



DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

**POLICY NOTE
2023-2024**

DEMAND No. 52

M.K. STALIN
CHIEF MINISTER

©
Government of Tamil Nadu
2023

INDEX

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Issue of Disability Certificate and National Identity Card for the Differently Abled Persons	5
3.	'RIGHTS' Project	6
4.	The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016	11
5.	Registration and Recognition of Institutions	15
6.	Early Intervention Centres for the Differently Abled Children	15
7.	Mobile Therapy Units	19
8.	Rescue Scheme to Wandering Persons with Mental Illness	20
9.	Rehabilitation Homes	21
9.1	Rehabilitation Homes for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	21

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
9.2	Rehabilitation Homes for the Mentally Ill Persons	22
9.3	Halfway Homes	23
9.4	Rehabilitation Homes for the Leprosy Cured Persons	24
9.5.	Daycare Centre for Children with Intellectually Disability	26
9.6.	Daycare Centre for Persons with Muscular Dystrophy	27
9.7.	Rehabilitation Homes for the Spinal Cord Injured Persons	28
10.	State Resource Cum Training Centre (SRTC)	29
11.	Special Education	30
11.1	Special Schools	30
11.2.	Government Special Schools	31

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
11.3	Funding for Special Schools run by NGOs	33
11.4	Educational Scholarship	34
11.5	Readers Allowance	35
11.6	Scribe Assistance	37
11.7	Cash Incentive to Prevent School Drop-Outs	37
11.8	Assistance for Differently Abled Law Graduates	39
11.9	B.Com., BCA., Degree Courses for Hearing and Speech Impaired Students	39
11.10	Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Educational Research Institute (RKMVERI), Coimbatore	41
12.	Assistive Devices for Differently Abled Persons	42

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
12.1	Different Types of Aids and Appliances	42
12.2	Choice Based System for the Differently Abled Persons	46
13.	Social Security Schemes	47
13.1	Maintenance Allowance	47
13.2	Assistance for those who need High Support	49
13.3.	Unemployment Allowance	50
13.4	Marriage Assistance Scheme	51
13.5	Free and Concessional Travel Scheme	53
13.5.1	Hundred Percent Free Travel	53
13.5.2	Travel Concession of 75 Percent	54
14.	Schemes for Socio-Economic Empowerment of Differently Abled Persons	55

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
14.1	Four Percent Reservation in Employment	55
14.2	Incentive for Differently Abled Students Appearing for Main Exam Conducted by UPSC (Civil Services) and TNPSC (Group-I Services)	57
14.3	Equal Opportunity Policy	58
14.4	National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDG)	58
14.5	Subsidy for Micro Enterprises and Bunk Stall	59
14.6	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	60
14.7	Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme (UYEGP)	61
14.8	Subsidy for Establishing Aavin Parlor	62

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
14.9	Book Binder Training	64
14.10	Multimedia and Digital Photography Training	65
14.11	Fitter Training	66
15.	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	66
15.1	Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID Card)	66
15.2	Assistance to Differently Abled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)	67
15.3	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	68
15.4	Program to Create a Barrier Free Environment (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)	69
15.5	National Scholarship Scheme for Differently Abled (NSP)	70

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
16.	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	71
17.	State Awards	74
18.	International Day for the Differently Abled Persons	78
19.	Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Differently Abled Persons	79
20.	Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme	84
21.	The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999	85
22.	New Initiatives	85
22.1	Priority for Allotment of House Site Patta to the Differently Abled Persons	85

Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
22.2	Five Percent Allotment in Houses to the Differently Abled Persons	86
22.3	Reduction of the Pensionable Age of Differently Abled ULEMA	87
22.4	Transport	87
23.	Conclusion	88

Index -Table

No.	Content	Page No.
1.	Early Intervention Centres	17
2.	Leprosy Cured Persons Rehabilitation Homes	25
3.	Educational Scholarship	35
4.	Readers Allowance	36
5.	Cash Incentive	38
6.	Aids and Appliances	43
7.	Maintenance Allowance	48
8.	Unemployment Allowance	50
9.	National Scholarship	71
10.	State Level Annual Award Conferred on the Independence Day	74
11.	State Level Annual Award Conferred on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities	76
12.	Welfare Board Assistance	81

No.	Content	Page No.
13.	Scheme Wise Allocation for the Year 2023-2024	92

**DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF
DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS**

POLICY NOTE

2023-2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Tamil Nadu has created an exclusive Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons and has been implementing several innovative schemes to protect their rights. While the Government is committed to creating an integrated and inclusive society with an accessible environment, it also works on the principle that "No Differently Abled Persons should suffer and benefits should be extended to every person". The Government coined the term 'Differently Abled' instead of 'Disabled' during 2010-2011 to instil a sense of inclusion and self-confidence.

The State Government celebrated the International Day of Disability, 2022 in line with the United Nations' theme "Transformative solution for inclusive development-the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world" in a special way. This Government is constantly striving to implement this theme of the United Nations and to fulfil the commitment made by our Country to the United Nations Organization. To enforce the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, funds have been sanctioned for conducting access audits for the creation of barrier-free structures in all public buildings, and for providing ramps, lifts, and accessible toilets. To promote and encourage the voluntary provision of accessible environments, State Awards are being given to Private and Public Institutions.

The Government, in an effort to create an inclusive society, wherein Differently Abled

Persons are able to function independently has introduced various technology-driven Assistive Devices. It encourages start-up companies to produce assistive devices by organising exhibitions, idea pitches and workshops. Further, to enable Differently Abled Persons to choose their assistive devices a choice-based system has been introduced by the Government.

The "TN RIGHTS" project is being implemented with the aim of developing comprehensive programmes for the Differently Abled. The project is implemented in collaboration with various Government Departments. It envisages the participation of Differently Abled Persons to create accessible systems and increase their opportunities in various sectors.

In order to create a social registry, a database with 9,08,000 data has been created as

a precursor by combining the data available in various programmes implemented by all the Departments for Differently Abled Persons. Also, 14 Lakh entries have been made by digitizing the National Identity Card issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Currently, in order to ensure the reliability of the above data, the process of linking the data with the Aadhaar number is being carried out.

A survey has been started to help Differently Abled Persons based on their needs, to provide appropriate rehabilitation work and to identify their exact locations and category of disability.

Services for the Differently Abled are being provided by various Departments of the Government. In G.O. (Ms) No.30, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-3.1) Department, dated 04.11.2022 orders have been issued for

implementing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) integrating the activities of 12 Departments involved in identifying disability at an early stage and providing necessary medical and rehabilitation interventions.

The Government have allocated a sum of Rs.1,106.49 Crore as Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 to the Department- the highest ever allocation made to the Department, and this is a testimony to the commitment of the Government to the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons.

2. ISSUE OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATE AND NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

As per the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 the Certifying Medical Authorities from Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Medical College Hospitals, District Headquarters Hospitals, and

Block Level Hospitals are issuing disability certificates to 21 categories of Differently Abled Persons.

- i. Based on Medical Certificate, District Differently Abled Welfare Officers issue the National Identification Card with Pass Books to eligible Differently Abled Persons.
- ii. To date 14,27,979 Differently Abled Persons have been provided Disability Certificates and Identity Cards in Tamil Nadu.

3. 'RIGHTS' PROJECT

The project will strengthen social protection systems and provide last-mile service delivery by ensuring that social care services are closer to the homes of Differently Abled Persons to the extent possible. This will be facilitated by making, in-time investments in building State capabilities, creating and filling the administrative gaps at State and District levels, and creating an Aadhaar

based reliable Social Registry. This project will create a Comprehensive Social Protection Delivery System by ensuring the convergence of services from different Departments. It will be carried out through Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), accessible health insurance, skill development and generation of employment opportunities for Differently Abled Persons.

With an estimated outlay of Rs.1,773.87 Crore, the Government of Tamil Nadu implement the project with the assistance of the World Bank. The first phase will implement the project in five Districts- Chennai (three Zones), Tiruchirappalli, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore and Tenkasi. Implementation will be scaled up to another 10 Districts in the year 2023-2024.

For this, consultants and other professionals are engaged at the State and District levels. Further, the Department has taken up discussions

with other Departments like Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, School Education Department, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department and Health and Family Welfare Department towards converging their frontline workers for the project activities at the Village Level.

The Government has allocated Rs.1,700.00 Lakh for the Financial Year 2022-2023 for carrying out various activities such as setting up One Stop Social care service centre, salary, training, baseline survey, and mobile van units. The operational Manual and Implementation Plan of the project and the preparation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Screening and Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities under the age of 18 as part of the Multi-sectoral framework have been completed. For resource convergence between the Health and Family

Welfare Department, ICDS, School Education and Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department and to ensure that the beneficiaries are identified and attended to, at all levels, the Government has issued G.O. (Ms) No.30, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-3.1) Department, dated 04.11.2022. The 'RIGHTS' project was declared effective by the World Bank on 13.12.2022 after the successful completion of the above-said activities.

For ensuring strategic guidance during project implementation and to pave way for multi-sectoral convergence at the State and District Levels, the Government has constituted a State Level Project Steering Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, State Level Project Implementation Committee presided over by the Secretary, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department and a District Implementation Committee headed by the District Collector vide

in G.O. (Ms) No.27, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 21.12.2022 and the meetings of these committees are being conducted.

The Stakeholder meeting with Organizations for Differently Abled Persons and Non-Governmental Organizations was conducted in Chennai on 13.02.2023 wherein representatives of various organizations shared their thoughts on the effective implementation of the project. Similar meetings in other Pilot Districts are underway. Orientations for line Departments and all implementation units have been conducted about the project.

The preparation for the baseline survey is underway. Resource mapping has been completed in Pilot Districts, and the District Implementation committees headed by the District Collector are preparing the District Action

plans. The work of Identification of One Stop Centres at the Sub Divisional Level is underway. Mobile Units will be operated from the Sub Divisional Level One Stop Centres (OSC).

4. THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act enacted by the Union Government in 2016, has been in force since 19.04.2017. The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed to oversee the implementation of this Act at the State Level. Necessary measures have been taken to ensure that Differently Abled Persons are given equal rights to lead a dignified life in an accessible and inclusive society. As emphasized in this Act, a State Advisory Board on Disability has been constituted under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The first meeting of the Board has been duly held and follow-up activities are being carried out.

The Government has issued an order to facilitate the provision of employment to Differently Abled Persons in both Government and Private Establishments, to create a conducive and accessible environment for their easy access, to publish the 'Equal Opportunity Policy' in all establishments and for the implementation at the field level through continuous monitoring. Further, to monitor and advise the Government to implement these provisions, High-Level committees have been formed under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government for Private Establishments and under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department for the Government Establishments. Further, District Level Committees have been constituted to monitor the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

A "Court of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Tamil Nadu" has been established to inquire into the deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities and to take immediate action under Section 82 of this Act. In the current year, out of a total of 169 cases, 102 cases have been resolved and 67 cases are under trial. Further, the Government has notified the Court of Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai and Principal District Court in each Judicial District in the State of Tamil Nadu as the Special Court to try offences under this Act. The Government has also designated all the existing Special Public Prosecutors for Human Rights as Special Public Prosecutors to handle cases under this Act.

With the full contribution of the State Government, Rs.12.45 Lakh was allocated for 72 buildings in Chennai District and Rs.44.84 Lakh was allocated for 176 buildings in 10 cities

across the State for conducting an accessibility audit to create a barrier-free Environment.

Through this project, measures have been taken to create a barrier-free environment for Differently Abled Persons in all public places by installing suitable lifts, ramps, toilets, tactile flooring and installation of Braille information boards for the Visually Impaired (VI).

In all the District Collectorates, sign language interpreters have been engaged by the respective District Administrations for the benefit of the Hearing Impaired (HI) during meetings and important public events headed by the District Collector. For this, a fund of Rs.15,600/- has been allocated to each District.

As emphasized in Section 32 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, five percent seats and five years upper age relaxation in admission for Differently Abled Persons in

Government and Government Aided Higher Educational Institutions are being provided.

5. REGISTRATION AND RECOGNITION OF INSTITUTIONS

Section 50 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 envisages that the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is the Competent Authority to register the Non-Governmental Organizations working for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAPs). So far, 660 NGOs are registered under this Act, which includes 393 Special Schools recognized under the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private School (Regulation) Act, 1973 and Rules, 1974.

6. EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

Early Intervention aims to identify disabilities in children in the age group of 0-6 years and to provide appropriate medical

intervention with rehabilitation training to them thereby reducing the impact of disabilities. A total of 92 Early Intervention Centres (EIC) have been established in the District Headquarters across the State.

There are 33 Early Intervention Centres for Hearing Impairment (HI), 31 Centres for the Intellectually Challenged, 6 Centres for the Visually Impaired (VI), 19 centres for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and two centres for Children with Cerebral Palsy in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli. These Early Intervention Centres (EICs) are functioning across the State with 304 special educators serving 2,588 Differently Abled Children.

In these centres, rehabilitation training such as speech therapy physiotherapy and occupational therapies are provided to the children and training is also provided to the

parents and caregivers about “how to take care of Differently Abled Persons at home”.

A one-day educational tour to the nearby tourism centre is also organized once a year for the Children and Parents / Caretakers. Weaning Food and Nutritious Noon Meals are provided in these centres through the ICDS programme. Free Travel Concession is also provided to these Children and their parents to attend the Early Intervention Centres (EICs).

Table No: 1. Early Intervention Centres

Early Intervention Centres (EIC)	No. of EICs	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Special Educators	Budget Allocation 2023-2024 (Rs. in Lakh)
EIC for Hearing Impaired Children	33	683	63	151.84
EIC for Intellectually Challenged Children	31	1,321	140	328.44
EIC for Visually Impaired Children	6	113	12	24.60

EIC for children with Cerebral Palsy	2	58	7	13.38
EIC for children with Autism	19	395	80	142.38
EIC for children with Multiple Disabilities	1	18	2	3.84
One day tour	-	-	-	7.46
Refresher training for Special educator working in EIC for children with Intellectual disabilities	-	-	-	4.73
Transport allowance for providing Noon meal and weaning food	-	-	-	3.45
Total	92	2,588	304	680.12

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.721.40 Lakh has been utilized towards expenditure in Early Intervention Centres (EICs).

A sum of Rs.680.12 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

7. MOBILE THERAPY UNITS

Mobile Therapy Units are operated to provide social care services to Differently Abled Persons at Village Level. These units are fitted with various therapeutical equipment. They are utilized to provide services to Differently Abled Persons at their doorsteps. These units facilitate medical camps, awareness programmes and therapeutic training such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, special education, etc. for Differently Abled Children. To date 16,961 camps have been conducted and 1,37,277 Differently Abled Persons have benefitted.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.187.54 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.243.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

8. RESCUE SCHEME TO WANDERING PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Persons with mental illness wandering in the streets and public places, who are abandoned by their family members are rescued under this scheme. This work is being carried out through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Such wandering people are first provided with Medical Treatment and then admitted to Rehabilitation Homes. In order to support these services, the NGOs are provided Rs.1,500/- per rescued person.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.7.50 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 514 persons with mental illness have been rescued.

A sum of Rs.7.50 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9. REHABILITATION HOMES

9.1. REHABILITATION HOMES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation homes for persons with Intellectual Disabilities have been established in several places in the State. These homes are meant for persons above 14 years of age. They are managed by Non-Governmental Organizations. There are 70 such homes which provide residential facilities with food, medical care and vocational training like gardening, candle making, baking, etc.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.791.51 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 2,800 persons have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.794.46 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9.2. REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL PERSONS

There are 76 Rehabilitation Homes which are functioning for Mentally Ill persons and 4,983 persons have benefitted through that homes. In these homes persons with mental illness are provided with medical care, residential care and a separate feeding grant of Rs.1,200/- per person is provided every month. Out of the 76 homes, 56 homes are functioning with the support of the Government and 20 are privately managed by the NGOs. Further, inmates of these homes are assessed monthly and given medical treatment by a District Psychiatrist.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.714.07 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 2,800 persons have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.715.40 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9.3. HALFWAY HOMES

To integrate the mentally ill persons into society, halfway homes are maintained in five districts namely Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Vellore, Thiruchirappalli and Kanyakumari by providing residential care, medical care and vocational training for 700 persons.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.116.66 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 136 persons have received benefits.

A sum of Rs.125.66 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9.4. REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE LEPROSY CURED PERSONS

There are 10 Government Rehabilitation Homes which were established across the State to benefit leprosy cured persons. These homes cater to those who voluntarily seek admission to get rehabilitation if they face social stigma or are abandoned by their family members. About 616 inmates are getting benefits in these homes. The inmates are provided with food, accommodation, two sets of clothes annually, medical facilities, artificial limbs for needy persons, spectacles, special chappals, etc. A sum of Rs.2,000/- is provided by the Government for performing the rituals for the deceased inmates.

In case, a leprosy cured person involved in beggary is convicted by a Judicial Magistrate he / she is admitted to Ulundurpet (Kallakurichi District) Government Rehabilitation Home. The Government Rehabilitation Homes for Leprosy

Cured persons are located in the following places:-

Table 2: Leprosy Cured Persons Rehabilitation Homes

Sl. No.	Location	Districts
1.	Paranur	Chengalpattu
2.	Ulundhurpet	Kallakurichi
3.	Bargur	Krishnagiri
4.	Pudukottai	Pudukottai
5.	Manayeripatti	Thanjavur
6.	Y. Pudhupatti	Madurai
7.	Mallavaadi	Tiruvannamalai
8.	Selliyampatti	Dharmapuri
9.	Deviyakurichi	Salem
10.	Vinnapalli	Erode

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.1,553.03 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 616 persons have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.1,559.78 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9.5. DAY CARE CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

In order to rehabilitate children with intellectual disabilities three day care centres are functioning in Theni District, benefitting 90 children. These centres are managed by Non-Governmental Organizations through Government assistance. Financial grants are provided for two special educators/therapists, one caretaker and a helper by the Government. The honorarium of special educators has been enhanced from Rs.14,000/- to Rs.18,000/- per month vide G.O. (Ms) No.7, Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons (DAP-1) Department, dated 18.05.2022.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.16.44 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.14.52 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9.6. DAY CARE CENTRE FOR PERSONS WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

The Day Care Centres for persons with Muscular Dystrophy are established in 14 Districts namely Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Madurai, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Villupuram, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri and Thanjavur.

In these centres, therapeutic interventions like physiotherapy and mobility therapy are provided by physiotherapists and other basic medical investigations are carried out. Non-Governmental organizations manage these 14 centres with financial assistance from the State Government.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.220.33 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 335 persons have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.196.26 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

9.7. REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE SPINAL CORD INJURED PERSONS

As per G.O. (Ms) No.16, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-1) Department, dated 28.06.2022, administrative sanction for establishment of Rehabilitation Homes for Spinal Cord Injured persons in three Districts namely Tiruppur, Coimbatore and Tiruvannamalai at a cost of Rs.100.00 Lakh to benefit 75 persons have been provided as the first phase. Necessary action is being taken up to commence the services immediately.

10. STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRES (SRTC)

In order to provide various services in one centre, the State Resource cum Training Centre is functioning in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli. In these centres, information and assistance regarding various services that are available for Differently Abled Persons like issuance of Disability Certificates and UDID Card, Free Travel Concession Passes, Income Tax Exemption Certificates, Certificates for appointment of scribes, provision of extra hours for students to write the exams are provided. Information regarding schemes implemented by State and Union Government are provided to Differently Abled Persons. Identified children with disabilities are provided with early intervention through Non-Governmental Organizations functioning in these centres. Also, a Day Care centre is established to provide Vocational Training for

persons with Mental Illness. Every year 7,584 Mentally Ill Persons are getting benefitted.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.47.23 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.35.66 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11. SPECIAL EDUCATION

11.1. SPECIAL SCHOOLS

In order to provide education to Differently Abled Children to enable them to attain their potential, a total of 22 Government Special Schools are functioning presently. In addition to that, there are 49 Special Schools run by Government fund assisted Non-Governmental Organizations. A total of 5,697 students are benefitting through these schools. 1,086 students are studying in Government-run Special Schools

and 4,611 students are studying in Special Schools run by NGOs assisted by the Government.

11.2. GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Food, accommodation, educational devices and four sets of uniforms are provided annually free of cost to students studying in the 22 Government Special Schools. In these Special Schools, smart classrooms equipped with modern technology have been set up. In particular, Special Schools for Hearing Impaired Children are equipped with touch screen enabled writing boards and lessons are taught to the students in a smart method through video lessons. Similarly, Braille is taught to Visually Impaired Students through Electronic Devices. Such facility is implemented in 10 Special Schools for the Visually Impaired and two schools run by the Education Department. The scheme was launched

in 2021-2022 at a cost of Rs.100.08 Lakh. Appropriate steps have been taken up by the Government to improve the health of Differently Abled Children by increasing the food subsidy, improving the quality of education and enabling special children to access higher education in their own Districts. Steps have been taken to upgrade the Government Middle School for Hearing Impaired Children functioning in Pudukkottai to a High School and Government High Schools for Hearing Impaired Children functioning in Erode and Virudhunagar to Higher Secondary Schools with a fund allocation of Rs.36.43 Lakh.

In addition, a fund of Rs.200.00 Lakh has been allocated to maintain and renovate the buildings in these Special Schools and further steps are being taken to provide good infrastructure.

11.3. FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS RUN BY NGOs

The Government allocates funds every year for Special Schools run by NGOs to support salary expenditure for the special teachers, feeding grant for students and grants for the expansion of school buildings or for meeting out the rent.

In order to encourage the services of 900 Special Teachers working in these Special Schools, the monthly grant provided to them has been increased from Rs.14,000/- to Rs.18,000/-. An expenditure of Rs.2,013.05 Lakh has been incurred in the year 2022-2023 for this purpose.

A sum of Rs.2,610.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

Similarly, the feeding grant for the children studying in Special Schools has been increased from Rs.900/- to Rs.1,200/-. An expenditure of Rs.741.43 Lakh in the year 2022-2023 has been incurred for this feeding grant support scheme.

A sum of Rs.946.17 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11.4. EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

As a measure to encourage the Differently Abled Children to take up education, scholarship is provided to the students in the range of Rs.1,000/- to Rs.7,000/- annually in varying amounts specific to the classes they are studying in. The details are presented in Table 3 given below:-

Table 3: Educational Scholarship

Sl. No	Class of the Student	Annual Stipend (In Rs.)
1.	1 st to 5 th Standard	1,000/-
2.	6 th to 8 th Standard	3,000/-
3.	9 th to 12 th Standard	4,000/-
4.	U.G. Courses	6,000/-
5.	Vocational and Post Graduate	7,000/-

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, 22,368 students have been given scholarships at a cost of Rs.755.38 Lakh.

A sum of Rs.690.52 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11.5. READERS ALLOWANCE

Readers Allowance is provided once a year to Visually Impaired Students from class 9 to Post

Graduation for those who assist them in reading their subjects as follows:-

Table 4: Readers Allowance

Sl. No.	Class of the Student	Annual Allowance (In Rs.)
1.	9 th to 12 th Standard	3,000/-
2.	U.G. Courses	5,000/-
3.	Vocational and Post Graduate	6,000/-

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, 1,639 students have been given scholarships at a cost of Rs.69.83 Lakh.

A sum of Rs.100.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11.6. SCRIBE ASSISTANCE

An amount of Rs.300/- per paper is provided for the scribes to facilitate the writing of the examination for the students of class 9 and above in Government and Government Aided Schools.

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, 558 students have benefitted at a cost of Rs.27.72 Lakh.

A sum of Rs.44.85 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11.7. CASH INCENTIVE TO PREVENT SCHOOL DROP-OUTS

In order to avoid school dropouts, a cash incentive of Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,000/- per annum is provided to the Differently Abled Students of Class 10th, 11th and 12th thereby encouraging

them to continue their school education without interruption. This amount is deposited in Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and it disburses the amount with interest after completion of the 12th Standard:-

Table 5: Cash Incentive

Sl. No.	Class of the Student	Incentive per annum (In Rs.)
1.	10 th Standard	1,500/-
2.	11 th Standard	1,500/-
3.	12 th Standard	2,000/-

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.24.38 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 1,448 persons have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.24.05 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11.8. ASSISTANCE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED LAW GRADUATES

Assistance of Rs.50,000/- is being provided to the Differently Abled Law Graduates who have registered with the Bar Association for the purchase of law books and other expenses.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.30.00 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 60 Differently Abled Persons have been provided Assistance.

A sum of Rs.20.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

11.9. B.COM., BCA., DEGREE COURSES FOR HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED STUDENTS

In order to enable Hearing Impaired students to pursue higher education after completion of secondary education, a special section has been established in Presidency

College, Chennai for B.Com., and BCA courses with a maximum annual capacity of 30 Students.

Three guest lecturers and one computer lab technician are paid a monthly stipend of Rs.20,000/- and Rs.6,000/- respectively for teaching the Hearing Impaired students.

For the higher education of Hearing and Speech Impaired students in the southern districts, B.Com., and BCA., courses were started in Government College of Arts and Science in Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram District, as per the G.O. (Ms) No.18, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 04.07.2022.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.17.41 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.19.15 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

**11.10. RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYALAYA
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(RKMVERI), COIMBATORE**

Disability Management and Special Education (DMSE) and General and Adopted Physical Education and Yoga (GAPEY) courses have been started by Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Educational Research Institute (RKMVERI), Coimbatore from 2021-2022.

During the year 2022-2023 a sum of Rs.178.00 Lakh has been utilized for providing salary to 21 teaching and non teaching staff and other administrative expenses.

A sum of Rs.455.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

12. ASSISTIVE DEVICES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

12.1. DIFFERENT TYPES OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES

For Differently Abled Persons to live a self-reliant life and to promote an inclusive society, assistive devices of 23 categories are being provided to Differently Abled Persons by the Government. Immediately, after the formation of this Government, a special budget of Rs.7,076.00 Lakh was allocated for providing assistive devices to all the 37,660 waitlisted eligible applicants.

During 2022-2023, a total of 37,762 beneficiaries were selected in various Special Camps in all the Districts and assistive devices have been provided to them at a cost of Rs.5,475.68 Lakh for which, the details are furnished as below:-

Table 6: Aids and Appliances

Sl. No	Aids and appliances	No. of beneficiaries	Total Amount (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Auxiliary Crutches	2,107	16.01
2.	Elbow Crutches	1,513	9.08
3.	Magnifier	111	11.31
4.	Braille Watches	1,637	30.04
5.	Goggles	3,735	5.60
6.	Reflective Folding Sticks	3,805	14.46
7.	Walker	434	9.31
8.	Wheel Chair for Cerebral Palsy affected persons	748	77.79
9.	Alternative and Augmentative Communication device with AVAZ software	101	26.93

Sl. No	Aids and appliances	No. of beneficiaries	Total Amount (Rs. in Lakh)
10.	Retrofitted Petrol Scooter for Differently Abled Persons	2,850	2,379.75
11.	Specially designed Retrofitted Petrol Scooter for spinal cord affected persons	450	474.75
12.	Smart phone for Hearing and Visually impaired persons	7,379	999.78
13.	Angel pro daisy player	102	10.15
14.	Corner Seat for children with cerebral palsy	252	18.33
15.	Plastic Caliper	493	40.92
16.	Metal Caliper	130	11.31

Sl. No	Aids and appliances	No. of beneficiaries	Total Amount (Rs. in Lakh)
17.	Battery Operated Wheel Chair	525	599.17
18.	Tricycles	1,419	128.42
19.	Foldable Wheel Chair	1,436	113.44
20.	Motorized Sewing Machine	3,764	257.86
21.	Behind the Ear Hearing Aid	4,370	170.00
22.	Electronic Braille Reader	175	62.06
23.	Modular Reflective Folding	226	9.21
Total		37,762	5,475.68

A sum of Rs.5,578.24 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

12.2. CHOICE BASED SYSTEM FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The State Government has introduced a Choice Based System wherein the beneficiary is given a chance to choose among the available models for five types of Assistive Devices. This system has been implemented from the year 2021-2022. Under this Scheme, five assured basic models of appliances viz., tricycles, wheelchairs, battery-operated wheelchairs, motorized sewing machines, and behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids have been introduced along with other models of devices. The Government provides the cost of the basic assured model and any excess cost for the other choice is to be borne by the beneficiaries.

During the year 2022-2023, 118 beneficiaries have utilized this scheme.

13. SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

The State Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to providing social protection and facilitating equal opportunity and rights for Differently Abled Persons by implementing various welfare schemes and programmes. More than 60% of the Department's Budget is utilised for various social protection and welfare schemes which include the Maintenance Grant of Rs.2,000/-for Differently Abled Persons, grants from the Tamil Nadu Differently Abled Welfare Persons Board, etc.

13.1. MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The Maintenance Allowance of Rs.1,500/- provided to Differently Abled Persons of five specified categories as shown below has been increased to Rs.2,000/- vide G.O. (Ms) No.4, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-2) Department, dated 15.03.2022.

A sum of Rs.52,757.00 Lakh has been provided for a total of 2,36,456 beneficiaries including 2,11,391 existing beneficiaries and 25,065 persons in waiting list during the year 2022-2023. The details of the beneficiaries under this scheme are as follows:-

Table 7: Maintenance Allowance

Sl. No.	Type of Disability	% of Disability	Beneficiaries
1.	Persons with Intellectual Disability	40% and more	1,76,369
2.	Severely Affected Persons	75% and more	41,124
3.	Persons Affected with Parkinson's Disease, Spinal Cord Injury and Multiple Sclerosis	40% and more	2,928
4.	Persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy	40% and more	4,451
5.	Leprosy Affected Person	40% and more	11,584
	Total		2,36,456

A sum of Rs.56,749.44 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

13.2. ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO NEED HIGH SUPPORT

Under this scheme Rs.1,000/- is provided additionally to Differently Abled Persons who require High Support to enable them to have a caretaker to assist them in their day-to-day life. This support is helping those Differently Abled Persons who require support from others.

During the year 2022-2023 a sum of Rs.253.17 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 2,413 persons have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.425.80 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

13.3. UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE

Unemployment Allowance is provided to Differently Abled Persons who could not get any Employment for more than a year after completing their education and registering with the Employment Exchange. This assistance ranging from Rs.600/- to Rs.1,000/- per month is given according to their educational qualification for a maximum period of 10 years or till they get employment, whichever is earlier.

Table 8: Unemployment Allowance

Sl. No.	Educational Qualification	Allowance (Rs. Per month)
1.	10 th Standard completed	600/-
2.	12 th Standard completed	750/-
3.	U.G. Courses	1,000/-

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.1,325.95 Lakh has been utilized and 13,697 beneficiaries have been assisted for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.2,000.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

13.4. MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Marriage Assistance Scheme is being implemented as one of the significant schemes for creating an inclusive society.

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to locomotor affected, Visually Impaired and Hearing-Impaired persons or any one of the 21 categories of Differently Abled Persons during their Marriage. Under this scheme, a Gold Coin of 8 Grams is being given to make "Thirumangalyam" and Rs.25,000/- Cash Assistance; if either of the spouse is a Graduate

or a Diploma holder, the Cash Assistance is increased to Rs.50,000/-.

The Marriage Assistance amount which was provided partly as National Savings Bond and partly as cash is now being provided fully as cash to the beneficiaries from the Financial Year 2022-2023.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.267.75 Lakh has been utilized and 680 beneficiaries have been assisted for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.562.60 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

13.5. FREE AND CONCESSIONAL TRAVEL SCHEME

13.5.1. HUNDRED PERCENT FREE TRAVEL

The Government provides 100 percent Free Travel concession in Government Buses to Differently Abled Persons to enable them to travel from their residence to their place of Work, Education, Vocational Training or Medical Treatment.

This free travel is given to all Differently Abled Persons to travel within a city limit in 'White Board' buses, either with or without an escort.

For the benefit of the Visually Impaired, this scheme is available within a radius of 100 km without any condition in Urban areas. A total of 35,294 beneficiaries have received the benefit from this scheme.

13.5.2.TRAVEL CONCESSION OF 75 PERCENT

Under this scheme, 75 percent of Travel Concession is provided in all State Transport Buses to all Differently Abled Persons. If required it is extended to the escorts of the Differently Abled Persons too.

There is no ceiling on the number of trips. So far, 13.80 Lakh trips have been undertaken by the Differently Abled Persons either through 100 percent Free Travel or 75 percent Travel Concession under this scheme with Rs.6,956.43 Lakh during 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.6,000.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14. SCHEMES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

14.1. FOUR PERCENT RESERVATION IN EMPLOYMENT

Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, mandates four percent reservation in employment to Differently Abled Persons in Government Establishments. In order to implement this, suitable posts in Government Establishments, educational institutions, Universities, Local Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings are being identified and employment is being provided to Differently Abled Persons in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. To monitor such activities, a High-Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department has been constituted and is being monitored pursuant to G.O. (Ms) No.13, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 07.06.2022.

Further, a Sub-Committee and an Apex Committee have been constituted for submitting a report for providing 4 percent reservation in promotions for the Differently Abled Employees in this Government vide G.O. (Ms) No. 29, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 03.11.2022 and G.O. (Ms) No.33, Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 15.12.2022.

A Monitoring Committee has been constituted and is functioning under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu to ensure that the employment of Differently Abled Persons in the private sectors vide G.O. (Ms) No.25, Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 19.09.2022 and monitoring meetings have been conducted.

14.2. INCENTIVE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS APPEARING FOR MAIN EXAM CONDUCTED BY UPSC (CIVIL SERVICES) AND TNPSC (GROUP-I SERVICE)

To support and incentivise the Differently Abled Persons appearing in the Main Examination after passing the Preliminary Exam conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC Civil Services) and Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC Group-I Services), financial assistance to the tune of Rs.50,000/- is given.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.17.50 Lakh has been utilized and 35 beneficiaries have been provided incentive for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.4.50 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.3. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Section 21 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 stipulates that an Equal Opportunity Policy has to be notified by the Public and Private Establishments for providing accessibility in the Work Place and Job Opportunities for Differently Abled Persons. This Department monitors the adherence to this law by public and private establishments for issuing notifications on Equal Opportunity Policy.

14.4. NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NHFDC)

Differently Abled Persons (DAPs) are provided self-employment loans under National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC). In case of timely and prompt repayment of the loans, the State Government bears the interest for the same. The Tamil Nadu

Central Co-operative Bank is designated as the Channelizing Agency to implement the Scheme.

During the year 2022-2023, totally 12,399 Differently Abled Persons have been Assisted to the tune of Rs.5,181.00 Lakh.

14.5. SUBSIDY FOR MICRO ENTERPRISES AND BUNK STALL

A subsidy is provided to Differently Abled Persons who are willing to start Micro-Enterprises and petty shops with an amount of Rs.25,000/- or one-third of the loan amount whichever is the lowest. This subsidy is also provided to parents of persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, and Muscular Dystrophy vide G.O. (Ms) No.14, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-2) Department, dated 17.06.2022,

A Government Order has also been issued to provide priority to Differently Abled Persons to run Micro-Enterprises and businesses in roadside

platforms or pushcarts in all the Municipal limits. This is to be carried out as per the City Marketing Committee guidelines vide G.O. (Ms) No.23, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-2) Department, dated 11.08.2022.

A total of 2,250 beneficiaries have been provided assistance under this scheme with an expenditure of Rs.547.14 Lakh during 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.500.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.6. PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is another self-employment programme for Differently Abled Persons. Under this scheme, the State Government provides the 5 percent beneficiary contribution which has to be paid by Differently Abled Persons.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.12.94 Lakh has been utilized and 56 beneficiaries have been assisted for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.5.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.7. UNEMPLOYED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (UYEGP)

Under this self-employment programme, the State Government provides the 5 percent beneficiary contribution which has to be paid by the Differently Abled Youth. To avail of the scheme benefits, the application has to be submitted online on the District Industrial Centre website, which will be screened by a District Level Committee. The eligible beneficiaries will be selected by this online process itself.

During the financial year 2022-2023, under this scheme the Micro, Small and Medium

Enterprises Department has provided loan subsidy for a sum of Rs.68.00 Lakh to 96 Differently Abled Persons for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The target for the loan subsidy to Differently Abled Persons has also been exceeded in the year 2022-2023.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.12.44 Lakh has been utilized and 77 beneficiaries have been assisted for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.10.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.8. SUBSIDY FOR ESTABLISHING AAVIN PARLOUR

To encourage Differently Abled Persons venturing to start self-employment projects, subsidy for establishing Aavin Parlour is one of the important schemes implemented by the

Government. The scheme was designed to initially assist 100 beneficiaries and is now expanded to assist 200 Differently Abled Persons per year. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.50,000/- per Differently Abled Person is being provided.

During the financial year 2022-2023, to improve the income level of the beneficiaries, they have been exempted from paying the rent and advances for setting the booths inside campuses belonging to Public Works Department and Revenue Department vide G.O. (Ms) No.20, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-2), dated 14.07.2022.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.79.00 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 156 beneficiaries have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.100.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.9. BOOK BINDER TRAINING

Residential Book Binder training is being provided for the Visually Impaired candidates. It is for those who have completed a Higher Secondary Level Education. This training is being conducted in the Government Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Poonamallee. A stipend of Rs.300/- per month with free accommodation is provided to the trainees.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.0.66 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 22 beneficiaries have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.0.66 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.10.MULTIMEDIA AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING

One month of training on Multimedia and Digital Photography is given to locomotor affected and Hearing Impaired Differently Abled Persons. In addition, Final Cut Pro-Digital Non-Linear Editing (FCP-DNLW), AVID-Digital Non-Linear Editing and Skill Photography, and Audio Engineering Animation courses are being provided by the National Film Development Corporation in Chennai. Under this scheme, 250 candidates are being benefitted every year.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.37.38 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 250 beneficiaries have undergone training.

A sum of Rs.37.38 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

14.11. FITTER TRAINING

A two-year skill training on fitter trade is being provided to Hearing Impaired Persons at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Guindy with an intake of 20 beneficiaries per year.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.0.72 Lakh has been utilized for this scheme and 20 beneficiaries have been benefitted.

A sum of Rs.1.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

15. CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

15.1. UNIQUE DISABILITY IDENTITY CARD (UDID CARD)

The District Administration organises Special Camps in order to provide Disability Certificate with the participation of various

Departments like the Health Department, Revenue Department and Education Department, etc. Those Differently Abled Persons who have received the certificates are enrolled into the online portal for getting their Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID card). The portal is being maintained by the Union Government.

So far 6,43,231 UDID cards have been generated and directly despatched to the Differently Abled Persons.

15.2. ASSISTANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES (ADIP)

Under this Scheme, District Level Special Camps are conducted for Differently Abled Persons, in which the Aids and Appliances required by them are provided after a prior assessment process by the Union Government Agencies. The proposal to conduct such camps

can originate from NGOs, the District Administration and Hon'ble Members of Parliament and are submitted to the Union Government. On acceptance of the same, camps are being conducted by the District Administration for providing various kinds of assistance.

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, Camps have been conducted in 11 Districts to benefit 6,665 Differently Abled Persons at a cost of Rs.727.75 Lakh.

15.3. DEENDAYAL DISABLED REHABILITATION SCHEME (DDRS)

Under this Union Government scheme, Financial Assistance is being provided to Differently Abled Persons through NGOs for Special Education including Pre-School Education, Rehabilitation Homes, Community Based and Institutional Rehabilitation works for various types of Differently Abled Persons including

hearing, visual, intellectual, mental and leprosy related disabilities. This financial assistance is directly given by the Union Government to the NGOs.

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, proposals for Rs.391.25 Lakh have been sent to Union Government seeking financial assistance for 17 NGOs.

15.4. PROGRAMME TO CREATE A BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT (SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN)

The Union Government's Awareness campaign "Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan" (Accessible India Campaign) is carrying out activities related to creating barrier-free environments for the Differently Abled. Under this Scheme, 49 Buildings have been selected in Chennai and Coimbatore Districts. An amount of Rs.4608.94 Lakh has been allocated for 30 buildings for

modification activities as pointed out in the accessibility audit.

15.5. NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED (NSP)

The scholarship is provided to Differently Abled Students under the Union Government's scholarship scheme to encourage their interest in academics. The annual income ceiling of parents of Differently Abled Students is fixed at Rs.2.50 Lakh for students studying from 9th to 12th Standard and Rs. 6.00 lakh for students pursuing diplomas, under graduation and post-graduation.

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, 5,271 applications from Differently Abled Students were recommended to get scholarship.

Table 9: National Scholarship

Sl. No.	Scheme	Amount Details
1.	Pre-Matric – 9 th to 12 th Standard	Rs.9,000/- to Rs.14,600/-
2.	Post- Matric – Graduate level	Rs.10,100/- to Rs.1,74,700/-
3.	Top class- Higher Education / Professional course	Rs.47,000/- to Rs.3,40,000/-

16. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

In 2015, the United Nations has issued a resolution to achieve better health and prosperity for all life forms at all levels, that is at the Global Level, National Level, etc. The United Nations has published 17 SDGs to be achieved in 2030 by all Member Nations.

The Government of Tamil Nadu through the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons

Department is taking various initiatives to alleviate poverty, reduce hunger and provide better education to establish an inclusive society as a part of its effort to achieve the SDGs.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is working towards achieving the goal of sustainable development by coordinating various initiatives in different Departments for the welfare of Differently Abled Persons every year. As part of these measures, substantial allocation is earmarked for social security schemes.

The Government is endeavouring to achieve these SDGs through the following measures among many others mentioned in this document:-

1. Monthly maintenance amount to the Differently Abled Persons is increased from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,000/- vide G.O. (Ms) No.4, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-1) Department, dated 15.03.2022.

2. Monthly feeding grant is increased from Rs.900/- to Rs.1,200/- for the beneficiaries in the homes functioning for intellectual, mental and severe Differently Abled Persons. This has been done vide G.O. (Ms) No.15, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-1.2) Department, dated 28.06.2022.
3. Subsidy of Rs.25,000/- for small business loan is extended to the parents of Differently Abled Persons.
4. Maximum age ceiling for availing sewing machines is increased from 45 years to 60 years.
5. A multi-sectoral policy approach for achieving SDGs in the Welfare of Differently Abled is encouraged by the State Advisory Board on Disability chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

17. STATE AWARDS

The State Government recognizes the services rendered to Differently Abled Persons by honouring individuals and organisations with awards. These are conferred annually on the Independence Day (August 15) and on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3).

The details of the awards presented are found in Tables 10 and 11:-

Table 10: State Level Annual Award conferred on the Independence Day

Sl. No	Name of the Award	Details of the Award
1.	Best Institution Award for the Institution that has employed the maximum number of Differently Abled Persons.	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.

2.	Best Institution Award for the Institution providing various services to Differently Abled Persons.	10 Grams of Gold Medal, Cash Prize of Rs.50,000/- and a Certificate.
3.	Best Social Worker Award for outstanding work done in the field of Welfare of Differently Abled Persons.	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.
4.	Best Doctor Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.
5.	Best Collector Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal, Cash Prize of Rs.25,000/- and a Certificate.
6.	Best District Co-operative Bank for providing the maximum amount of loan.	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.

A sum of Rs.7.40 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

**Table 11: State Level Annual Award
conferred on the International Day of
Persons with Disabilities**

Sl. No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards	Details of the Award
1.	Best Institution	1 award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.
2.	Best Social Worker Award	1 award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.
3.	Best Teacher Award (3 categories)	3 awards	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.
4.	Best Employee Award	10 awards	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.
5.	Best Employer Award	1 award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate.

6.	Best EIC Teacher	2 awards	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate for each.
7.	Best Driver and Best Conductor Award	2 awards	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate for each.
8.	Best Government and Private Building that has a Barrier-Free Environment for Differently Abled Persons	2 awards	10 Grams of Gold Medal and a Certificate for each.
Total		22 awards	

A sum of Rs.44.84 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

From 2022, two new awards are being given to encourage activities to create a Barrier-Free Environment for Differently Abled Persons. By conferring this Award, efforts are being made to create a Barrier-Free Environment for

Differently Abled Persons in Government or Public Sector Buildings and Private Sector Buildings.

18. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

As per the guidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, every year 3rd December is celebrated as the International Day of the Differently Abled Persons. On that day, Sports Competitions and Cultural Programmes are conducted for Differently Abled Children and prizes are distributed to the winners. On this occasion, Welfare Schemes including assistive devices are provided to Differently Abled Persons. In addition to this, the modern equipment that can aid Differently Abled Persons and the handicrafts produced by them are displayed in the Awareness Exhibitions. In the year 2022, at the International Disability Day Programme, presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,

a Laptop with suitable software was provided to 500 Differently Abled Person Graduates under the "Naan Mudhalvan" programme by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, in order to pave the way to help them earn an income by working from home. Further training is being given to those Differently Abled Candidates.

The Mobile Care Unit Vehicle services for the newly formed six Districts viz., Kallakurichi, Tenkasi, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Tirupathur and Mayiladuthurai were flagged off on that day.

19. TAMIL NADU WELFARE BOARD FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Differently Abled Persons was established in 2007 with the aim of implementing various welfare schemes for the benefit of Differently Abled Persons and their family members. The Welfare

Board has been reconstituted with new members under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department vide G.O. (Ms) No.30, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-2) Department, dated 12.09.2022. A total of 10,11,323 Differently Abled Persons above 10 years of age have been registered as members of this Welfare Board. Assistance like education scholarships, marriage assistance, assistance for purchasing spectacles, assistance to meet funeral expense, assistance for delivery and miscarriage of pregnancy, accident relief and accident death relief are being provided for the benefit of Differently Abled Persons by the Welfare Board. The details of Assistances provided by the Welfare Board are as follows:-

Table 12: Welfare Board Assistance

1.	Personal Accident Relief		
	(a)	Death due to Accident	Rs.1,00,000/-
	(b)	Loss of Hand, or Leg, or sight in both eyes and total loss.	Rs.1,00,000/-
	(c)	Loss of one hand or one leg or sight in one eye or total loss of Vision	Rs.50,000/-
	(d)	Permanent Disability (Except (b) & (c))	Rs.25,000/-
2.	Financial Assistance to meet the Funeral Expense		Rs.2,000/-
3.	Natural Death of Differently Abled Persons		Rs.15,000/-
4.	Annual Scholarship to the Son and Daughter of Differently Abled Persons		
(a)	i.	Daughter studying SSLC	Rs.1,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter passed SSLC	Rs.1,000/-
	i.	Daughter studying 11 th Standard or equivalent	Rs.1,000/-

(c)	i.	Daughter studying 12 th Standard or equivalent	Rs.1,500/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter passed 12 th Standard or equivalent	Rs.1,500/-
(d)	i.	Son and Daughter studying Arts Under Graduation Course	Rs.1,500/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter staying in Hostel	Rs.1,750/-
	iii.	Son and Daughter studying Arts Post Graduation Course	Rs.2,000/-
	iv.	Son and Daughter staying in Arts (PG) Hostel	Rs.3,000/-
(e)	i.	Son and Daughter studying Law, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science or equivalent Professional UG Courses	Rs.2,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter staying in Professional UG Courses Hostel	Rs.4,000/-
	iii.	Son and Daughter studying in Professional Post Graduation Courses	Rs.4,000/-

	iv.	Son and Daughter staying in Professional PG Hostel	Rs.6,000/-
(f)	i.	Son and Daughter studying in Vocational Training Institutes or Technical Colleges	Rs.1,000/-
	ii.	Son and Daughter staying in Vocational Training Hostel	Rs.1,200/-
5.	Financial Assistance for Marriage (Either to Husband or Wife)		Rs.2,000/-
6.	Financial Assistance to delivery for Female members		
	(a)	Pregnancy	Rs.6,000/-
	(b)	Miscarriage of Pregnancy	Rs.3,000/-
	(c)	Cesarean section	Rs.9,000/-
7.	Financial Assistance for the purchase of Spectacles		Rs.500/-

In the last Financial Year 2022-2023, Financial Assistance has been provided to 1,539 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs.229.28 Lakh through this scheme.

A sum of Rs.329.62 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 for this scheme.

20. CHIEF MINISTER'S COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, all Differently Abled Persons and their families are eligible for medical treatment without any eligibility income ceiling. Through this scheme, the Differently Abled Persons and their families can avail medical treatment up to Rs.5.00 Lakh per annum. Further, through this scheme, children with Mental Retardation (MR), Muscular Dystrophy (MD), Intellectual Disability (ID), Hearing Impaired (HI), Cerebral Palsy (CP), Learning Disability and Multiple Disabilities are provided Maintenance Therapy. Under this scheme, Prosthetic Limbs are being provided to Differently Abled Persons.

21. THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, MENTAL RETARDATION AND MULTIPLE DISABILITIES ACT, 1999

Under this Act, Guardians are appointed for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy (CP), Mental Retardation (MR) and Multiple Disabilities. Guardianship Certificates are issued by a Local Level Committee headed by the District Collector in each District. A representative of a registered organization working for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons and representatives of parents of persons with disabilities are acting as members of this committee. To date, 3,697 Guardianship Certificates have been issued under this Act.

22. NEW INITIATIVES

22.1. PRIORITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF HOUSE SITE PATTA TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The Government has provided priority for allotment of house site patta to the eligible

Differently Abled Persons who are "Below Poverty Line" vide G.O. (Ms) No.541, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, dated 11.11.2022.

So far, 598 Differently Abled Persons have benefitted under this scheme.

22.2. FIVE PERCENT ALLOTMENT IN HOUSES TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The Government has provided five percent reservation to the eligible Differently Abled Persons who are below the poverty line for allotment of houses vide G.O. (Ms) No.24, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-3.1) Department, dated 12.08.2022. Under this scheme, houses have been provided to 555 Differently Abled Persons in urban areas through the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board and 44 Differently Abled Persons in rural areas through the Rural Development and Panchayat

Raj Department. Further, the houses provided to Differently Abled Persons are allotted on the ground floor for their easy access.

22.3. REDUCTION OF THE PENSIONABLE AGE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED ULEMA

The pensionable age of Differently Abled Members of the "Ulema and Other Employees Welfare Board" constituted by BC, MBC & Minorities Welfare Department has been brought down to 40 years from 50 years vide G.O (Ms) No.46, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department, dated 15.06.2022.

22.4. TRANSPORT

The Government has constituted a committee comprising the officials of the Transport Department under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department to take

constructive measures to eliminate the problems faced by the Differently Abled Persons travelling in the buses of the Government Transport Corporations. This committee meets from time to time, and appropriate instructions are issued, to sensitise the department officials. Awareness camps have been conducted for the conductors and drivers by the Transport Department so that the Differently Abled Persons travelling in the buses can travel with comfort.

23. CONCLUSION

The thrust of the Government of Tamil Nadu is to ensure that every Differently Abled Person has access to all the support systems of the Government and to ensure that no person is left out. Further, the Government supports and stands with compassion for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will continue to work diligently to protect the welfare and rights of Differently Abled Persons and create an inclusive society.

**M.K. STALIN
CHIEF MINISTER**

ABBREIVIATION

AIC	Accessible India Campaign
ADIP	Assistance to Differently Abled Persons for Purchase / fitting of Aids and Appliances
CBS	Choice Based System
CMCHIS	Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme
CP	Cerebral Palsy
DAPs	Differently Abled Persons
DDRS	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme
DMSC	Disability Management and Special Education
EIC	Early Intervention Centre
EOP	Equal Opportunity Policy
GAPEY	General and Adopted Physical Education and Yoga
HI	Hearing Impaired
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services Scheme
ID	Intellectual Disability
MR	Mental Retardation
MD	Muscular Dystrophy

MI	Mental Illness
NIDC	National Identity Card
NSP	National Scholarship Portal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHFDC	National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation
PMEGP	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
RKMVERI	Ramakrishna Mission Vidhyalaya Educational Research Institute
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SBA	Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRTC	State Resource cum Training Centre
TNPSC	Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission
UDID	Unique Disability Identity Card
UYEGP	Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme
UPSC	Union Public Service Commission
VI	Visually Impaired

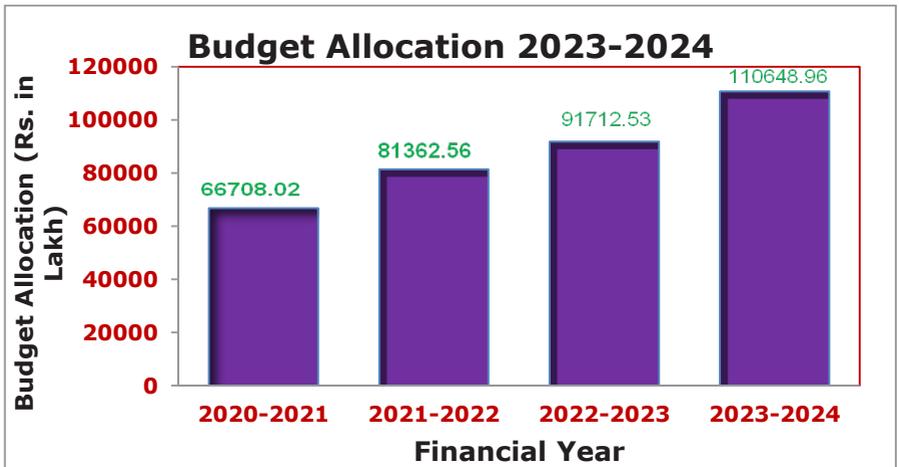
Table: 13 Scheme wise Allocation for the year 2023-2024

Sl. No.	Services / Sector	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Percentage of Allocation
1.	Prevention and Early Intervention	1,056.82	0.96
2.	Special Education	9,173.02	8.29
3.	Employment and Vocational Training	2,953.91	2.67
4.	Social Security (Maintenance Allowance and Free travel Concession)	69,020.93	62.38
5.	Aids and Appliances	5,787.67	5.23
6.	Barrier Free Structure and Other Infrastructure	352.00	0.32
7.	Rights Project	14,300.00	12.92
8.	Others (Salary Administrative Expenses)	8,004.61	7.23
	Total	1,10,648.96	100.00

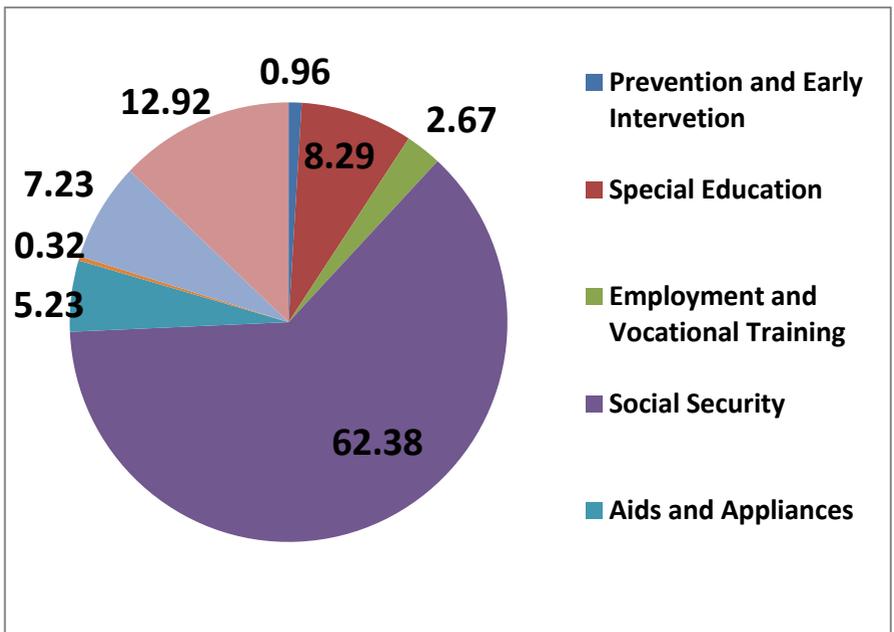
Table : 14
Budget Allocation for the year from
2020-2021 to 2023-2024

Sl. No	Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	2020-2021	66,708.02
2.	2021-2022	81,362.56
3.	2022-2023	91,712.53
4.	2023-2024	1,10,648.96

Budget Allocation for the year from
2020-2021 to 2023-2024



Percentage for Scheme-wise allocation for the year 2023-2024





Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Museum of Possibilities in the Commissionerate for Welfare of the Differently Aabled on 6.6.2022 and interacted with Differently Aabled Children



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu flagged off Mobile Care Unit Vehicle services to the newly formed Six Districts on 3.12.2022 at the International Day of the Differently Abled Persons



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Skill Development training for employment to the Differently Abled Persons under 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme and distributed laptop on 3.12.2022 at the International Day of the Differently Abled Persons



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Purple Bazaar and Exhibition on Modern Assistive Devices in the Kalaiwanar Arangam, Chennai on 3.12.2022 at International Day of the Differently Abled Persons



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Chaird the meeting of the State Advisory Board on Disability on 24.11.2022.



Specially Designed Retro-Fitted Petrol Scooter for
Spinal Cord Injured Persons



Angel-Pro Daisy Player



Battery Operated Wheel Chair

Printed by : Government Central Press, Chennai - 600 001.