

Government of Odisha
Department of Women & Child Development

No. WCD-CW-MISC-0023-2021- 9239 /WCD&MS, Dt: 20-06-2021

NOTIFICATION

Ashirbad : Scheme for Specially cared children

1. Backdrop:

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many children who are facing difficulties due to death of both of parents or death of a primary bread earner in the family during this period.

Govt of Odisha is committed for the welfare of these specially cared children. To provide a safety cover to these children, Govt has taken various initiatives in the past, particularly support under Biju Sishu Surkshya Yojana, Juvenile Justice Fund and Child protection scheme. The present scheme reinforces the commitment of the Govt to bring positive development in their life.

Ashirbad aims for in-situ rehabilitation and continuation of their life in similar family based non-institutional socio-cultural environment, where ever feasible and in the best interest of the child, and to ensure that care givers and other kith and kins are encouraged to provide best of the care to these children.

2. Beneficiary:

Specially cared Children who have faced difficulties due to demise, on or after 1st April 2020, of:

- A. Both parents
- B. Single parent (including case where in death of another parent occurred earlier)
- C. One parent who is primary bread earner, and the child continues to live with the remaining parent

3. Support:

3.1. Specially cared children in the category 2(A) and 2(B) and placed in 'kith and kin care' by the order of CWC:

3.1.1. A sum of Rs.2,500/- per month till the child attains 18 years of age or till adoption, whatever is earlier, will be electronically transferred to the bank account of the care giver family towards maintenance, health, education etc. of the child.

3.1.2. The child will be covered under the State health assurance scheme: Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.

3.1.3. The child will be included as beneficiary and avail entitlements under National Food Security Act or State Food Security Scheme.

3.1.4. The child will be facilitated to continue his/her study free of cost in the same school where he/she was going prior to death of second parent. In case the child is shifted to another place where the kith and kin are living, child will be admitted in a similarly placed school as far as possible. If required, the child will be assisted for admission in OAV, KV or any other Govt school with in their criteria.

The child will get free education, as far as possible, under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009, which states, "specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of Clause (n) of Section 2 shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbour hood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion".

Collector & District Magistrate will provide necessary assistance in admission of such children if the care giver family wishes so.

3.1.5. For higher education, the child will be linked with the Department of Higher Education's "Green Passage" scheme for further education.

3.1.6. To encourage care giver family for wellbeing of such child, the care giver family, if found otherwise eligible under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban/ rural as the case may be), Biju Pakka ghara Yojana or any other similar scheme, will be given out of turn assistance under such scheme with priority.

3.1.7. The care giver family will also be eligible for out of turn assistance with priority under any other Govt schemes where the family is entitled to get the benefit.

3.1.8. CWC in coordination with the DCPU, Tahasildar and police shall take adequate steps for protection of assets and other properties of the child.

3.1.9. DCPU shall provide personalised attention to such child and regular personal follow up shall be done to ensure that the interest of the child is well protected and proper care is extended to the child.

3.1.10. Assistances as specified under Biju Shishu Surakshya Yojana, Juvenile Justice Fund will be available to such children if otherwise found eligible.

3.1.11. Any other assistance as decided by the Govt from time to time including special requirement, if any, of the child.

3.2. For category 2(A) and 2(B): In case the child is placed in institutional care, by the order of CWC:

3.2.1. A sum of Rs.1,000/- per month till the child attains 18 years of age or till adoption, whatever is earlier, will be deposited as recurring deposit in the bank account of the child in addition to free care and protection provisions as

per CPS norms under Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2015.

3.2.2. The child will be covered under the State health assurance scheme: Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.

3.2.3. The child will be facilitated to continue his/her study free of cost in the same school where he/she was going prior to death of second parent.

The child will get free education, as far as possible, under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009, which states, "specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of Clause (n) of Section 2 shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion".

However, in case the CCI is situated at a distance or at another location, then the child will be admitted in similar school where in other inmates of the CCI are studying. However, where ever feasible, priority will be given to these children in admission in OAV, KV or any other Govt school with in their criteria.

3.2.4. For higher education, the child will be linked with the Department of Higher Education's "Green Passage" scheme for further education.

3.2.5. CWC in coordination with the DCPU, Tahasildar and police shall take adequate steps for protection of assets and other properties of the child.

3.2.6. DCPU shall provide personalised attention to such child and regular personal follow up shall be done to ensure that the interest of the child is well protected and proper care is extended to the child.

3.2.7. Assurances as specified under Biju Shishu Surakshya Yojana, Juvenile Justice Fund will be available to such children if otherwise found eligible.

3.2.8. Any other assistance as decided by the Govt from time to time including special requirement, if any, of the child.

3.3. For category 2(C): In case the child continues living with the remaining parent:

3.3.1. A sum of Rs.1,500 per month till the child attains 18 years of age will be electronically transferred to the bank account of the remaining parent / child towards maintenance, health, education etc. of the child. However, in case the child is surrendered and placed on adoption, the financial support will be discontinued.

3.3.2. The mother of the child will be provided widow pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana if otherwise found eligible.

3.3.3. The Child and remaining parent, if found eligible, will be enrolled under National Food Security Act or State Food Safety scheme.

3.3.4. The child will be covered under the State health assurance scheme: Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.

3.3.5. The child will be facilitated to continue his/her study free of cost in various Govt run schools.

3.3.6. CWC and DCPO will provide personalised attention to such child and regular personal follow up shall be done by DCPU to ensure that the interest of the child is well protected and proper care is extended to the child.

3.3.7. Assurances as specified under Biju Shishu Surakshya Yojana, Juvenile Justice Fund will be available to such children if otherwise found eligible.

3.3.8. Any other assistance as decided by the Govt from time to time including special requirement, if any, of the child.

4. Implementing Agency

The existing structure under Child Protection Services (CPS) shall be the implementing agency for these provisions in the State, i.e. OSCPS at the State level and DCPU at the district level.

5. Process for approval:

1. District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) shall identify children through CHILDLINE, Child Protection Committees at GP and block level, Frontline Workers, Civil Society Organization etc., and will prepare proper SIR and collect proper supporting documents.
2. Collector and District Magistrate will ensure that identification of such specially cared children through special drive is done every year on a regular basis to ensure that no eligible child is left out. Data base of such children will be maintained by OSCPS at the State level.
3. Eligible child, his/her care giver family can directly apply before the DCPU along with death certificates. After SIR and enquiry, the claim will be processed by the DCPO preferably within 30 days of application.
4. The DCPU is designated as the competent authority for issuing the "specially care child certificate" to avail the benefits. I-card shall also be issued to each such child.
5. DCPO will after due enquiry submit the claim before the Collector and District Magistrate who will be the sanctioning authority for various assistance under the scheme.
6. Financial assistance will be released by DCPO to the account of the beneficiary/care giver family/ remaining parent as mentioned above.
7. The CWC and DCPU in coordination with frontline workers of Department of Women and Child Development shall make follow up visits and record the reports of progress of every child.

8. DCPU shall submit monthly progress report to OSCPS in the prescribed format.
9. DCPU will coordinate with District level officials of various departments to ensure that all benefits are extended to such children.
10. Any gap in fund requirements or special requirements for any child will be met from CMRF.

6. **Grievance Redressal**

Collector and District Magistrate will be the grievance redressal authority under the Scheme.

In case any child is in extreme difficulty due to death of any of the care giver not covered under eligibility criteria stated above on or after 1st April 2020 and compelling humanitarian ground exists, then Collector and District Magistrate may after due diligence and personal satisfaction provide assistance under clause 3.2 or 3.3 above as the case may be.

By Order of Governor



Principal Secretary to Govt.

20/6/21
