

PROJECT ASSIST

It is the flagship scheme of the Foundation which provides financial assistance to the children rendered orphan or destitute in various communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence. The assistance is provided for their care, education and training to enable them to become a respectable and responsible citizen as well as to bring them in the mainstream of the Nation.

(i) Eligibility conditions: The following are conditions for grant of financial assistance to the aforesaid children:

- A child becomes an orphan or destitute when either both the parents or the main bread earner of the family is killed or permanently incapacitated because of communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence.
- The Annual income of the family of the child should not exceed Rs 2 Lakh.
- The child should not be getting any assistance on regular basis from other sources. One time financial assistance provided by the Government shall not be treated as other source of assistance for this purpose.
- Assistance is admissible up to the age of 25 years.
- Identification of eligible children:
 - District Committee under the District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner having members such as Superintendent of Police, District Social Welfare Officer, District Child and Women Development Officer shall identify and verify the beneficiaries.
 - District Committee decides about the mode of assistance i.e. through child's own family, relative, educational institution, legal guardian, foster, parents, adoption, children's home etc.
 - District administration shall send the application of the child along with its recommendations to the Foundation on the prescribed form which may be downloaded from the web site of the Foundation.
 - In fresh cases the District Administration shall recommended the application along with birth certificate, current study certificate of the child, annual income certificate of the family, death certificate of the deceased person, copy of the FIR, a certificate from the local police that the victim was not involved in any communal/terrorist activities and send to the Foundation for grant of financial assistance. In the state of Assam, AASHWAS, an organization formed by the Assam Police is the coordinating agency between child beneficiaries /District Administration and NFCH. (The Application Form is available on the website of the Foundation)

- Scale of assistance:

Up to Class XII	Rs.1250/- per month per child
For Graduation/Post Graduation	Rs.1500/- per month per child
For Professional courses (like Medical, Engineering and Management)	Rs.1750/- per month per child

The above rates are applicable from 01/04/2018.

- Sanction and remittance:

- Office of the District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner opens a separate bank account under the name of “District Committee, National Foundation for Communal Harmony, District_____.” The account is operated jointly by any two of the officers nominated by the District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner, District Social Welfare Officer, District Education Officer or the District Treasury Officer.
- Assistance is payable in advance annually in the first quarter of the academic year. This is credited to the account of the recipient maintained in a scheduled bank. Since assistance is being credited to the bank account of the child periodically, there is no need for identification at the time of disbursement of assistance by the District Magistrate/Collector to avoid inconvenience etc. to the children.
- In the month of April every year concerned District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner shall send a report to the Foundation about position of funds sanctioned by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony under the Project Assist during the last financial year and funds available, if any, from earlier years in the following proforma

Position of funds for the year ending_____

Details of amount received from the Foundation for payment of assistance to children.			Details of disbursement			Reasons for non payment of balance amount
Letter number	Date	Amount (Rs.)	Date of payment	Amount paid (Rs.)	Amount balance (Rs.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- Recommendations for continuance of assistance:

- District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner furnishes the following certificates to justify continuation of assistance within one month of the

commencement of the next academic session every year. Fresh applications are not required and should not be sent with the proposal for renewal of assistance.

- Utilization Certificate to the effect that the amount of financial assistance released till date under the Project Assist has been disbursed on _____ [date to be mentioned] to the beneficiary. [List of beneficiaries to be enclosed].
- The child for whom financial assistance now being recommended is actually studying in an education institution or is undergoing training for acquiring skills to better his/her employment prospects. [Not applicable if the child is below five years of age].
- Continuance of further financial assistance to the child beyond _____ (period to be mentioned) is considered essential and hence recommended.
- Current study certificate from the educational institution (Specimen of format is available on website), photocopy of annual examination result card and current annual income certificates of the family issued by the concerned district official (Specimen format is available on the website). Income certificate shall be valid for a period of three years. In case any parent or guardian of the child gets a job during that period, the same should be declared voluntarily to the district authorities, who in turn would inform this to the Foundation immediately.
- Release of financial assistance is subject to furnishing of the above certificates/documents.
- In case a child remains in the same class for more than three consecutive years, he/she shall not be entitled to receive further financial assistance.

Overview

- **A total of 12,885 (link file 1) children have been benefited under the project ‘Assist’ from the year 1992-93 to 2018-19.**
- **Expenditure of Rs.84 Crores has been incurred since the inception of the scheme on assistance to child victims, as on 31.03.2019.**
- **A sum of Rs.5.60 Crores (approximately) was incurred on project ‘Assist’ during the year 2018-19, covering 3,337 children.**
- **From different States, 470 new eligible children were identified and provided assistance in 2018-19.**

Some Central Public Sector Enterprises donate sizeable amounts for supporting various activities of the Foundation. The PowerGrid Corporation of India Ltd. provides assistance to children covered under project ‘Assist’ in Assam and Manipur; Gail India Ltd. (GAIL) provides assistance to the children/beneficiaries under Project Assist in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir; and RECL is providing assistance to children covered under project ‘Assist’ in Jammu & Kashmir.

