GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project

Department of Youth Development

Proposal Submission Guideline on Innovation Grant (IG)

Under

Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project

National Sports Council Tower (19th Floor), 62/3 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000

www.earndyd.gov.bd

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1. ABOUT THE INNOVATION GRANT

EARN is a World Bank supported project for ensuring Economic Engagement and Employment of the unengaged youth of Bangladesh especially in the rural regions. The project will support economic engagement of the unengaged youths in 250 upazilas.

The Innovation Fund under the EARN Project is designed to support innovative interventions aimed at improving the socioeconomic conditions of vulnerable NEET youth across the EARN upazilas. It targets approximately 25,000 youth, including at least 15,000 female participants. The fund seeks to identify and scale effective models for employability, and income generation through the provision of Innovation Grants (IG), awarded via an open and competitive selection process. The IG promotes initiatives that link wage employment, entrepreneurship, and income generation, including opportunities for foreign currency earnings and climate resilience. It prioritizes high-potential sectors such as ICT, smart agriculture, and creative industries to ensure economic impact and sustainability. The approach emphasizes measurable results through milestone-based implementation and MIS tracking. Overall, the IG serves as a strategic tool to accelerate inclusive economic participation and resilience among NEET youth of Bangladesh.

2. OBJECTIVE

The Innovation Grant aims to support innovative, inclusive, and scalable interventions that improve access to employment opportunities for youth with priority to underserved groups facing geographic, gender, and social barriers. It will prioritize initiatives that expand EARN's outreach to underserved groups facing geographic, gender, and social barriers. Special emphasis will be given to youth employment in emerging economic sectors and initiatives that contribute to earnings and/or savings of foreign currency for Bangladesh. Proposals in the following sectors are encouraged and will be given priority:

- ICT-Based Innovation and Digital Economy
- Smart Agriculture, Agro-processing, Packaging & Floriculture
- Creative Industries
- Export-Oriented and Import-Substituting Industries
- Foreign Currency Earning / Saving Initiatives

> ⚠ INFORMATION FOR ATTENTION: Proposals limited exclusively to training activities, and/or conventional trades (e.g., sewing, beautification, mobile repairing, poultry farming, homestead gardening) will NOT be preferred during evaluation.

3. TARGET GROUPS

- NEET Youth (Not in Education, Employment or Training) aged 18–35 years
- Hard-to-reach populations: chars, haors, tea gardens, hill-tracts, coastal belts, urban slums
- Women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Hijra, and plain land ethnic minorities
- All direct beneficiaries must be Bangladeshi citizens residing in EARN upazilas, possessing a valid NID or Birth Registration Certificate, and having completed at minimum Grade 5 education

> Gender Requirement: A minimum of 60% of total beneficiaries in each proposal must be female.

4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Any international or national entity is eligible to apply, including:

- Government, Semi-Government, and Autonomous Organizations / Agencies
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Sector Entities and Private Sector Associations (e.g., FBCCI, BKMEA)
- Joint Ventures between two or more eligible entities

All applicants must possess: (i) valid registration and legal documents; (ii) description of relevant experience demonstrating implementation feasibility; and (iii) adequate institutional and financial, capacities to carry out the proposed activities.

No experience documentations are required to be submitted. Only the selected/shortlisted agencies will be requested to submit the relevant documents. Failure to provide satisfactory documentations will result in automatic disqualification.

5. GRANT PARAMETERS

Parameter	Details
Minimum Grant Size	BDT 3,00,00,000 (3 Crore) per proposal for minimum 2000 NEET beneficiaries.
Maximum Grant Size	BDT 15,00,00,000 (15 Crore) per proposal for minimum 14,500 NEET beneficiaries.
Number of Grants	5 to 8 proposals (subject to total fund availability)
Total Beneficiaries	Minimum 25,000 NEET youth across all selected proposals
Female Inclusion	Minimum 60% female beneficiaries per proposal

Parameter	Details
Project Duration	Activities must conclude no later than December 2028
Project Coverage	All EARN upazilas, or a clearly defined subset thereof

6. REQUIRED PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Complete proposals must include all of the following sections:

- Objective of the Proposal
- Description of the Innovative Idea (What, How, Gender & Climate Aspects)
- Economic Benefits for Bangladesh (employment generation, foreign exchange earning/saving)
- Target Beneficiaries: number, female share, and vulnerable group breakdown
- Project Area (list of targeted upazilas)
- Implementation Arrangement and Key Milestones
- Lessons Learned / Success Stories from prior experience (if applicable)
- Environmental & Social Risks and Mitigation Plan
- Sustainability and scalability plan
- Key Milestones
- Time-Bound Action Plan with Gantt Chart
- Detailed Financial Breakdown and Total Budget

Note: No stipend/training allowance in the proposal are allowed for the beneficiaries.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

Step	Activity
1	Proposal submission via designated EARN Online Portal, inclusive of all required supporting documents
2	Initial shortlisting by PMU Sub-committee in accordance with IGSC evaluation criteria
3	Youth Innovation Pitching Event: shortlisted applicants present proposals before the

Step	Activity
	Innovation Grant Selection Committee (IGSC)
4	IGSC final review and selection of 5–8 proposals
5	PMU communicates feedback; applicants resubmit incorporating the feedback within 10 working days
6	Legal and Financial negotiation with the applicants
6	Grant Agreement signing: PMU executes agreements defining scope, milestones, fiduciary obligations, and ESMF compliance
7	MIS Integration: Unique IDs assigned to all beneficiaries;

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA (PITCHING EVENT)

Evaluation Criterion	Key Considerations
Team Strength	Expertise, experience, complementary skills, leadership, commitment, and execution capability
Market Opportunity	Clarity of target market, size/growth potential, accessibility, and competitiveness
Innovation & Feasibility	Novelty, technological uniqueness, disruption potential, and defensible advantages (IP, algorithms, network effects)
Business Model & Financials	Revenue potential, cost structure, scalability, sustainability, and robustness of financial projections
Socio-Economic Impact	Contribution to social/economic development, job creation, and innovation ecosystem of Bangladesh
Strategic Relevance to EARN	Support for NEET youth, economic benefits, women/ethnic/underserved group targeting, and climate considerations
Environmental & Social Risks and Mitigation strategy	Environmental and social risk identification, mitigation measures, inclusion of vulnerable groups, occupational and community safety, and climate resilience considerations
Sustainability and scalability	Outlines a credible strategy to ensure long-term sustainability, scalability, and institutional/community ownership.

9. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Sl No	Deliverables	Payment%
1	Inception report	10%
2	Quarterly Milestone Achievement Reports (6 reports)	72% (12% for each report)
3	Task Completion Report	18%

10. DOCUMENT TO BE ATTACHED

- Valid registration and legal documents
- Description of relevant experience demonstrating implementation feasibility (not applicable for startups)
- Proof of institutional capacities
- Proof of financial capacities

HOW TO APPLY

Submission Method: Online Portal Only

Complete proposals, together with all required supporting documents (registration certificates, licenses, financial statements, etc.), must be submitted exclusively through the designated EARN Online Portal. Hard-copy or e-mail submissions will NOT be accepted.

Link of Proposal Submission:

For Inquiries, Contact:

Project Director (Additional Secretary)
Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
Department of Youth Development
National Sports Council Tower (19th Floor)
62/3 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000

Important Notice:

Completed proposal must be submitted through …… by 31/July/2026; 15:00 HOURS Bangladesh Standard Time (BST). Email and/or any other sorts of submission will not be accepted.

e-mail: pd.earn@dyd.gov.bd
Website: www.earndyd.gov.bd

ANNEX 1: List of Upazila under EARN Project

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
1.	Barishal	Barguna	Patharghata
2.	Barishal	Barishal	Bakerganj
3.	Barishal	Barishal	Mehendiganj
4.	Barishal	Barishal	Muladi
5.	Barishal	Bhola	Bhola Sadar
6.	Barishal	Bhola	Charfasson
7.	Barishal	Jhalokati	Nalchhity
8.	Barishal	Patuakhali	Bauphal
9.	Barishal	Patuakhali	Galachipa
10.	Barishal	Pirojpur	Mathbaria
11.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Alikadam
12.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Bandarban Sadar
13.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Lama
14.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Naikkhongchhari
15.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Rowangchhari
16.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Ruma
17.	Chattogram	Bandarban	Thanchi
18.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Banchharampur
19.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Bijoynagar
20.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Brahmanbaria Sadar
21.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Kasba
22.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Nabinagar
23.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Nasirnagar
24.	Chattogram	Brahmanbaria	Sarail

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
25.	Chattogram	Chandpur	Chandpur Sadar
26.	Chattogram	Chandpur	Faridganj
27.	Chattogram	Chandpur	Hajiganj
28.	Chattogram	Chandpur	Kachua
29.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Anwara
30.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Banshkhali
31.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Fatikchhari
32.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Hathazari
33.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Mirsarai
34.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Rangunia
35.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Raozan
36.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Satkania
37.	Chattogram	Chattogram	Sitakunda
38.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Barura
39.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Burichang
40.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Chandina
41.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Chauddagram
42.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Daudkandi
43.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Debidwar
44.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Laksam
45.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Lalmai
46.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Manoharganj
47.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Muradnagar
48.	Chattogram	Cumilla	Nangalkot
49.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Chakaria
50.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Coxs Bazar Sadar

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
51.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Eidgaon
52.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Kutubdia
53.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Maheshkhali
54.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Pekua
55.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Ramu
56.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Teknaf
57.	Chattogram	Cox's Bazar	Ukhia
58.	Chattogram	Feni	Feni Sadar
59.	Chattogram	Feni	Sonagazi
60.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Dighinala
61.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Guimara
62.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Khagrachhari Sadar
63.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Lakkhichhari
64.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Mahalchhari
65.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Manikchhari
66.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Matiranga
67.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Panchhari
68.	Chattogram	Khagrachhari	Ramgarh
69.	Chattogram	Lakshmipur	Lakshmipur Sadar
70.	Chattogram	Lakshmipur	Ramganj
71.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Begumganj
72.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Companiganj
73.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Hatiya
74.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Senbag
75.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Sonaimuri
76.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Subarnachar

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
77.	Chattogram	Noakhali	Noakhali Sadar
78.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Baghaichhari
79.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Barkal
80.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Kawkhali
81.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Belaichhari
82.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Kaptai
83.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Jurachhari
84.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Langadu
85.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Naniarchar
86.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Rajasthali
87.	Chattogram	Rangamati	Rangamati Sadar
88.	Dhaka	Dhaka	Dhamrai
89.	Dhaka	Dhaka	Keraniganj
90.	Dhaka	Dhaka	Nawabganj
91.	Dhaka	Dhaka	Savar
92.	Dhaka	Faridpur	Alfadanga
93.	Dhaka	Faridpur	Bhanga
94.	Dhaka	Faridpur	Char Bhadrasan
95.	Dhaka	Faridpur	Faridpur Sadar
96.	Dhaka	Faridpur	Sadarpur
97.	Dhaka	Gazipur	Gazipur Sadar
98.	Dhaka	Gazipur	Kaliakair
99.	Dhaka	Gazipur	Kaliganj
100.	Dhaka	Gazipur	Kapasia
101.	Dhaka	Gazipur	Sreepur
102.	Dhaka	Gopalganj	Gopalganj Sadar

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
103.	Dhaka	Gopalganj	Kashiani
104.	Dhaka	Gopalganj	Kotalipara
105.	Dhaka	Gopalganj	Muksudpur
106.	Dhaka	Gopalganj	Tungipara
107.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Austagram
108.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Bajitpur
109.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Karimganj
110.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Katiadi
111.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Kishoreganj Sadar
112.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Nikli
113.	Dhaka	Kishoregonj	Pakundia
114.	Dhaka	Madaripur	Madaripur Sadar
115.	Dhaka	Madaripur	Shibchar
116.	Dhaka	Manikganj	Daulatpur
117.	Dhaka	Manikganj	Shibalay
118.	Dhaka	Manikganj	Singair
119.	Dhaka	Munshiganj	Munshiganj Sadar
120.	Dhaka	Munshiganj	Sirajdikhan
121.	Dhaka	Munshiganj	Sreenagar
122.	Dhaka	Narayanganj	Araihazar
123.	Dhaka	Narayanganj	Sonargaon
124.	Dhaka	Narayanganj	Narayanganj Sadar
125.	Dhaka	Narayanganj	Rupganj
126.	Dhaka	Narsingdi	Manohardi
127.	Dhaka	Narsingdi	Narsingdi Sadar
128.	Dhaka	Narsingdi	Raipura

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
129.	Dhaka	Narsingdi	Shibpur
130.	Dhaka	Rajbari	Rajbari Sadar
131.	Dhaka	Shariatpur	Bhedarganj
132.	Dhaka	Shariatpur	Gosairhat
133.	Dhaka	Tangail	Ghatail
134.	Dhaka	Tangail	Kalihati
135.	Dhaka	Tangail	Madhupur
136.	Dhaka	Tangail	Mirzapur
137.	Dhaka	Tangail	Nagarpur
138.	Dhaka	Tangail	Sakhipur
139.	Dhaka	Tangail	Tangail Sadar
140.	Khulna	Bagerhat	Morelganj
141.	Khulna	Chuadanga	Alamdanga
142.	Khulna	Jashore	Jhikargachha
143.	Khulna	Jashore	Jashore Sadar
144.	Khulna	Jashore	Manirampur
145.	Khulna	Jashore	Sharsha
146.	Khulna	Jhenaidah	Jhenaidah Sadar
147.	Khulna	Jhenaidah	Maheshpur
148.	Khulna	Jhenaidah	Shailkupa
149.	Khulna	Khulna	Dumuria
150.	Khulna	Khulna	Dighalia
151.	Khulna	Khulna	Rupsa
152.	Khulna	Kushtia	Daulatpur
153.	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali
154.	Khulna	Kushtia	Kushtia Sadar

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
155.	Khulna	Kushtia	Mirpur
156.	Khulna	Magura	Magura Sadar
157.	Khulna	Magura	Mohammadpur
158.	Khulna	Magura	Shalikha
159.	Khulna	Meherpur	Gangni
160.	Khulna	Narail	Lohagara
161.	Khulna	Satkhira	Satkhira Sadar
162.	Khulna	Satkhira	Shyamnagar
163.	Khulna	Satkhira	Tala
164.	Mymensingh	Jamalpur	Islampur
165.	Mymensingh	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar
166.	Mymensingh	Jamalpur	Melandaha
167.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Bhaluka
168.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Dhobaura
169.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Fulbaria
170.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Gafargaon
171.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Gouripur
172.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Haluaghat
173.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Ishwarganj
174.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Mymensingh Sadar
175.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Muktagachha
176.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Nandail
177.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Fulpur
178.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Tarakanda
179.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Trishal
180.	Mymensingh	Netrakona	Kalmakanda

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
181.	Mymensingh	Netrakona	Kendua
182.	Mymensingh	Netrakona	Netrakona Sadar
183.	Mymensingh	Netrakona	Purbadhala
184.	Mymensingh	Sherpur	Nakla
185.	Mymensingh	Sherpur	Nalitabari
186.	Mymensingh	Sherpur	Sherpur Sadar
187.	Rajshahi	Bogura	Gabtali
188.	Rajshahi	Bogura	Sherpur
189.	Rajshahi	Bogura	Shibganj
190.	Rajshahi	Joypurhat	Akkelpur
191.	Rajshahi	Naogaon	Manda
192.	Rajshahi	Naogaon	Mahadebpur
193.	Rajshahi	Naogaon	Naogaon Sadar
194.	Rajshahi	Naogaon	Niamatpur
195.	Rajshahi	Natore	Singra
196.	Rajshahi	Chapainawabganj	Chapainawabganj Sadar
197.	Rajshahi	Chapainawabganj	Shibganj
198.	Rajshahi	Pabna	Chatmohar
199.	Rajshahi	Pabna	Ishwardi
200.	Rajshahi	Pabna	Pabna Sadar
201.	Rajshahi	Pabna	Santhia
202.	Rajshahi	Pabna	Sujanagar
203.	Rajshahi	Rajshahi	Bagmara
204.	Rajshahi	Rajshahi	Godagari
205.	Rajshahi	Sirajganj	Belkuchi
206.	Rajshahi	Sirajganj	Rayganj

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
207.	Rajshahi	Sirajganj	Shahjadpur
208.	Rajshahi	Sirajganj	Sirajganj Sadar
209.	Rajshahi	Sirajganj	Ullapara
210.	Rangpur	Dinajpur	Birganj
211.	Rangpur	Dinajpur	Chirirbandar
212.	Rangpur	Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar
213.	Rangpur	Dinajpur	Nababganj
214.	Rangpur	Dinajpur	Parbatipur
215.	Rangpur	Gaibandha	Gaibandha Sadar
216.	Rangpur	Gaibandha	Gobindaganj
217.	Rangpur	Gaibandha	Sadullapur
218.	Rangpur	Gaibandha	Sundarganj
219.	Rangpur	Kurigram	Nageshwari
220.	Rangpur	Kurigram	Ulipur
221.	Rangpur	Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar
222.	Rangpur	Nilphamari	Dimla
223.	Rangpur	Nilphamari	Jaldhaka
224.	Rangpur	Nilphamari	Saidpur
225.	Rangpur	Panchagarh	Panchagarh Sadar
226.	Rangpur	Rangpur	Badarganj
227.	Rangpur	Rangpur	Mithapukur
228.	Rangpur	Rangpur	Pirgachha
229.	Rangpur	Rangpur	Pirganj
230.	Rangpur	Thakurgaon	Pirganj
231.	Rangpur	Thakurgaon	Thakurgaon Sadar
232.	Sylhet	Habiganj	Baniachong

Sl. No.	Division	District	Upazila
233.	Sylhet	Habiganj	Chunarughat
234.	Sylhet	Habiganj	Madhabpur
235.	Sylhet	Habiganj	Nabiganj
236.	Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Baralekha
237.	Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Kamalganj
238.	Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Kulaura
239.	Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Moulvibazar Sadar
240.	Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Rajnagar
241.	Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Sreemangal
242.	Sylhet	Sunamganj	Chhatak
243.	Sylhet	Sunamganj	Dowarabazar
244.	Sylhet	Sunamganj	Jagannathpur
245.	Sylhet	Sunamganj	Sunamganj Sadar
246.	Sylhet	Sylhet	Dakkhin Surma
247.	Sylhet	Sylhet	Golapganj
248.	Sylhet	Sylhet	Gowainghat
249.	Sylhet	Sylhet	Kanaighat
250.	Sylhet	Sylhet	Osmaninagar