

PRAYAS Guidelines - Eligibility

NIDHI- PRAYAS Program as the scheme suggest is to help – **young** and aspiring **innovators**.

Eligibility for Innovators for PRAYAS support

The PRAYAS program is focused to provide funding support to individual innovators. Innovators should use the PRAYAS grant, primarily to convert their ideas into prototype / proof of concept. The IP generated if any, should vest with the Innovator / Start up.

It cannot, however, be used for supporting: -

- Innovators / Start up who do not / will not own the Project know how/ IP
- Funding research / student internship in Academic institution or R& D organisation
- Innovators / Team/ Start up who is already supported once under NIDHI PRAYAS
- Innovators who do not have the necessary NOC on IP, granting sufficient time to work on PRAYAS project from their respective organisation / institution
- Innovator supported under NIDHI-EIR in parallel with NIDHI-PRAYAS
- Innovators who do not have a roadmap / will towards commercialization

The eligibility criteria for the applicants for PRAYAS program are as follows :

Any individual applying for PRAYAS has to be an Indian Citizen with a government approved proof of nationality such as a valid passport, voter's id etc. The applicant should be in the age group of minimum of 18 years, as on date of application.

1. Individual Innovator OR Team of Innovators: -

The innovator should have the knowhow of the PRAYAS project. For team of innovators there has to be

- a. An agreement among the team about the lead innovator who would apply, and the funds will be transferred to the lead innovator's account (after selection)
- b. IP generated would vest with the innovator / team and it would be further taken for commercialization

2. In case of Founders, Co -founders of Start up applying for PRAYAS:-

- a. At the time of application, the period of existence of a start up and its operations should not exceed 7 years from the Date of Incorporation,
- b. Wants to develop the prototype for a new product, for which they may have not received similar kind of support.
- c. Company should have annual turnover not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs for any of the financial year since its inception
- d. IP generated would vest with the start up

3. Innovators in employment OR Students with any R& D organisation / Academic Institution:-

- a. It is mandatory that the innovators pursuing PRAYAS should have the Project know how and own the IP.
- b. The innovator has to seek the NOC from their organisation / institution. The NOC should have the following
 - I. Permission to apply for PRAYAS and the innovator will be granted sufficient time to work on the PRAYAS project,
 - II. IP generated would vest with the innovator / team and it would be further taken for commercialization

Not eligible for PRAYAS:

- A. **Student** applicants pursuing **long term research** projects like doctoral research projects **or similar** projects will not be supported
- B. **Professors or Academicians** engaged in teaching with any academic or R&D institute.

Signature of the Innovator(s) with date

4. The **priority areas** for supporting innovations under NIDHI PRAYAS program are manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, clean-tech, energy, water and Internet of Things (IOT) and other technology areas.
5. The projects relating to **pure software / app** development and those involving **pure academic research** or **student college projects** or **Ph.D projects** are **not eligible**.
6. **Preference** may be given to those innovators
 - A. Who have **bootstrapped** or have **got co-investment commitment**.
 - B. Who have **clear road map for commercialization** or **start up creation**.
 - C. **Women** innovators
 - D. **Young** innovators
7. The **maximum** support can be provided per innovator/incubatee is upto **Rs.10 lakhs in two or more installments**.
8. If the **innovator is pursuing to build a prototype from their institute/organization IP**, then in that case innovator will take **NOC** from the appropriate authority of their **institute/organisation for use/IP transfer / ownership in favour of the innovator/startup**.
9. If the **applicant is studying /working in an institute/organization**, they should get a **no objection certificate from that respective institute/organization** for applying to NIDHI PRAYAS.
10. The NIDHI-PRAYAS **grantee should be registered for the pre-incubation or incubation program** at the TBI for the entire duration of the program, after going through the TBI's selection process.
11. NIDHI-PRAYAS **grantee should be fully committed to work towards the prototype development** for which the support is being sought and **should not treat this as a stop gap arrangement** to support any other pursuits.
12. The **innovator can avail** the NIDHI-PRAYAS support **only once** and they **should not have sought the similar support previously**, from other Government of India organisation / Institution for the same innovative concept as proposed in the application form.

Guidelines for Use of funds by the PRAYASEE

Can be used for

- Outsourcing Charges for R&D/ Design Engg/ Consultancy/ Testing/ Expert cost
- Raw material/ Consumables/ Spares
- Fabrication / Synthesis charges of working model or process
- Business Travel and Event participation Fees (Ceiling 10% of approved project cost)
- Patent filing Cost – (PCT - Ceiling 10% of approved project cost)
- Contingency - (Ceiling 10% of approved project cost)

Cannot be used for

- To pay the grantee/relatives.
- To pay usage charges to the TBI*
- To repay loans/ commitments made earlier.
- To pay rent of own accommodation, creation of infrastructure facility like shed, etc should not form the component of support/funds.

* Subject to conditions of PC-TBI@KEC

The outcome of innovators project supported should be of any of the following:

- ❖ Should have the **working prototype within 18 months**
- ❖ Progress towards **IP filing**, commercialization in form of **licensing or Start up**
- ❖ **Funding / Investment received**
- ❖ Expression of **interest from manufacturers**

Signature of the Innovator(s) with date