the Agency. Ministry will be at liberty to blacklist such organization and to take legal action as per law.

4.5 Implementing Agency shall submit final Utilization Certificate for the entire grant along with a project completion report within three months after completion of the work / project as stipulated in the proposal. Un-utilized grant-in-aid, if any, is to be refunded to the Ministry. In case the work / project is not completed within the stipulated timeframe and further time is sought to complete the same, the organization concerned has to intimate the Ministry and also explain the reason for the delay.

4.6 Each proposal should be forwarded to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities along with requisite documents.

4.7 The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities may issue further guidelines in pursuance of aims and objectives of the Scheme for implementation of various provisions of RPwD Act.

5.0 Recommendation

Central Government / State Government / UT Administration / National Institute / any other Agency authorized by the Ministry should send its recommendation to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Autonomous organizations including Central / State Universities, Organizations set up or supported by Central / State Government should send their proposals through Central / State Government concerned. Proposals of sports body / federation should have approval / no objection of the concerned Ministry / Department of Central / State Government / UTs concerned.

6.0 Funding Pattern (in case of new proposal)

Any organization / institution covered in above para 1.0 under the Scheme, seeking financial assistance for any of the activities for Creation of Barrier Free Environment mentioned in para 2.0& 3.0 may forward a detailed proposal mentioning inter- alia, description of the work or activities proposed to be undertaken, scope, total cost involved, time line for the project etc. along with estimate for the project to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, New Delhi. The proposal should be forwarded with the approval of the Head of the Institution / Organization seeking the assistance. The proposal should also mention the details of work or activity undertaken in the past under this Scheme, if any, and also the status thereof. The proposal should contain the following details:-

- Name and details of the organization / department (Government Department, Statutory or Autonomous Bodies, etc).
- **Recommendation letter of concerned Central/State Government mentioned at para 5.**
- Details of the proposed project / programme.
- **Details of accessible features to be provided such as Lifts, Toilets, Ramps, railing signages, pathways etc.**
- Need and likely outcome of the proposed project /programme
- Details of the benefit that will accrue both long term and short term benefits.
- Expected cost of the project giving details item -wise.
- Whether any recurring cost is involved in implementing the project once launched, if so, the details thereof and the modalities of finance for the same.
- Time frame for the execution of the project / programme.
- Name and other details of the nodal officer dealing with the project / programme.
- **Location and present colored photographs of the project and detailed architectural map where construction is to be started.**
- **A short walk through video (02 minutes. to 10 minutes) would be required for proof of location/site where the accessible features to be provided as referred in para 3.0.**
- Justification for the proposal.
- Proposed method of selecting the Executing Agency for proposed work.

- **Proposal must in compliance as per the prescribed Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Development or any extant guidelines.**
- In case of construction, Preliminary Cost Estimate signed by an officer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer of CPWD / PWD.
- **Proposal must indicate for which year Schedule of Rates (SORs) have been followed in making preliminary cost estimates.**
- In case of accessible website, Preliminary Cost Estimate prepared by NIC or a competent technical agency, with details of website proposed to be made accessible, accessibility features available at present, proposed additional features and proposed method for selecting the executing agency for the proposed work.
- Monitoring mechanism.
- Details of approval of the project by the concerned authority.
- Details of bank account of the Department / organization to which the fund will be transferred.
- All implementing agencies excluding State Government / UT to follow EAT Module prescribed by Ministry of Finance.

6.1 Funding Pattern (in case of 2nd installment)

Whenever, the concerned organization requests for release of further funds or 2nd/final installment then following documents are required in order to process the proposal further:

- The physical progress report for the work completed with date specified along with present colored photographs.
- Fund Utilization Certificate as per the rules prescribed in GFR-2017 for previous grant in aid released.
- The demand letter (in original) in respect of the Balance amount required for completing the remaining work from the Public Works Department(PWD)/ Central Public Works Department(CPWD).
- Actual tendered cost of the work with supporting documents.
- Actual Expenditure incurred including excess expenditure incurred if any.
- Brief of schedule and plan to complete work (in case extra time required to complete work)
- Name and other contact details of the nodal officer dealing with the project/programme.

Note: Grants-in-aid would normally be released in two installments and in some cases maximum in three installments depending on the nature of work and phases of implementation. The requirement of documents would be similar for 2nd as well as 3rd Installment (if any).