

**Guidelines for providing financial assistance
under the National Fund for Persons with
Disabilities, 2024**



**Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
(Divyangjan) Government of India
New Delhi- 110003**

SCHEME FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER NATIONAL FUND FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Central Government enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which came into force on 19.04.2017. Section 86 of the said Act mandates the Central Government to constitute the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities (herein after shall be referred as Fund). Accordingly, the Government constituted the National Fund vide Office order dated 10.01.2018. The Fund is functioning as a Trust under the Indian Trust Act since 18.04.2018.

The Central Government notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 on 15.06.2017. Chapter X of these Rules deals with management and utilization of the Fund.

The Fund has been created taking into account the Funds available under the erstwhile National Fund for People with Disabilities constituted in August, 1983 and the Trust Fund for Empowerment of PwDs constituted in November, 2006. The Fund is invested in the form of fixed deposits or bond in the RBI. The interest accrued of this Fund shall be used for providing financial assistance for various activities keeping in view the provisions of the above RPwD Act, 2016 and Rules made there under.

The Governing Body of the Fund in its meetings held on 11.01.2024 & 04.07.2024 reviewed the guidelines. With the approval of the Governing Body, the following areas are now covered for consideration for financial support under National Fund:

- i. Exhibitions/workshops to showcase the products including paintings, handicraft etc. made by the PwDs.
- ii. Persons with benchmark disabilities who have excelled in sports or in fine arts/ music/ dance etc. at the State level to participate in the National/International events. Assistance for the similar activity to be granted only once each for National event and International event in a financial year.
- iii. Certain exclusive needs of persons with high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Boards on specific recommendation by the States on a case-to-case basis.
- iv. Persons with benchmark disabilities, who have excelled in academic and technical areas for presenting research papers in International conferences/ seminars/ symposia/ workshops.
- v. Financial assistance to the State/UT Governments

- vi. Strengthening STEM labs for class XI, XII especially for Blind/Deaf/ID Schools under National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and CBSE/ICSE and other Central/State school boards.
- vii. Travel, boarding and lodging of athletes, coaches and escorts for participation in sports events organized by the Center for Disability Sports.
- viii. Tuition fee reimbursement, for 100% deaf (without cochlear implant) and 100% blind students from Class 9th to 12th standard pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, through National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of these guidelines is to provide a framework to support financial assistance under the Fund for certain core areas relevant for empowerment of persons with disabilities which are not covered under the budgetary support programme of the Government.

3. COMPONENT ADMISSIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SCHEME

A. Exhibitions/workshops to showcase the products including paintings, handicraft etc. made by the PwDs.

Purpose – To provide financial assistance for organizing exhibition/ workshops at National/ Regional/ State level to showcase the products including paintings, handicrafts etc. made by persons with disabilities (persons with disabilities will have the same meaning as defined under the RPwD Act, 2016). Proposals for organizing events in inclusive/special schools will be encouraged for increased participation of children with disabilities.

Eligibility –

- a. Any organization registered under Societies Act/Companies Act/Trust Act/RPwD Act, 2016 for a period not less than three years and has experience of not less than 2 years for organizing exhibition/ workshops in marketing products/ paintings.
- b. The applicant organization must not have obtained financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source. A certificate will be submitted to this effect along with the application.
- c. Organization having received assistance under this category will be eligible to receive assistance again in the alternate year.
- d. During each of the last two financial years, the NGO should have received a minimum of 20% of their total funding (ie total income) through philanthropy/donation or private companies' CSR.

- e. The NGOs will be eligible to receive the grant maximum up to 50% of their total proposed budget subject to maximum ceiling as mentioned under this component of the National Fund guidelines. The remaining 50% will be arranged by the NGOs from other sources.

Extent of Financial Assistance – The financial assistance would cover the following components:

- a. Establishment cost towards organizing the event including cost for arranging venue, TA/DA to the participating PwDs invited to showcase their products/paintings, transportation cost etc.
- b. Cost of additional logistics such as arrangement for LCD screen, light, music etc.
- c. 50% of the grant will be released in advance and remaining 50% will be released after completion of the programme and after receipt of utilization certificate.
- d. Maximum financial assistance will be **Rs 20 lakh** for National level, **Rs. 15 lakh for Regional level** [five regions namely, Southern region (comprising of States/UTs – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Telangana, Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands), Northern region (comprising of States/UTs – Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan), Western region (comprising of States/UTs – Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh), Eastern region (comprising of States/UTs – Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Sikkim and Jharkhand), North Eastern region (comprising of States/UTs – Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura)] and **Rs 10 lakh** for State level.

Note: The exhibition will be considered as regional level if conducted at least for three States/UTs in that region.

How to Apply – The eligible organizations must submit the proposal online. The organization to submit the final bills, utilization certificates etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.

Approving Authority – The applicant organization shall give a presentation, if required by the Governing Body, which will be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

B. Support persons with benchmark disabilities who have excelled in sports/ fine-arts/ music/ dance/ film/ theatre/ literature at the State level to participate in the National and International events.

Purpose:- To provide financial assistance to an individual person with benchmark disability:

- a. Have obtained top grade on performing arts from the respective accrediting bodies/ certifying institutions or stood among first three ranks in sports/cultural event at State level at least once during last 3 years.
- b. Youth with benchmark disabilities in the age group of 13-21 (not college/university going) for participation in National IT Challenge which is the main competition at the National level to decide candidates for participation in the Global IT Challenge. The eligibility of the youth with benchmark disabilities in the age group will be decided in terms of the norms of Global IT Challenge from time to time.

Eligibility -

- c. Any person with benchmark disability (having disability 40% or more) who was among first three ranks in sports event at State level at least once during last 3 years; or
- d. Any artist with disability graded as outstanding or promising during the last three years.
- e. To encourage participation of persons with disabilities, there shall be no income limit for participation in the National/ International events till **31st March 2025**. Thereafter, Governing Body will review whether to **review** the Income Limit.
- f. The applicant must not have obtained financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source during the same financial year. A certificate will be submitted to this effect along with the application.
- g. Assistance from the Fund for the similar activity to be granted only once each for National event and International event in a financial year to a PwD.

Extent of Financial Assistance - The financial assistance would cover the following components:

- a. To and fro Second AC train fare (shortest route) of the candidate with disability along with one escort, in case he/she is unable to travel alone for participation at the National event and an amount of Rs 2500/- per day towards boarding and lodging per person.
- b. In case of international event, to and fro economic air fare (shortest route) and amount of Rs 4000/- per day for the entire duration of the event.

How to Apply – The eligible applicants may submit the proposal online. The applicant to submit the bills, tickets, boarding pass, receipt of visa fee, proof of participation and registration fee receipt of the event etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.

Approving Authority – The applicant shall give a presentation, if required by the Governing Body, which will be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

C. Support certain exclusive needs of persons with high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Boards.

Purpose: - To provide financial support to assist the individual person with benchmark disability having high support needs to meet their certain exclusive needs as recommended by the Assessment Board.

Eligibility: -

- Persons with benchmark disabilities having high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Board constituted by the States/UTs.
- There shall be no income limit for availing benefits under this component for a period up to 31.03.2025. Thereafter, Governing Body may review this provision for further amendments, if any.
- The applicant must not have obtained financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source. A certificate will be submitted to this effect along with the application.

Extent of Financial Assistance:- The financial assistance is limited to actual cost of the customized mobility equipment to improve activity of daily living or Rs 1 lakh whichever is less. The assistive device / equipment available with the ALIMCO (a CPSE under the DEPwD), will not be allowed for procurement from any other source.

How to Apply: – The eligible applicant may submit the proposal online. In case the Governing Body allows purchase of assistive device/equipment from a source other than ALIMCO, the applicant will submit final bills, utilization certificates etc. within 15 days of the purchase of the equipment.

Approving Authority:– The Governing Body will be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

D. Financial support to persons with benchmark disabilities, who have excelled in academic and technical areas for presenting research papers in International conferences/ seminars/symposia/workshops.

Purpose:– To provide financial assistance to an individual person with benchmark disability who has excelled in academic and technical areas for presenting research papers in international academic conferences/ seminars/ symposia/ workshops.

Eligibility –

- a. Serving faculty in university/ research institutes/ institutions of National importance as defined by the MoE/ universities/ deemed universities/ colleges recognized by the UGC/RCI or any other Regulator, and having a Ph.D degree or Ph.D in the advanced stage of research, are eligible to apply.
- b. Independent scholars having sufficient research experience and demonstrable publication record can also apply.
- c. The applicant should have an accepted paper for presentation as a single or lead author.
- d. The applicant must not have obtained financial assistance for the same purpose from any other source during the same financial year. A certificate will be submitted to this effect along with the application.

Extent of Financial Assistance - The financial assistance would cover to and fro economic air fare (shortest route) for the candidate with benchmark disability along with one escort, in case he/she is unable to travel alone for participation at the International event and an amount of Rs 4000/- per day per person for the entire duration of the event.

Note: Candidate having once received the financial assistance under this category will be ineligible to re-apply.

How to Apply – The eligible applicant may submit the proposal online. The applicant to submit the bills, tickets, boarding pass, receipt of visa fee, proof of participation and registration fee receipt of the event etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.

Approving Authority – The applicant shall give a presentation, if required by the Governing Body, which will be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

E. Financial assistance to the State/UT Governments.

Purpose:- To provide financial assistance for organizing National/ International level events to promote inclusivity with regard to persons with disabilities on the lines of Purple Fest.

Extent of Financial Assistance: –

For National level	50% of the total expenditure subject to a limit of Rs. 3 crores.
For International level	50% of the total expenditure subject to a limit of Rs. 5 crores.

How to Apply – The eligible State/UT may submit the proposal offline or online. The State/UT to submit the final bills, utilization certificates etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.

Note: If in a financial year, more than one State/UT is interested; only one will be selected based on Challenge Method between States/UTs.

Approving Authority – The State/UT shall give a presentation, if required by the Governing Body, which will be the competent authority to approve the proposals.

F. Strengthening (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) STEM labs for classes XI and XII especially for Blind/Deaf/ID Schools under National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and CBSE/ICSE and other Central/State school boards - having minimum 10 Children with Special Needs (CwSN) passing class 10th. For Inclusive schools, there should be minimum 50 CwSN and minimum 10 CwSN passing 10th exam.

Purpose: – To provide financial assistance to schools for strengthening STEM labs especially for Children with Special Needs studying in classes XI and XII.

Eligibility –

- Blind/Deaf/ID Schools under National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and CBSE/ICSE and other Central/State school boards –minimum 10 CwSN passing class 10th
- Inclusive schools - minimum 50 CwSN and minimum 10 CwSN passing class 10th

Provision –

- One time Grant-in-aid not exceeding Rs. 5 lakh or 75% of actual expenditure, whichever is less, to each of such schools (maximum 100 schools in a financial year) for creating STEM labs in classes 11th and 12th. The amount will be incurred on creation of lab facilities (building infrastructure not included).
- Grant will be released in two equal installments. Second installment will be released on receipt of utilization certificates, supporting receipts, certificate from Head of the School etc.

How to apply –

- Proposal will be submitted to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- Head of the School will be required to submit the final bills, utilization certificates etc. within 15 days of the completion of work.

Approving Authority– The Governing Body shall be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

G. Travel, boarding and lodging of athletes, coaches and escorts for participation in sports events organized by the Center for Disability Sports.

Purpose – In order to popularize the Center for Disability Sports (CDS), travel, boarding and lodging of athletes with disabilities, escorts (wherever required) and coaches will be financially supported from the National Fund for PwDs.

Eligibility –

- Financial support will be considered on recommendation of the Director, CDS.
- To encourage participation of persons with disabilities, there shall be no income limit for participation in the CDS events till **31st March 2026**. Governing Body will review the said time limit subsequently.
- Applicant must not have obtained or applied for financial assistance for the same event from any other source. A certificate will be submitted to this effect along with the application.
- Financial support will be given only once in a financial year to an individual.
- Financial Assistance will initially be available only till **31st March 2026**. Governing Body will review the said time limit subsequently.

Extent of Financial Assistance –

- Travel –AC 2 tier train fare. However, air travel in economy class will be allowed in case duration of the train journey is 12 hours or more.
- Boarding and lodging – On actual basis or Rs 2500/- per day, whichever is less?

Note - One escort will be allowed on the recommendation of the medical authority.

How to apply –

- Director CDS will submit the proposal to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- CDS will be required to submit the final bills, utilization certificates etc. within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.

Approving Authority– The Governing Body shall be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

H. Tuition fees reimbursement, for 100% Deaf (without cochlear implant) and 100% Blind students in Class 9th to 12th pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, through National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres.

Purpose: - To provide financial assistance to the NIs/CRCs for reimbursement of tuition fees for the 100% Deaf (without cochlear implant) and 100% Blind students pursuing STEM Subjects from Class 9th to 12th through National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres.

Eligibility:-

- Open only for Indian nationals.
- 100% Blind & 100% Deaf (without cochlear implant) students pursuing STEM subjects from class 9th to 12th.
- Maximum annual family Income- up to Rs. 8 Lakh from all sources.
- Maximum 1000 students can be considered for reimbursement of tuition fee in a certain Financial Year.
- Not availing any other scholarship/stipend for the said purpose
- Not more than two children with disabilities of the same parents will be entitled to receive benefits of this scheme. In case the second child is a twin, the fee reimbursement under the schemes will be admissible to the twin.

Extent of Financial Assistance:-

Rs. 1.5 Lakh or actual whichever is less per student per year

Documents Required:-

- Disability Certificate issued by the appropriate authority/UDID Card/Enrollment Number.
- Income Certificate issued by the appropriate authority.
- School ID or Bona fide certificate.
- Class 8, 9, 10, or 11 mark sheets (as applicable).
- Copy of the affiliation letter of the School.
- Self declaration regarding not availing any other scholarship/stipend for the same course

How to Apply - Application in the prescribed format along with the all the requisite information/documents may be submitted to any of the National Institute/Composite Regional Centre under administrative control of DEPwD.

Approving Authority:- The Governing Body shall be the competent authority to approve the proposal.

4. CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL APPROVED ORGANIZATIONS / INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE SCHEME

- i. Online link for applying is available on the Department's website.
- ii. UDID card number or UDID enrolment number with disability certificate is mandatory. However, in case of applications for exclusive needs of persons with high support needs, UDID card number shall be mandatory.
- iii. Whenever the financial grant to any organization is sanctioned, the organization must produce all the documents within 15 days of the completion of the event. In case of delays, second installment will be refused and the organization will be debarred for financial assistance from National Fund for a period of two years.
- iv. Real-time photos (with geo-tag and time stamps) and videos to be uploaded on DEPwD/National Fund link by the organization during the event. Ministry's support should be clearly acknowledged in the event website, brochures, standees etc.