

## TB Commitment Grants - India

# Request for Application- Reducing Delay in TB Diagnosis by Engaging AYUSH Health Care Providers and Chemists

The [Tuberculosis Implementation Framework Agreement \(TIFA\) project](#) is a part of the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) [Global Accelerator to End TB](#). It aims to increase country ownership and accountability to accelerate progress toward TB eradication. Implemented by [JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.](#) (JSI) with partner [Open Development](#), TIFA co-designs fixed amount awards, known as tuberculosis commitment grants (TCGs), with national TB programs and/or other local entities to accelerate progress toward TB eradication.

TIFA uses a phased approach with country partners to develop TCGs. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP), the Central TB Division (CTD), and USAID/India identify country priorities and TIFA works closely with them to identify partners that may apply for grants/contracts and which, if selected, are guided through a co-design process. The awardee implements the TCG/contract and submits milestones for verification to USAID and TIFA for performance-based payments.

TIFA is seeking applications from interested nongovernmental organizations or companies for TCGs/contracts to reduce TB diagnosis delays by implementing a cough syrup surveillance approach through Ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and homeopathy (AYUSH) health care providers, rural health practitioners, and chemists of Himachal Pradesh in coordination with the NTEP.

### Thematic Area for Interventions

Demonstrate a model in which non-allopathic health providers, which include practitioners of Ayurveda, homeopathy, and other registered alternatives under the Clinical Establishment Act of Himachal Pradesh State, support early identification of people with presumptive TB and reduce delays in diagnosis through effective communication strategies. The successful applicant will establish a cough syrup surveillance approach and evaluate presumptive TB cases by working with AYUSH providers and chemists. The awardee will work in the state of Himachal Pradesh and coordinate with AYUSH and central health ministries to improve access to TB services. The selection of TCG recipients will be based on the quality, feasibility, and efficiency of the proposed intervention, along with value for money. The application may encompass one, a combination of some, or all of the interventions listed in the table below.

Goals	Sample Activities	Expected Results
<p>Reduce delay in TB diagnosis by involving AYUSH providers in the early identification of presumptive cases.</p> <p>Enhance presumptive TB examination rates by engaging non-allopathic health providers and chemists.</p> <p>Collaborate with AYUSH Ministry to develop strategies that complement the country's efforts to end TB.</p> <p>Create a network of AYUSH and rural health practitioners and chemists linked with public health facilities for effective TB management.</p>	<p>Map and engage public and private AYUSH facilities, rural health practitioners, and chemists to establish linkages with NTEP for TB testing.</p> <p>Sensitize AYUSH and rural health practitioners and chemists through continuing medical education at district or sub-district levels.</p> <p>Implement cough syrup surveillance approach with health providers.</p> <p>Develop patient screening materials.</p> <p>Track patients to evaluate presumptive TB cases and document delay in evaluation.</p> <p>Build capacity of AYUSH practitioners to facilitate diagnosis, generate awareness, and prevent and manage TB.</p> <p>Develop a joint collaboration framework for AYUSH and Health Ministries to improve access to TB services.</p> <p>Develop non-financial rewards for AYUSH providers and chemists.</p> <p>Support state to integrate project activities into the health system.</p> <p>Develop a framework for periodic supervision, monitoring, and review of collaborative activities.</p>	<p>Average delay in TB diagnosis reduced.</p> <p>Cough syrup surveillance approach system established.</p> <p>Capacity of AYUSH providers to raise awareness about TB prevention awareness built.</p> <p>Communication strategies to engage AYUSH providers and chemists developed.</p> <p>Joint collaborative framework for TB elimination between Health and AYUSH Ministries developed.</p>

## Indicators

The following indicators are essential to capture progress.

- Total population covered by the project.
- No. of trainings/continuing medical education sessions conducted in the intervention geographies.
- Number of facilities or shops with AYUSH, rural health practitioners, and/or chemists, in public and private sectors.
- No. of presumptive TB cases identified through cough syrup surveillance.
- No. of TB cases diagnosed.
- No. of state-level review meetings conducted.
- Average delay in TB detection in the intervention geographies.

This list of indicators is not limited; the applicant can propose others.

## Eligibility

Interested organizations must:

- Be a legally registered Indian nongovernmental organization with a valid Foreign Contribution Regulation Act registration or for-profit organization with mandatory registrations (PAN, TAN, GST number) and fulfilling all statutory criteria to receive foreign funds —OR— an international organization legally registered in India.
- Have a local chief executive who is willing to sign a grant agreement with JSI, the U.S.-based USAID partner.
- Present to a selection panel (virtual or in person) on 16 or 17 November, 2023 and participate in an in-person grant co-design process in New Delhi or Himachal Pradesh, tentatively scheduled for 24 November.
- Have experience working with NETP and/or TB care (preferred).
- Have an established presence in Himachal Pradesh.

## Application Process

- Recommendations for awards by JSI/TIFA are made following an impartial review and evaluation of all applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria prescribed in the RFA.
- Eligible organizations will submit an application through [TIFA Bharat Portal \(tifabharat.org\)](https://tifabharat.org) with illustrative activities and estimated amount of funding requested by 9 November, 2023, 18.00 India Standard Time.
- Eligible organizations can submit questions to [tifa\\_bharat@jsi.com](mailto:tifa_bharat@jsi.com) until 26 October, 2023, 18.00 India Standard Time. Responses to submitted questions will be sent to all eligible organizations by 1 November, 2023.

## Selection Process

- After the deadline of the application submission process, JSI/TIFA staff will screen applications to determine if all eligibility requirements are met.
- The selection committee will review eligible applications for technical merit and value for money.
- On 16 or 17 November, invited organizations will present their concept papers in person or virtually for 15–30 minutes to a selection committee panel.
- The selection committee will evaluate/rank applicants based on the concept papers and presentations.
- TIFA will invite selected organization to participate in a multi-day co-design workshop to create detailed activity plan and budget. This is tentatively scheduled for New Delhi or Himachal Pradesh on 24 November.

## Selection Criteria

1. Meets all eligibility criteria.
2. Applications will be technically appraised to determine if:
  - The proposed concept clearly responds to problem statement.

- The proposed concept reflects the activities/approach and deliverables outlined in the thematic area described above, and lists the districts in which interventions will be conducted.
  - The application demonstrates the organization's ability to implement the intervention in Himachal Pradesh with the size of the identified population and within the grant/contract period.
  - The application describes how the organization will coordinate with NTEP to ensure that it can adopt and disseminate learning from activities.
3. The budget ceiling is \$250,000 USD. Value for money must be demonstrated. During the next phase of co-design, selected awardees must prepare a detailed budget with cost justification. Applicants cannot include a fee, contingency, or profit margin in the budget.

### Evaluation of proposals

The proposals will be evaluated by a committee/panel of experts from India's TB programs/health sector/social development. The committee will evaluate and score each application as follows:

- Experience executing similar projects (25 points).
- Organizational presence and experience in Himachal Pradesh (25 points).
- Feasibility and sustainability of project intervention and timeline (40 points).
- Value for money and cost (10 points).

### TB Commitment Grant/Contract Characteristics

- A TCG/contract is a fixed amount award with a maximum of USD 250,000.
- TIFA advises each TCG/contract not exceed 12 months, but it will accommodate longer time periods if necessary.
- Awardee payments are based on verified achievement of milestones (to be developed during the co-design process).
- Awardee must demonstrate ability to comply with all U.S. government and USAID regulations and certifications including [Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations](https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/references-chapter/303mat) - <https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/references-chapter/303mat>.

## TIFA | Tuberculosis Implementation Framework Agreement

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John Snow Research and Training Institute  
2733 Crystal Drive | 4th Floor Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: 1.703.528.7474 Fax: 1.703.528.7480

John Snow India Private Limited  
Plot No. 5 & 6, LSC Shopping Complex  
Nelson Mandela Marg  
Vasant Kunj  
New Delhi, India  
Phone: +91 1148685050  
Email: tifa\_bharat@jsi.com