Cisco

India Cash Grant Program

Alignment Roadmap for Potential Applicants

What We Look For in Optimally Aligned India Cash Grant Applicants

At Cisco, we believe that technology is a great equalizer. We invite you to explore our roadmap below to understand how we evaluate impact and how your organization can align with our mission to build an inclusive future for all.

Our Guiding Principles: The Foundation of Our Work

Every partnership we enter is built on three core tenets. We look for partners who share these values:



Equity

We prioritize projects that intentionally engage under-resourced individuals and communities, ensuring that the digital revolution leaves no one behind.



Proximity

We believe the most effective solutions are local. We invest in organizations that are deeply embedded in the communities they serve and understand the nuances of the challenges at hand.



Impact-First

We move beyond "activity-based" reporting. We support rigorous measurement and evaluation frameworks to ensure that every dollar and technology donation translates into measurable, long-term progress.

The Evaluation Gate: Our “Bare Minimum” Criteria

Before we invest, we assess every project against our Concept Evaluation Framework. We use this to ensure that our resources are directed toward initiatives with the highest potential for success:



Use of Digital

We seek projects that leverage digital technology at scale to solve systemic issues. Usage of AI/ML interventions are highly encouraged.



Measurable Impact

We require a defined, verifiable, data-driven articulation of how you will measure success and report outcomes and outputs.



Systems Alignment

Projects with a systems strengthening approach alongside partnership with key administrative departments and ministries.



Credibility & Experience

We value partners who demonstrate a proven track record of delivering similar, high-complexity projects.



Narrative Alignment

The project must demonstrate a clear, compelling human-interest impact.



Viability

We value partners who demonstrate a proven track record of delivering similar, high-complexity projects.

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Our Strategic Focus Sectors

We deploy our capital and strategic guidance in three key areas. We are looking for partners who are innovating within these specific domains:

Crisis Response & Critical Human Needs

Improving crisis preparedness and response in times of need; supporting efficient and effective delivery of social schemes.

Cybersafety in Education

Supporting comprehensive cybersafety and awareness programs for children in schools.

Economic Empowerment

Creating pathways to employment and career development with targeted skilling initiatives, entrepreneurship programs, and socially aligned projects in the domain of innovation.

How We Measure Success

We use four primary factors to structure our rigorous impact evaluation process:

Reach

The foundational scale of your project (e.g., number of youth mobilized, individuals enrolled, or users registered on your digital platform).

Impact/Success

The long-term outcomes and systemic change (e.g., income increases, employment generated, follow-on funding for startups, or health outcomes like institutional births).

Output

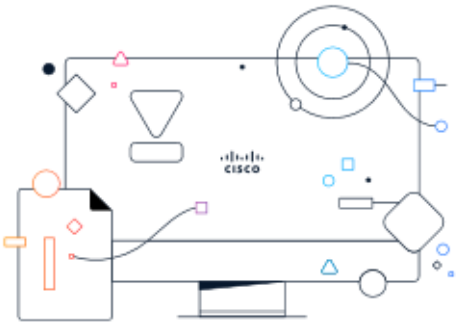
The immediate results of your intervention (e.g., individuals trained/certified, business plans funded, or timely delivery of social benefits).

Multiplier

The broader ripple effect of your work. We look for evidence-based multipliers (e.g., a 4x multiplier for placements attributable to the grant, or student-to-teacher ratios for training programs).

Qualifying Examples

For examples of our current and legacy funded projects, please return to our main India Cash Grants page.



Expressing Interest in the Program

To share your organization's details and express interest in India Cash Grant support, please complete this online form.

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