

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORTED GUARDIANSHIP SCHEME OF THE NATIONAL TRUST (SGS)

INTRODUCTION

In India, a large number of disabled persons, both in urban and rural areas, are living below the poverty line (BPL). Most parents do take the full responsibility of their disabled children. However, when there is no property to bequeath by parents on their death, other relatives and friends may not be willing to take on the onerous responsibility of being a Legal Guardian to a disabled child who is orphaned and destitute. Such persons are subjected to object poverty, abuse and neglect. Since Legal Guardianship is a major objective of the National Trust, and is seen as a means of securing the future of disabled persons, this vacuum needs to be addressed. Therefore, a guardian who is willing and is approved by the Local Level Committee (LLC) may be supported with limited financial support for the up keep of the disabled person. The scheme of supported Guardianship will provide encouragement to those relatives/friends who are willing but unable (financially) to look after their disabled wards. The scheme has also been visualized keeping in mind the very high costs of institutional care in which the cost of construction, maintenance and personnel become the main part of the total budget.

- This (Supported Guardianship Scheme or SGS) is a pilot project for **3 years**.
 - The Supported Guardianship Scheme will be implemented only in 75 districts of 26 States and 1 Union Territory during this pilot period. (as per the list attached)
 - The Nodal Agency will be the **Local Level Committee**, in collaboration with DDRC. where applicable.
 - Target group :- **Only Legal Guardians** of destitute & abandoned persons who are diagnosed as having **Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities**, are eligible.
 - SGS will be given to a maximum of **10 persons with disability in each of the 75 Districts listed**.
- 2- **OBJECTIVE:** The main objective of the scheme is to provide financial security to severely disabled persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities who are destitute and/or abandoned, by supporting the cost of guardianship for the abovementioned group **within their own communities**.
- 3- **ELIGIBILITY** : The four overriding requirements of eligibility are :
- i The person with disability (applicant's ward) must be orphaned and/or abandoned/ destitute;
 - ii He must belong to BPL economic category;

- iii He must have a disability certificate as per definition under the PWD Act 1995;
&
- iv. The applicant must be a Legal Guardian appointed by the LLC under Section 14 of the National Trust Act, 1999.

If more than 10 applicants fulfill the above eligibility criteria then preference should be given to the following categories in descending order of priority

- a) Legal Guardians of persons with severe disabilities.
 - b) Legal Guardians of Women with disability
 - c) Legal Guardians of Senior Citizens with disability.
 - d) Legal Guardian of Disabled persons who cannot be placed in any kind of employment.
- 4- **SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES:** Eligible guardians may apply to the Local Level Committees in the prescribed proforma (**form SGS-1**). **Selection of beneficiaries** will be done by LLCs in consultation with DDRC/DRO/District Level Officers wherever appropriate from amongst the applicants whose applications have been received and are complete in all respects. The sanction letter (as per form SGS-2) will be signed by all the three members of the LLC.
- 5- **UTILIZATION** Out of a total of Rs. 500 per month, Rs. 350/- will be utilized for basic needs of food, clothing, shelter. For the medical and rehabilitation treatment of the disabled wards, Rs. 150/- will be given on production of appropriate vouchers, bills, etc.

IMPLEMENTATION

- i. The Local Level **Committee should constitute an Implementation Committee** comprising all its 3 members, representative of DDRC (wherever in existence), Chief Medical Officer Social Welfare Officer who may also be the Convener, or any other person deemed desirable.
- ii. The Implementation Committee shall meet twice within the first 3 months, once for deciding procedures & second time for selection of beneficiaries. List of selected beneficiaries are to be notified to the National Trust Headquarters. Thereafter, the Committee will meet once every 6 months.
- iii. Wide publicity is to be given to the Scheme through low cost pamphlets, fliers and posters. Support of NGOs, grass-root level workers, Panchayats and Government Officers may be taken. The copies of the Scheme and application forms may be printed in the vernacular language for the convenience of the local population.
- iv. The notice of the scheme should clearly indicate place of availability of application from last date of receipt of forms, number of projected beneficiaries & eligibility criteria.

[NOTE :- If the scheme is not implemented within 60 days, it stands withdrawn. The same amount will be allocated to another district]

- v. Proper arrangement for receipt of application forms are to be made. All applications shall be acknowledged and recorded in a Register and files maintained for each block in the District]
 - vi. All applications shall be submitted to the Implementation Committee for selection of the beneficiaries. The Implementation Committee may at its discretion call the persons With disability along with the Legal Guardian/Applicant for personal interview before sanctioning the financial assistance.
 - vii. Separate account under SGS head is to be opened & maintained by Local Level Committee. The account shall be operated by at least two signatories, one of them being District Magistrate / District Collector.
 - viii. Disbursal of money should be made on or before the 10th of every month by sending a cheque or draft to the saving accounts of the beneficiary.
 - ix. Initially, the LLC will send a list of selected beneficiaries along with photos to the National Trust headquarters.
 - x. Thereafter, annual reports by the LLC will be sent to the National Trust Headquarters.xi. The funds will be released by the National Trust on a half yearly basis to the Local Level Committee based on the applications for assistance from the Target Group. The District Magistrate will sign under his hand the requests for the District.
- 7- **CONVERGENCE WITH DDRC** : Wherever possible, the DDRC personnel will assess the needs of the disabled persons and recommend his/her name to the LLC.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION The LLC will monitor the appropriate utilization of funds and the NGO member or the DDRC will track the growth and development of the disabled person.

Legal Guardians must bring their wards for assessment of growth indicators to the DDRC or the NGO member of the LLC **every 6 months** without fail, on a fixed frequency basis (say, every 20th January and every 20th August) from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon).

If there is no visible improvement in the disabled persons, the Local Level Committee may recommend withdrawal of support after one notice to the Legal Guardian.

- ii. Height, weight, motor development, mental development, general physical appearance, cleanliness, social/adaptive behavior, etc. (as per attached chart in form SGS-3), to be measured by the NGO member of the LLC or the local DDRC.