

Revised Guidelines for Providing Financial Assistance under the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities, 2023

Department of Empowerment of Persons with
Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India

Scheme for Providing Financial Assistance under National Fund for Persons with Disabilities

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Central Government has 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 has constituted the National Fund vide its Office order dated 10.01.2018 and the Fund is functioning as a Trust under the Indian Trust Act since 18.04.2018.
- 1.2 The Central Government has 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The Governing Body of the Fund in its seventh meeting held on 13th March, 2023 reviewed the guidelines. After due deliberations, the Governing Body approved the following areas to be considered 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.

2. OBJECTIVES

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. COMPONENTS 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 organising 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 for 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 ineligible to receive assistance during the same financial year.

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 -

- (a) 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
- (b) Any artist with disability graded as outstanding or promising during the

last three years.

- (c) To encourage participation of persons with disabilities, there shall be no income limit for participation in the National/ International events till 31st March 2024. Thereafter, Governing Body will review whether to re-introduce the Income Limit.
- (d) The applicant must not have obtained for 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.
- (e) 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 (whereas applicable), 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 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 on specific recommendation by the States on a case-to-case basis.

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 -

- a) Persons with benchmark disabilities having high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Board constituted by the States/UTs.
- b) The annual family income of the PwD should not be more than Rs 3 lakh or as may be specified by the Governing Body.
- c) The applicant must not have obtained for 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 lower. 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 devices/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 (whereas applicable), in case he/she is unable to travel alone for participation at the National 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.

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

- (i) Online link for applying will be separately 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 any event 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 be refused, and the organization debarred 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.
