

F. No. 28-02/2013-NIs/DDIII/MISC(Pt.3)
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

5th Floor, Antyodaya Bhawan
CGO Complex, New Delhi
Dated the 21st February, 2022

Subject: Project for Financial Assistance for the existing Deaf Colleges in five regions of the Country (one college each in a zone)-reg

1. The Project is for providing financial assistance to existing colleges for the deaf and hard of hearing in the following five zones ^[1] (one college each in a zone) of the country:

- i) North Zone of India
- ii) West Zone of India
- iii) South Zone of India
- iv) Central Zone of India
- v) East Zone of India

1.1 For the purpose of the scheme, “Deaf College” shall be defined as “*Any college catering wholly or partially to the upliftment of the deaf or hard of hearing with benchmark disability as per the extant provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016*”.

1.2 The beneficiaries under the Project should necessarily be deaf or hard of hearing with benchmark disability as per the extant provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016.

1.3 In respect of the Central Zone and Southern Zone, one college each has been disbursed funds under the Scheme. These include Dr. Shakuntala Mishra Rehabilitation University, Lucknow for the Central Zone and the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Thiruvananthapuram for the South Zone.

1.4 The North, West and East Zones remain for expansion/construction of infrastructure in the existing colleges.

2. Objectives of the Project

2.1 The objective of the Project is to provide financial assistance to the existing deaf colleges for promoting education of deaf and hard of hearing in the country to provide equal opportunities for students with hearing impairment for pursuing higher education and improving their chances of employability and quality of life.

[1] For the purpose of the Project, **North Zone** comprises the States/UT(s) of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chandigarh and Ladakh; **West Zone** - Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu; **South Zone** - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Union Territory of Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep; **Central Zone** - Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; **East Zone** - Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim, West Bengal including the North-Eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura

2.2 The Scheme was originally approved on 29.1.2015 with the objective to provide equal opportunities to hearing impaired students for pursuing higher education and improving their chances of employability and quality of life through higher education and vide the revised modification on 29.12.2017 for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

3. **Implementation of the Project**

3.1 The scheme is now being renewed as a Project to be implemented through Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai (hereinafter AYJNISHD (D)) under DEPwD for a period ranging from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

3.2 **Implementing Strategy**

AYJNISHD (D) shall be the Nodal Agency of the Scheme that shall be entrusted with the following tasks, including but not limited to:

- Issuing of advertisements in the newspapers as well as in its websites inviting proposals
- Screening of applications.
- Evaluation of applications
- Recommending improvements and additional inputs in the applications.
- Mentoring role in the entire process to the Deaf Colleges
- Acting as a monitoring body and submit regular reports in the prescribed format to the Government.
- AYJNISHD(D) may also be tasked with feasibility study or evaluation study after receiving proposals from the applicant agencies
- Processing the applications and submitting the same before the Department for consideration

4. **PROJECT GUIDELINES/CONDITIONS**

4.1 The Project envisages financial assistance to the UGC approved State/Central/UT administered colleges for the deaf and hard of hearing from the North, East and West Zones for non-recurring costs and Dr. Shakuntala Mishra Rehabilitation University, Lucknow (Central Zone) and National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Thiruvananthapuram (South Zone) for recurring costs.

4.2 The proposals shall necessarily need to be recommended by the State/UT Government to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) which will forward the same to AYJNISHD (D).

4.3 AYJNISHD (D), after fully satisfying itself of the genuineness and validity of the said claim as per the guidelines and otherwise, shall recommend the same to the Department for release of grant. The responsibility and accountability of ascertaining the validity of the claims vests solely with AYJNISHD (D) and the Department shall release the grants in respect of the claims only upon express recommendation of AYJNISHD (D).

4.4 The Department upon receipt of the duly recommended claim(s) from AYJNISHD (D) shall place the same for consideration of the Department's Screening Committee (refer para 4.10 below). The Committee, after due deliberation, shall identify the further course of action in respect of the said claim(s) and submit its recommendations for consideration of Secretary (DEPwD).

4.5 Release of Grants

Under the Project, there are provisions of reimbursement of Non-Recurring and Recurring costs as under:

4.5.1 Non-recurring Expenditure

Under the Project, non-recurring expenditure shall be disbursed on account of construction/expansion of infrastructure, purchase of furniture/aids/equipment and/or for fixture of furniture, computers etc. The said expenditure component shall be disbursed only in lieu of college(s) in zones for which non-recurring grants have hitherto not been disbursed, i.e. for the college(s) in North Zone, East Zone and West Zone. The Maximum assistance in lieu of non-recurring expenditure is restricted to Rs.1.50 crore for the college(s) in North Zone, West Zone and East Zone (only the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal). In case, the expenditure is less than Rs. 1.50 crore, the admissible assistance will be on actual cost basis. If a proposal for disbursement of recurring costs is received from the North Eastern region (specifically the states of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and UT of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep), the maximum assistance is Rs.2.00 crore. In case, the expenditure incurred is less than Rs.2.00 crores, the admissible assistance will be on actual cost basis. No recurring expenditure will be financed for these colleges under the Project.

4.5.2 Recurring Expenditure

Under the Project, recurring expenditure shall be reimbursed to two colleges for which non-recurring costs have already been disbursed under the previous scheme, i.e. Dr. Shakuntala Mishra Rehabilitation University, Lucknow and National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Thiruvananthapuram in lieu of the two-year period (2021-2022 and 2022-2023) and only on demand basis. The recurring expenditure shall be reimbursed on account of payment of salary to the teaching staff and sign language interpreter, for which a maximum ceiling is fixed at Rs.1.00 Crore or on the actual basis, whichever is less.

4.6 Title of College land

AYJNISHD (D) shall ensure that the applicant institution/college possesses clear title on the land-free from all legal encumbrances required for setting up/expanding the proposed/existing college. In case, the land is obtained on lease hold, the tenure of the lease deed should be for a period of not less than 50 years OR maximum permissible lease period under relevant State/UT laws, whichever is lower.

4.7 Courses Offered

Courses for graduation offered by the colleges shall be identified by the AYHNISHD (D) based on the suitability for hearing impaired students. The colleges should adhere to the essential infrastructure, equipments, teaching learning materials, curriculum etc approved by UGC/State Government/Central Government for the selected course.

4.8 Building Committee

4.8.1 Before applying for assistance for the building project, the Institution/College should constitute a **Building Committee** with the following members:

- a) The Principal/Teacher-in-charge of the College.
- b) A representative from the affiliating University
- c) A representative from the CPWD/PWD/Zila Parishad/Corporation etc. (not below the rank of Executive Engineer).
- d) Two representatives from the teachers of the college.
- e) A representative from user-teaching Department
- f) A representative each from Administration and Accounts Division.
- g) The Architect engaged by the College. The persons/ or Architect firm should be registered with the Council of Architecture and have experience in infrastructural accessibility.

4.8.2 The construction should meet the accessibility norms for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) including that of deaf and hard of hearing.

4.8.3 The Building Committee will be responsible for finalizing the plans and estimates of the building for the proposed college and also for ensuring the completion of the construction of the building in accordance with the approved plans and estimates. Besides, it will also be responsible for the proper utilization of the funds received from the Central Government and from the college, out of its own resources.

4.8.4 The non-recurring activity (including construction expansion of infrastructure and purchase of furniture/aids/equipment etc) should be completed within 1 year from date of release of funds and that the responsibility for monitoring/progress of building project shall lie with the State/UT Government and to furnish the utilization certificate of the assistance sanctioned within the period prescribed in the sanction letter.

4.8.5 After the Building Committee has resolved to take up the college building project with Central Assistance, the concerned institution/college shall submit the proposal to AYJNISHD (D) through State /UT Government with the following documents:

- a) Composition of the Building Committee
- b) A copy of the Building Committee resolution indicting name of the college, name of the building project, type of building, area covered in sq. meters, cost per square meter, basis of estimates, latest schedule of rates, period of completion of the proposed college building, likely date of starting the construction and mode of

construction i.e. by State PWD/CPWD or by college itself or through contractor/private construction agencies. The resolution shall bear the signature of the members present in the meeting of the committee and shall be duly verified by the Principal of the College.

c) Detailed estimates duly signed by the Principal and qualified Engineer/Architect. Building Plan duly prepared and signed by a qualified Engineer/registered Architect and countersigned by the Principal/ Teacher-in charge of Building Project Committee.

d) Details of the classes/courses proposed to be run for socio-economic development of students with hearing impairments.

4.9 Role of AYJNISHD(D)

This project will be implemented by the National Institute namely Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Mumbai, since the institute has the requisite expertise & data in the field of hearing disability. AYJNISHD(D), Mumbai will also monitor the progress in respect of the projects being funded under the scheme through a constituted committee of which Director, AYJNISHD (D), will be the Chairperson, one faculty as Member Secretary and 2 external subject matter experts and obtain progress report from the respective colleges on quarterly basis. It will inspect the Project from time to time and furnish the report to this Department.

4.10 Screening Committee at DEPwD

4.10.1 The proposals recommended by the State/UT Government concerned and also AYJNISHD (D) routed to the Department through the latter shall be put up by the Department for the Screening Committee, comprising the following:

JS/DDG (DEPwD)	Chairperson
JS&FA (DEPwD)	Member
Director, AYJNISHD	Member Secretary
A representative of UGC	Member
A representative of Department of Higher Education	Member
An expert from Pwd (HI) Sector	Member
Director/DS, DEPwD	Member
Representative(s) of the State Government(s) under consideration	Member

4.11 Release of Grant

After approval of Secretary (DEPwD), the admissible assistance shall be released/approval shall be conveyed to the applicant institution/college.

4.12 MONITORING MECHANISM AND EVALUATION OF PROJECT

The task of monitoring and evaluation the progress of the project shall vest with AYJNISHD (D). AYJNISHD (D) shall have the right to solicit documentary evidences from the colleges pertaining to the funds in lieu of which GIA is required (and/or otherwise). AYJNISHD (D) shall apprise the Department of the monitoring and evaluation of the project on a quarterly basis. It shall inspect the projects from time to time and give its report to this Department on a half-yearly basis. It may also evolve a proforma for a Progress Report.

4.13 General Conditions

(i) All proposals seeking grants-in-aid would be routed through the State/UT Government concerned and would require recommendation of the State/UT Governments concerned. The total ceiling of the financial assistance is proposed to be fixed at Rs. 1.50 Crores and Rs. 2.00 Crores (for NE) for assistance to existing Deaf Colleges. Therefore, State/UT government shall not recommend proposal for establishment of new colleges.

(ii) The assisted College shall not dispose of or lease out or create any charge over the assets created by utilizing the assistance provided under this Project, without written permission from the Department.

(iii) The assisted College shall not change the form or the basic character of the college without prior approval of the Department

(iv) The assisted college shall be required to run classes for graduation level for deaf and hard of hearing students every year, with all required aids/appliances and sign language interpreters.

(v) The accounts of the assisted college shall be audited every year and the assisted college shall be required to submit the Annual Report along with the Financial Statement to AYJNISHD (D). The Annual Report would include the details of the construction activities, procurement of equipment/furniture, fixture, computers etc. during the year for which the financial assistance provided by the Central Government and also the details of students taught in different subjects, classes as well as details of the successful hearing-impaired students during the year.

(vi) The assisted college shall be required to maintain a Fixed Assets Register of equipment/assets procured from the Central assistance and separate records containing details of the faculty members, staff of Sign Language Interpreters and Administrators paid salaries/allowances by the utilizing grant funds, for verification by AYJNISHD (D) at any time.

(vii) The requirement of faculty, staff etc. for running the Deaf College for which financial assistance is provided shall be as per UGC affiliation norms/registration under RCI.

(viii) In case of failure to utilize the sanctioned funds within time or its misuse, misappropriation or diversion of volition of any one or more of the conditions mentioned above, the Government will be entitled to recover the entire assistance amount with interest, in addition to taking such other legal and/or penal action, as deemed necessary.

(ix) Colleges/Institutions shall submit their Audited Account/Annual Report for the last two year at the time of applying GIA under the Project to assess their physical and financial performance.

(x) The Accounts of the Project shall be properly and separately maintained. They shall always be opened to check by an officer deputed by the Government of India or the State Government. They shall also be opened to a test check by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion. The account will be liable to be audited as per GFR provisions.

(xi) If the Central Government or State Government has reason to believe that the grant is/was not being utilized for approved purposes, the Government of India may stop payment of further instalments and recover earlier grant(s) in such manner as it may decide.

(xii) The institute shall exercise reasonable economy in its working and particularly in respect of expenditure on building.

(xiii) No change in the Plan of building to be constructed will be made without the prior approval of the Government of India.

(xiv) Progress Reports on the Project will be furnished at regular intervals as may be specified by the Government.

(xv) Institute/Organisation shall open a separate Bank account for this Project and furnish necessary documents at the time for applying for 2nd installment like Statement of Accounts, Audited reports etc in full and in the prescribed format (consolidated and for the Project). The Audit Report should be complete in every respect and necessarily include:

(a) Auditor's Report

(b) Balance Sheet

(c) Income & Expenditure Statement

(d) Item-wise expenditure statement

(e) Receipts & Payment Statement with all supporting schedule on fixed assets, investment, current assets, current liabilities, significant accounting policies and Note on account and the action taken/proposed to be taken by Organization on the audit observations.

(xvi) The organization/institution receiving grants under this Project shall submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) at the end of financial year as prescribed in GFR 2017.

(xvii) Applicant college(s)/Institute shall strictly make all payments only through cheque/electronic transfer and not in cash. These transactions may be duly incorporated in the audited accounts of the Project.

(xviii) The Central Government may also prescribe such other conditions, as deemed necessary, before sanction/release of assistance.

(xix) The colleges receiving GIA in advance shall also provide necessary bonds.

(xx) The colleges shall undertake awareness about higher education opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing and also demonstrate and document the steps undertaken to facilitate higher education of deaf and hard of hearing.

(xxi) The Project and its conditions shall apply only for a period of five years i.e. 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026 and shall cease to be operational on the sunset date of 01.04.2026.

5. No relaxation(s)/revision(s) in any clause of the guidelines shall be provided except under the approval of Secretary (DEPwD). The Department reserves the right to alter the provisions of the said Project anytime as per its discretion.

Total Cost of the proposed Project under SIPDA for F.Y. 2021-22 to 2025-26

The total projected cost of the project under SIPDA for the period of Fifteenth Finance Commission i.e., 2021-22 to 2025-2026 is given in the table below:

	Component	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total
A. Colleges for which non-recurring costs have been disbursed	1. Non-Recurring Expenditure: Upgradation of existing infrastructure/purchase of office aids/equipment of 2 colleges	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	2. Recurring Expenditure: Reimbursement on account of salaries/allowance of faculty/sign language interpreters.	Rs. 0.95 Crore*2 = 1.9 cr (Reimbursement to Dr.Shakuntala Mishra Rehabilitation University, Luknow and NISH, Thiruvananthapuram)	Rs. 0.95 Crore*2 = 1.9 cr (Reimbursement to Dr. Shakuntala Mishra Rehabilitation University, Lukenow and NISH, Thiruvananthapuram)	NIL	NIL	NIL	Rs. 3.80 Crores
	Total	1.9 Cr	1.9 Cr	0	0	0	Rs. 3.80 Crores
	Admin Expenditure (5%)	0.1 Cr	0.1 Cr	0	0	0	Rs. 0.2 Crores
	I. Sub-Total	2.0 Cr	2.0 Cr	0	0	0	Rs.4.00 Crores

B. Colleges for which non-recurring costs are yet to be disbursed	1. Non-Recurring expenditure: Upgradation of existing infrastructure/purchase of office aids/equipment	NIL	<u>North-East zone</u> 1.9 Crores	<u>East Zone</u> 1.43 Crores	<u>West Zone</u> 1.43 Crores	NIL	i) <u>NER</u> 1.9 Crores ii) for East and West Zone @1.5 Crores 2.86 Crores
	2. Recurring expenditure: Reimbursement on account of salaries/allowance of faculty/sign language interpreters.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	Total	0	1.9 Crores	1.43 Crores	1.43 Crores	0	Rs. 4.76 Crores
	Admin Expenditure (5%)	0	0.1 Crores	0.07 Crores	0.07 Crores	0	Rs. 0.24 Crores
	II. Sub Total	0	2.0 Crores	1.50 Crores	1.50 Crores	0	Rs. 5.00 Crores
GRAND TOTAL (I+II)		Rs. 2 Crores	Rs. 4 Crores	Rs. 1.50 Crores	Rs. 1.50 Crores	0	Rs. 9.00 Crores

Disclaimer: In case of non-receipt of application, budgetary provisions with a cap of Rs 9.00 Crores may be spread over entire period of 5 years with an object of flexibility of adequate budgetary outlay. The budget will be met from SIPDA from the year 2021-22. The uppermost financial ceiling under this scheme is Rs.1.5 crore (Rest of India) and Rs.2.00 crore (North East Region). The expenditure over and above the prescribed upper ceiling will be borne by the Institute or the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

Checklist* for the claims under the Deaf College Project as per the Project Guidelines–for use of AYJNISHD(D)

S.N o.	Document	Status
1	Grants-in-Aid (Non-recurring) applied for FY -	
2	Deaf College proposes to start academic session during -	
3	Details of courses proposed to be started by applicant organization	
4	Previous GIA Utilization Certificate as prescribed in General Financial Rule, 2017 (as amended from time to time) (GIA released on reimbursement basis)	
5	Consolidated Audited accounts for last two years	
6	Complete project audited account (balancesheet, income & expenditure statement, receipt and payment statement) for the last two years**	
7	Annual Report of the College/University/Institution for the last two years	
8	Provisional Audited Accounts for the current reimbursement claim period	
9	Course-wise detailed list of beneficiaries	
10	UDID Cards of the beneficiaries	
11	Aadhaar Card of beneficiaries	
12	State/UT Government recommendation	
13	Recommendation of AYJNISHD(D)	
14	Certification by AYJNISHD (D) that the applicant institution/college possesses clear title on the land-free from all legal encumbrances required for setting up/expanding the proposed/existing college (In case, the land is obtained on leasehold, the tenure of the lease deed should be for a period of not less than 50 years OR maximum permissible lease period under relevant State/UT revenue department's laws, whichever lower)	
15	Utilization Certificates (UCs) at the end of financial year as prescribed in GFR 2017	

*Please note that the aforementioned checklist is indicative in nature. DEPwD and/or AYJNISHD (D) may identify additional document(s) for processing the proposals from time to time

** For recurring Grants-in-Aid
