



REACH FOR THE STARS
NO ONE LEFT BEHIND



iSTAR Challenge Fund seeks to fund innovative solutions and encourage public-private partnerships that boost vocational skills, training, and education for Indian youth to prepare them for the future of work.



FUNDING WINDOWS

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL UNDER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FUNDING WINDOWS:



Building Skills

- Technical Vocational Skills
- Digital Skills for Youth
- 21st Century Skills
- Foundational skills



Ecosystem Development

- Equipping Schools, Learning Labs
- Training of Trainers & Assessors
- Career Counseling








Income Generation

- Entrepreneurship Training
- Internships & Apprenticeships

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



Proposals should meet the following requirements:

-  **Indian registered for-profit and non-profit entities**
All Indian registered for-profit and non-profit entities including private qualified skills training agencies, not-for profit training providers, and public training agencies (e.g., Sector Skill Councils, Non-government organizations, foundations, corporates active in skills, training, and education).
-  **Legitimate, registered entities in existence for 2 years**
Eligible organizations must be legitimate, registered entities with the Government of India, have a strong track record of supporting skills, training, and education initiatives, and be in existence for at least 2 years. Certificate of incorporation should be attached as part of the application.
-  **Public-Private Partnerships are encouraged**
Partnerships with government education agencies are encouraged at the national, regional, state, and district level such as CBSE, NCERT, NIOS, NUEPA, SCERTS, SIETs (if any), SIEMAT (if any), School Boards, vocational education centers. At the District level, government agencies, such as DIETs, BRCs, and CRCs can be included. Entities may collaborate also with other organizations to offer new innovative solutions/approach to respond to specific needs.
-  **Adequate funds to support existing operations**
The entity should have adequate funds to support existing operations. iSTAR funds are for incremental costs and may be utilized towards testing of new innovative solutions, pilots, new target group, or new geography, with potential for scale and growth. Applications submitted in partnership with State or Central level government entities should include cost-sharing arrangements. iSTAR funds would not be eligible for starting up a new organization.
-  **Clear, Development Outcomes**
Each proposal should have a clear set of outcome-oriented development outcomes to be achieved by the end of the project (such as #of students successfully placed, increase in income potential, uptake by federal or state government to a larger geography or targeted segment, increase in information and awareness among marginalized segments of the population, translation of industry-demand in skills-building, etc.)

SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposals will be prioritized based on evidence of meeting the selection criteria below:



Clarity of Mission

The organization's overall mission and strategy are aligned with the delivery of high quality, affordable, timely, and accessible services to the poor, fully supported by a committed and able leadership team.



Operational Capabilities

The organization plans for and has the right mix of human resources to make large scale impact.



Achievement of Outcomes and Impact

The organization understands the local context and has contributed to improved outcomes for poor, marginalized sections of the population.



Quality of Partnerships

The organization forms partnerships and alliances to help maximize its social impact.



Quality of Financial Management and Sustainability

The organization has adequate financial planning, good financial health, clearly articulated budget categories with a detailed breakdown, revenue sources to sustain the project beyond the funding period.



Adaptability and Planning for Scale

The organization has the adaptive capacity to identify and respond to external threats and opportunities, address gaps in current program delivery, and evaluate progress to guide program improvements.



APPLY NOW

Grants upto USD 50,000

Deadline

April 15 2021



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