

## **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
- Proposal for the product having crossed the Prototype level are not eligible for the Prayas support

### **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, Startup should be incorporated in India with min 51% of its equity held by Indian citizens. The Startup should not be more than 7 years of existence,
- 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 this similar support previously**, from other Government of India organisation/Institution for the same innovative concept as proposed in the application form.
13. If innovator has already started a venture, innovator **should assign the IP ownership right to the Startup**

#### **Guidelines for Use of funds by the PRAYAS ESE**

##### **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**