

The Tibetan Voluntary Health Association

Department of Health

Central Tibetan Administration

Disability Support Programs

Introduction

The Department of Health registered as the Tibetan Voluntary Health Association was formally established as one of the youngest Department under the Central Tibetan Administration in 1981. Since its inception, the Department has steadfastly worked towards ensuring accessible healthcare, striving to promote the overall health of Tibetans with a particular emphasis on the vulnerable segments of the Tibetan population, including those living with disabilities.

Key among its initiatives are several programs tailored to support Tibetans with disabilities. These include the Destitute (D) Medical Reimbursement Scheme, Disability Stipend Scheme, Mental Health Program, Aids & Appliances and Leprosy Program. Additionally, the Ngoenga School for Children with Special Needs, founded in 2001, stands testament to the department's dedication to providing educational access and medical support to Tibetan children with disabilities.

The overarching objective of the Department of Health or TVHA is to empower and support Tibetans living with disabilities. The department envisions a future where individuals with disabilities not only undergo successful rehabilitation but also actively participate as independent and productive members of society. This vision aligns with "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill" passed by the Government of India in 2016, which serves as a reference for the department's disability coverage list.

For individuals living with disabilities, the Department extends a range of medical and psychosocial support through meticulously designed schemes. These schemes address the unique needs of different groups within the disabled community as summarized below.

- **Destitute Medical Reimbursement Scheme:** Under this scheme, Tibetans with a Destitute ID issued by the CTA can avail reimbursement for their treatment costs. Refer to *Annexure 1* for details.
- **Stipend for Leprosy Patients:** Monthly stipends are provided to individuals affected by leprosy, along with reimbursement for treatment, travel, and accommodation costs. Refer to *Annexure 2* for details.
- **Mental Treatment Reimbursement:** Individuals diagnosed with mental illnesses can avail of 50-100% treatment cost, therapies and counseling reimbursement. Refer to *Annexure 3* for details.
- **Ngoenga School for Special Children:** Children with disabilities above 4 years of age are provided free food, accommodation, education, and medical services at this school. Refer to *Annexure 4* for guidelines.
- **Stipend for People with Disabilities:** Tibetans with disabilities are offered a monthly stipend of Rs. 3000 and/or Rs. 1500 respectively on the basis of percentage of disability through this scheme. (Subject to change of stipend amount)
- **Aids & Appliances for Vulnerable Tibetans:** This project supports the purchase of aids and appliances, such as hearing aids, walkers, wheelchairs, prosthetics, orthotics, air mattress, commode chair, crutches for vulnerable Tibetans.

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For each of the schemes mentioned above, specific documents and requirements must be fulfilled to avail the benefits, ensuring a streamlined process that prioritizes the needs of the community.

Guideline on the Provision of Stipend for Tibetans with Disability

The stipend provision for Tibetans living with disability was launched by the Department of Health, Central Tibetan Administration to support Tibetans living with disability in India, Nepal & Bhutan. Under this Program, a monthly stipend is being provided to Tibetans with disability for the prosperity of their lives. Any Tibetans with a disability certified through an Indian government health facility's chief medical officer can apply for this scheme.

Objective: The main purpose of the stipend provision is to assist vulnerable Tibetans living with disability in purchasing essentials required to cover additional expenses related to healthcare & nutrition thereby promoting their quality of life.

Eligibility: The eligibility criteria to avail of the stipend benefit are as follows.

- The applicant should be a Tibetans with Green book holder and resident of India, Nepal & Bhutan.
- Persons with the following disability listed under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 of Government of India can apply.
 - Blindness
 - Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
 - Locomotor Disability
 - Intellectual Disability
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Muscular Dystrophy
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Multiple Disabilities

Depending on funding availability, only those Tibetans with more than 45% and upto 69% disability are eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs. 1500 and disability with 70% and above shall be eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs 3000 on the basis of disability certificate issued by the chief medical officer/authorized officer to avail such benefit. Provided that priorities will be given to those from economically weaker families. In the face of donor funding reduction or withdrawals, those from destitute families will be eligible for the stipend & priority will be given based on disability severity. Those who are registered under the GoI disability scheme and availing stipend shall not be covered under this program.

Documents required:

- Green Book Copy
- RC copies if any/Residential proof (optional)
- Tibetan Settlement Officer's supporting letter

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- Disability certificate: - Disability certificate issued by Chief Medical Officer/ authorized officer of GoI.
- Full body Photograph.
- Filled document of the Department's disability form.

Process:

- All the documents must be submitted along with the Department's disability form which should be duly filled.
- The Settlement officer and/or executive officer must verify and furnish all necessary details of the applicants with signatures to the Department.
- Based on the submitted document, respective dealing staff will conduct background verification and seek approval from the Health Secretary. Respective settlements will then be informed in written about the acceptance or denial of the application.
- If accepted, stipends will be released on a quarterly basis directly to the beneficiary's bank account.
- The settlement office is responsible for the timely submission of signed receipt forms collected from the beneficiaries.
- The settlement office should inform the Department in case of the beneficiary's migration, demise, or any major improvement in the client's health condition and family's financial status whereby the stipend shall be discontinued.

Guideline on the Provision of Aids & Appliances

The provision of Aids & appliances to Tibetan refugees was first implemented in India when the Department distributed & often times reimbursed the purchase cost of equipment to support mobility, vision & hearing etc. among Tibetan refugees with mild to more severe form of disability. Tibetans living in India, Nepal & Bhutan are encouraged to apply to this support provided they have no other means to afford aids & appliances that could address mobility issues, sensory impairments, communication difficulties, and various other limitations, affecting their quality of life.

Objective: The main purpose of the program is to assist individuals in overcoming barriers and challenges associated with their specific disabilities thereby enabling them to participate more independently in daily activities and social interactions thus promoting quality of life.

Eligibility: The eligibility criteria to avail the benefits are as follows.

- The applicant should be a Tibetan resident of India, Nepal & Bhutan.
- The applicant should have an updated green book.
- Persons with disability listed under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, will be prioritized.
- Those from economically poorer families will be prioritized.
- Depending on funding availability, destitute elderly in the settlements can also apply for this benefit.

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Documents required:

- Green Book copy
- RC copies if any (optional)
- Tibetan Settlement Officer's supporting letter
- Filled document of the department's disability form.

Process:

- All the documents as well as the type of appliances required must be submitted along with the Department's disability form which should be duly filled.
- The settlement office or the executive officer must verify the details of beneficiaries and furnish all necessary details of the beneficiaries with signatures to the Department.
- Based on the submitted document, respective dealing staff will conduct background checks and get approval from the zone head. The settlement will then be informed about the acceptance or denial of the application.
- If approved, amount will be directly reimbursed to the retailer's bank account on the basis of quotation with GST or GST invoice produced.
- The settlement officer or the executive officer is responsible for the timely submission of signed receipt forms collected from the beneficiaries.

Being a donor funded program, benefits are subjected to change & therefore, the Tibetan Voluntary Health Association, Department of Health, reserves the right to amend this guideline. Thus, this amended guideline(s) approved vide Resolution No. ___ of the TVHA's MC Meeting held on Thursday June 20th, 2024 shall be implemented from **1st July 2024** onwards and any previous guideline shall be revoked with immediate effect.




Executive Secretary