

**TB Commitment Grants — India**  
**Request for Application**  
Posted Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024

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

TIFA employs a phased, collaborative approach to develop TCGs with our country partners. In collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) and USAID, we identify country priorities and potential implementing partners. These partners are invited to apply for grants and, if selected, are guided through a co-design process for the grant. The implementing organizations then execute the TCGs, and USAID and JSI/TIFA verify completed milestones.

In India, unified and collective action is crucial in the fight against TB. With millions affected annually, a collaborative approach that leverages diverse expertise is essential. Since its inception in India, JSI/TIFA has issued 35 sub-awards to 15 implementing partners, supporting national program priorities across various thematic areas within the NTEP framework. TIFA India launched the TIFA Bharat online portal in October 2023 to invite innovative solutions from local partners aimed at eliminating TB in India. This platform is the foundation of fair and open competition, and engagement by Indian NGOs, research institutes and the private sector. It promotes local solutions, supports a bottom-up approach, and amplifies ideas with the potential to significantly impact TB elimination efforts.

JSI seeks an organization to advocate with state TB control programs, politicians and other key stakeholders for rollout, investment and continuation of successful activities initiated through TIFA's small grants and contracts.

**We invite applications from Indian organizations to undertake the following activities:**

- Synthesize evidence and successes from TIFA-funded interventions to convey benefits to program managers, policymakers and administrators.
- Based on guidance from TIFA, USAID and the Central TB Division, design an advocacy strategy and conduct campaigns to engage and inspire key audiences that influence TB programming and the health system at central and state levels.
- Conduct workshops and convenings to inform selected stakeholders of approaches tested through TIFA small grants, and to promote continued investment and scaling.
- Identify champions of change for the shared advocacy goals and support them to drive change on the ground

- Advocate with leaders (political, social and others) and state program implementers for investment and scaling of successful interventions.
- Where needed, provide technical writing support to TIFA-funded grantees to draft papers for publication or white papers based on the work implemented through their TIFA grants.
- Together with JSI/TIFA, facilitate exposure visits for program leaders and stakeholders to the TIFA project's intervention sites to increase visibility and better understanding
- Prospective applicants should propose a comprehensive approach and demonstrate relevant past experience doing similar work.

Goals	Sample Activities	Expected Results
<p>Advocate for state-level investment, scaling and policy change based on outputs and results of TIFA small grant investments.</p>	<p><b>Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft an advocacy strategy document and update it in consultation with NTEP and stakeholders</li> <li>• Coordinate with NTEP and TIFA partners to compile data and create advocacy materials that highlight the effectiveness and scalability of TIFA-funded projects.</li> <li>• Organize advocacy meetings and workshops at various levels to raise awareness about TB issues and advocate for policy change.</li> <li>• Facilitate stakeholder consultations and exposure visits to gather input and feedback on TB control strategies and priorities relevant to TIFA-funded work.</li> <li>• Leverage social media to target TB program managers, administrators and policymakers with messages about investing in and expanding selected interventions.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of communication efforts and adjust strategies as needed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness and understanding of new TB interventions or data among program managers, administrators and policymakers.</li> <li>• Greater political commitment and financial support for TB control initiatives at the national, state, and local levels.</li> <li>• Expanded partnerships and collaborations across sectors to mobilize resources and leverage expertise for TB elimination efforts.</li> </ul>

**The following indicators are essential to capture progress:**

- Number of politicians/key policy makers that are aware of selected TIFA-funded interventions and their benefits to achieving India's end TB strategy.
- Level of engagement and participation from government officials, healthcare providers, and civil society organizations in advocacy efforts.
- Number of TIFA-funded interventions for which states dedicate funding
- Number of TIFA-funded interventions that are scaled or rolled out, even if on a small scale, by the states.

## Eligibility

Interested organizations must:

- Be a legally registered Indian non-governmental organization with a valid Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration or for-profit organization having 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 an agreement with JSI, the U.S.-based USAID partner.
- Past experience communicating with the government is highly preferred
- Present to a selection panel (virtual or in person) tentatively on 11th or 12th November 2024 and participate in an in-person co-design process in New Delhi, tentatively scheduled for 19th November 2024.
- The organization has the capability in-terms of qualified team and job skills of managing or administering large scale government or public programs
- Have similar experience and working with NTEP and/or TB care (preferred)

## 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](http://tifabharat.org)) with illustrative activities and estimated amount of funding requested by 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024, 18:00 hours India Standard Time.
- Eligible organizations can submit questions to [tifa\\_bharat@jsi.com](mailto:tifa_bharat@jsi.com) until 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024, 18:00 hours India Standard Time. Responses to submitted questions will be sent to all eligible organizations by 16th Oct 2024.

## 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.
- Tentatively on 11th or 12th Nov 2024, 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 a detailed activity plan and budget. This is tentatively scheduled for New Delhi on 19th November 2024.

## Selection Criteria

1. Meets eligibility criteria
2. Applications will be technically appraised based on the following criteria:
  - o The proposed concept clearly addresses the problem statement.

- o The proposed concept reflects the activities/approach and deliverables outlined in the thematic area described above, and lists the states/districts in which interventions will be conducted.
  - o Demonstrated ability to synthesize evidence, design advocacy strategies, and engage key stakeholders at central and state levels, with proven experience in conducting workshops, identifying champions, and advocating for scalable interventions.
  - o Expertise in technical writing for publications and facilitating exposure visits for program leaders, with a clear approach to delivering these activities effectively within the grant period and target population. 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 codesign, 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:

- Understanding of the scope of work, including drafting an advocacy strategy, synthesis results to inform decisions, strategic prioritizations and creation of advocacy materials (25 points).
- Experience in engaging NTEP or Government health stakeholders effectively, especially for NTEP/ Government health program-level policy change (25 points).
- Capacity to design and implement innovative and effective strategies for advocacy activities (30 points)
- Ability to coordinate meetings, consultations, visits, and workshops to foster dialogue among stakeholders (10 points)
- Value for money & 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 to 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 codesign 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 - [ADS Reference 303mat | Document | U.S. Agency for International Development \(usaid.gov\)](#)