Guidelines for Project Development Fund (PDF) for World Bank Assisted "India: e-Delivery of Public Services DPL Project"

1. Background

The Government of India received a loan from World Bank towards programme management and financial support for National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), for an amount of US$ 150 million (about Rs 700 crore) during 2011-12. The loan is referred to as "India: e-Delivery of Public Services Development Policy Loan" and is envisaged to support NeGP's countrywide plans of increasing online services for citizens in their locality, to improve the quality of basic governance in areas of concern to the common man.

With a view to facilitate preparation of project proposals, DeitY has, vide its Office Memorandum no. 2(1)/05-EGD(Vol-IV)(Pt IV)(14147) dated 31st Oct 2012 circulated detailed Implementation Guidelines. These Guidelines, inter-alia, provide for a "Project Development Fund (PDF)" under which proposals seeking funding assistance for formulation and development of new projects have been sought.

The present Guidelines have been formulated to facilitate Ministries/Departments and States/UTs in formulation and submission of proposals for accessing funding assistance under the above referred PDF facility.

2. Project Development Fund

To provide assistance for project formulation and project development to Ministries/Departments of Government of India and the States/UTs and to ensure expediting electronic delivery of services, a corpus fund titled 'Project Development Fund (PDF)" for World Bank assisted "India: e-Delivery of Public Services DPL Project", with an initial contribution of Rs. 20 crore is being set up. This amount would be available from Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY's) budgetary allocation available for 2012-2013 under externally-aided project and would be administered by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under DeitY.

3. Objective of Project Development Fund

Project Development Fund aims to provide financial assistance to the Centre/State/UTs for formulation and conceptualization of New & Innovative Initiatives which may include the following:

- Initiatives associated with New MMPs
- Initiatives associated with areas other than the existing MMPs
- Pilot or prototype projects for e-governance
- Innovative projects

The PDF will be available to the Centre/State/UTs for carrying out following indicative activities:

- Consultation Fees for technical and financial feasibility studies.
- Preparation of DPR for new projects.
- Out of Pocket Expenses for requirement gathering such as undertaking workshops, field visits, etc.
- Any other assistance needed for the purpose of developing projects.

4. Submission of Proposal for PDF

Ministries/Departments of Government of India and State/UT Governments are requested to submit proposals in the format (**Annexure 1**) for consideration under Project Development Fund. The proposals shall be addressed to:

Shri Gaurav Dwivedi
Director (e-Governance)
Department of Electronics and Information Technology
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Room No: 2018, 2nd Floor, Electronics Niketan
6 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
Tel +91-11-24301218, Fax +91-11-24361728
gauravdwivedi@nic.in

5. Appraisal and Approving Mechanism

i. Once the proposal is found to be suited to provide funding assistance it will be appraised and evaluated by an Appraisal Committee comprising of the following officials:

   a. Director, NeGD – Chairperson
   b. Director (Finance and Accounts), NeGD – Member
   c. Principal Consultant (Technology), NeGD – Member
   d. Director in the line Ministry/Department of GoI or Secretary of the line Department of State/UT dealing with the subject – Member
   e. Senior Consultant, NeGD – Member Secretary

ii. The Appraisal Committee may co-opt any expert(s) for review/evaluation of proposals received by it for consideration of funding.

iii. The Appraisal Committee may request the Ministries/Departments to give a presentation on the proposal.

iv. Amongst others, the Committee shall:
   a. Select projects for which project development costs will be funded;
   b. Set terms and conditions under which the funding will be provided and recovered;
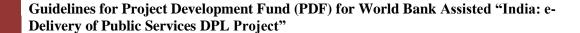   c. Set milestones for disbursing the funding.

v. Following recommendations of the Appraisal Committee, CEO and President, NeGD shall approve project proposals as per delegation of financial powers to the CEO and President, National e-Governance Division.

vi. Projects which are being partially funded by any other arm of Government or have received partial grants from any other national/international body will be ineligible for applying/funding under this initiative.

vii. The appraisal and approval of the proposal shall primarily be based on the following:

    a. The Sponsoring Authority:
        i. Does the Sponsoring Authority have available funds (from budget or from donor sources)?
        ii. Can the Sponsoring Authority avail of a PPP mode of financing this project?
        iii. Does the proposed e-Governance project envisage provision of citizen centric services which are liable to be rendered by Sponsoring Authority?
        iv. Are the strategic goals of Sponsoring Authority achieved by the proposed e-Governance project?
        v. Has the Sponsoring Authority made a counterpart funding commitment?

    b. The e-Governance project:
        i. Has the project been clearly defined and ring fenced?
        ii. What is the ability of project to provide citizen centric services and generate system improvements and/or reengineer government processes?
        iii. What is the capacity and appetite in the private sector to participate in the project?

    c. Funding:
        i. Has a cash flow statement been submitted by the Sponsoring Authority and verified by NeGD?
        ii. Has the project profile been established and is likely to be accepted by all the stakeholders?

6. **Funding from PDF**

Funding under the PDF will be on the basis of the following:

    a. The funding is used on a single project. Funding requests involving multiple projects or sources would not normally be considered.

    b. Funding assistance is sought to defray expenses in respect of:
        i. Reviews and Development of project documentation including Core Scope Studies and Consultancies, Concession agreements, Assessment studies (including demand assessment, capacity assessments etc.) on individual or turnkey basis;
        ii. Activities associated with Bid Process Management/Procurement arrangements;
        iii. Feasibility studies;
        iv. Innovative e-Governance projects, research, studies, pilots etc. including harnessing mobile platform for increasing access to e-Services;

v.   Implementation Frameworks for e-Governance Projects.

7. Disbursements by the PDF

Disbursements by PDF will be made in installments based on milestones achieved. These milestones will be those set out in the individual proposal and as approved by Competent Authority.

8. Monitoring

The Sponsoring Authority shall be responsible for regular monitoring of the project development and compliance with the milestones as approved by the Competent Authority.

Annexure I

Template for seeking funding under Project Development Fund (PDF) proposal (details under each heading to be attached)

1	Name of the Project/Initiative	
2	Ministry /Department	
3	Sector	
4	Location	
5	Brief Project Description	
6	Objective of the project	
7	Project Implementation Approach	
8	Project Beneficiary	
9	Outcome(s) of the project	
10	Services Proposed	
11	Is the initiative has been cover in any other MMP?	
12	Expected time for completion activity	
13	Estimated Cost of the Project	