

i-HUB GUJARAT · FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Product & Service Testing and Validation Support Scheme

Up to ₹10 Lakh to test, certify and field-validate your innovation



The scheme at a glance

Financial assistance for startups and innovators to test and validate products or services before wider deployment or commercialization.

₹10 Cr

Total fund corpus

₹10 Lakh

Max. support per startup
/ innovator

100+

Startups supported per
year

100%

Of funds go directly to
startups

Implementation period

1 year (extendable up to 3 years)

Startup stages covered

- MVP • Product Ready • Early Revenue • Growth
- Scaling

What the scheme aims to do



Structured testing

Facilitate structured testing and validation of innovative products and services



Market readiness

Refine products and services for deployment or commercialization



Real-world validation

Support pilots with government, industry, academia or other end users



Defined scope

Enable defined testing and validation activities within approved scope



Evidence

Generate technical, operational and user-validation evidence

Why it matters: lab reports, certifications and pilot results are often the costliest hurdle between prototype and market.

Who can apply?

AGE LIMIT

≤ 35

years on the date of application

**Student, innovator, startup
founder / co-founder, director or
partner**

AND meet any ONE of these conditions

- 1 Registered with Gujarat ROC and recognised as a startup by DPIIT
- 2 Eligible for benefits under SSIP 2.0
- 3 Already availed benefits under SSIP 2.0
- 4 Availed benefits under a Government of Gujarat startup scheme
- 5 Availed an i-Hub Gujarat scheme, or beneficiary of an i-Hub Gujarat flagship programme

What your proposal must show



Suitable product

Your product, process or service is suitable for the proposed testing and validation activity



Competent team

Team has relevant technical / domain skills and experience



Viable idea

The concept is sustainable and commercially viable



Clear test plan

Activity, host organisation / end users, objectives, scope, method, timeline, budget and outcomes



Before starting, obtain any permissions, regulatory approvals, ethical clearances, safety certifications or statutory compliances the activity needs.

What the grant can pay for



Product & service testing

Testing and validation of products and services



Quality testing & certification

Proof-of-Concept demonstrations and demonstration projects



Field trials/validation

Field trials and field validation in real operating environments



Testing services

Testing / validation services and other approved activities

Testing & certification from recognised bodies

Covers quality testing, certification and validation from:

- State and Central Government testing & certification institutes
- Academic institutes and PSUs
- Government-funded private and PPP institutes
- Certification agencies of international repute

Standards such as

BIS

CDSCO

NABL

ERTL

NTH

TEC

SAMEER

CPRI

CIPET

CE

USFDA

TÜV

SGS

+ others

Goal: Meet quality & compliance standards, reduce entry barriers and speed up go-to-market.

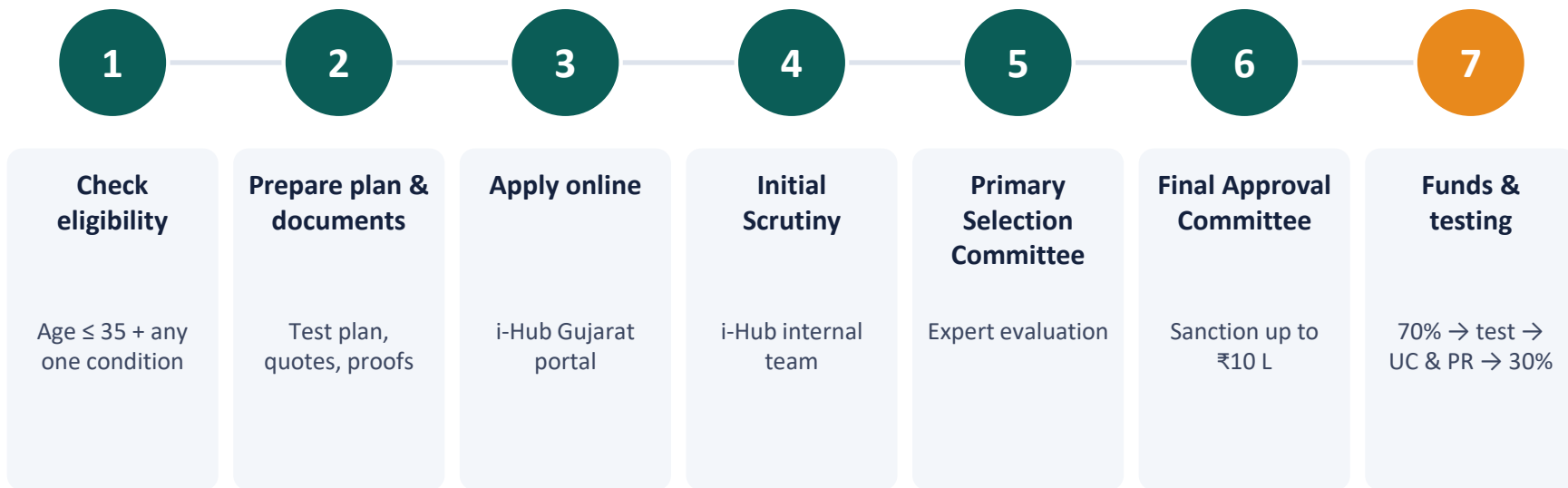
PART 2

How to apply, end to end

From checking eligibility to receiving the final instalment



The application journey



Steps 1–3 are done by you; steps 4–6 by i-Hub Gujarat and its committees; step 7 is shared.

Step 2: Keep these ready before you apply



About you & your startup

- ✓ Proof of age (Aadhaar / PAN / Passport) (Mandate)
- ✓ Proof of eligibility: DPIIT + ROC certificate, or SSIP 2.0 / Gujarat scheme / i-Hub benefit letter (Mandate)
- ✓ Pitch Deck or Budget Plan (Mandate)
- ✓ Educational Certificate, and CVs of founder(s), details of key team members (Mandate)



About the testing activity

- ✓ Testing / validation plan with timeline (Optional)
- ✓ Quotation(s) from testing lab, certification agency or vendors (Optional)
- ✓ Consent letter/Letter of Intent from host organisation / end user (for pilots) (Optional)
- ✓ Copies of permissions / approvals / clearances, if applicable (Optional)

Step 3: Filling the application form

A

Applicant details

Name, DOB, age,
contact, role

B

Startup details

Entity, CIN, DPIIT no.,
stage, sector

C

Team

Members, skills,
experience

D

Eligibility

Tick condition +
reference no.

E

Product / service

Problem, solution,
status, viability

F

Testing plan

Lab, standard, scope,
method, timeline

G

Budget

Item-wise cost, amount
requested

H

Documents

Attach checklist items

I

Declaration

Sign, date and submit

Sections F and G carry the most weight: be specific about what will be tested, where, how, and at what cost.

Writing a strong testing & validation plan

Plan element	What to write
Activity	What exactly will be done (lab test, validation, certification, field trial)
Host / end users	Testing lab, agency, or the organization
Objectives & scope	What you want to prove, and which features / parameters will be tested
Methodology	How tests are run, standards followed, sample sizes
Timeline	Milestones with start and end months
Budget	Item-wise costs backed by quotations (max ₹10 Lakh)
Outcomes	Certificates, test reports, field trial data, validation report

Steps 4–6: How applications are selected



Initial Scrutiny

i-Hub Gujarat internal team checks eligibility and documents



Primary Selection Committee

Experts from INIs, incubators, industry, successful startups, GKS, i-Hub and government labs evaluate



Final Approval Committee

Chaired by i-Hub Chairperson (or nominee); includes IIT Gandhinagar Research Park, Startup Gujarat Cell, Chamber of Commerce

Evaluation criteria

- Eligibility
- Relevance & feasibility of the activity
- Readiness of product / service
- Capability of applicant & team
- Proposed outcomes
- Estimated expenditure
- Innovation & Social Impact
- And Relevant Other factors

Step 7: How funds are released

70% First instalment

30% Second

Released when

Final Approval Committee approves AND all pre-disbursement conditions are completed

Released when

At least 70% of the first instalment is used AND the Utilization Certificate (UC) & Progress Report (PR) is submitted



Grant valid for 2 years from disbursement



Final UC & PR due on completion



Unused balance returned to i-Hub

After funding: your reporting duties



Utilization Certificates with supporting documents



Progress and final reports with outcomes achieved



Proof of testing / validation certificates



Access to records and evidence for verification



Physical or virtual verification when asked



Third-party evaluation / social audit cooperation

Misrepresentation, misuse of funds or non-compliance leads to recovery of the assistance as per prevailing norms.

Ready to apply?

- ✓ Am I 35 or younger, and do I meet one eligibility condition?
- ✓ Is my testing plan specific: lab, standard, scope, method, timeline?
- ✓ Do I have quotations and all supporting documents?
- ✓ Do I have the permissions / clearances my test needs?

Apply on the i-Hub Gujarat online portal: [\[portal link\]](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Testing and Validation Support Scheme?

The **Product and Service Testing and Validation Support Scheme** is an initiative of i-Hub Gujarat that provides financial assistance to eligible startups and innovators for testing, validation, deployment and field validation of innovative products or services.

2. What is the objective of the scheme?

The scheme aims to:

Facilitate structured testing and validation of innovative products and services.

Support pilot implementation with government, industry, academic institutions or relevant end users.

Generate technical, operational and user-validation evidence.

Support product/service refinement and readiness for further deployment or commercialization.

3. Who can apply under the scheme?

A **student, innovator, startup founder/co-founder, director or partner up to 35 years of age** on the date of application may be considered, subject to fulfilment of the applicable eligibility conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

4. What are the eligibility conditions?

The applicant should fulfil **at least one** of the following conditions:

- Startup registered with Gujarat ROC and recognized by DPIIT.
- Eligible for benefits under SSIP 2.0.
- Previously availed benefits under SSIP 2.0.
- Previously availed benefits under a Government of Gujarat startup scheme.
- Previously availed benefits under an i-Hub Gujarat scheme or applicable i-Hub flagship programme.

5. What is the maximum financial assistance available?

Eligible startups/innovators may receive financial assistance of **up to ₹10 lakh**, subject to approval and the sanctioned amount.

6. What stages of startups can be supported?

The scheme targets innovators/startups at stages including:

Ideation, Proof of Concept (PoC), Prototype, Early Revenue and Growth

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

7. Can the grant be used for certification?

Yes. The scheme covers expenses related to **quality testing, certification and validation** through eligible testing and certification institutes/agencies

8. Which testing and certification agencies/institutions are covered?

Support may cover eligible institutes/agencies associated with standards or certifications such as **BIS, CDSCO, NABL, ERTL, NTH, TEC, SAMEER, CPRI, CIPET, CE, USFDA, TUV and SGS**, or other relevant national, regional or international standards, as applicable to the product/service.

9. Are regulatory approvals or ethical clearances required?

Where applicable, the applicant must obtain the required **permissions, regulatory approvals, ethical clearances, safety certifications and other statutory compliances** before commencement of the proposed activity.

10. How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will first undergo **preliminary scrutiny by the i-Hub Gujarat internal team** for eligibility and application requirements. Eligible applications will then be placed before the appropriate screening/selection committee, followed by final approval by the authorized Final Approval Committee.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

11. What activities can the grant support?

Financial assistance may be used for approved activities such as:

- Product testing and validation
- Service testing and validation
- PoC demonstration
- Field trials and field validation
- Demonstration projects
- Customer/end-user validation
- Specifically approved testing or validation services
- Procurement/rental of equipment, tools, kits or other inputs directly required for the approved activity, subject to applicable rules and approvals.

12. What documents are required after receiving the grant?

Beneficiaries are required to submit relevant documents, including:

- Utilization Certificates
- Supporting expenditure documents
- Progress and/or final reports
- Outcomes achieved
- Testing/validation certificates, wherever applicable
- Records and evidence required for verification.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

13. What should the applicant submit with the application?

The applicant should submit a **defined testing/validation plan**, covering, wherever applicable:

- Proposed activity
- Implementing/host organization or intended end users
- Objectives
- Scope
- Methodology
- Timeline
- Estimated expenditure
- Expected outcomes.

14. What factors are considered during evaluation?

Evaluation may consider:

- Eligibility
- Relevance and feasibility of the proposed testing/validation activity
- Product/service readiness
- Applicant/team capability
- Proposed outcomes
- Estimated expenditure
- Applicable provisions of the administrative approval.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

15. How is the approved grant disbursed?

The approved grant is disbursed in **two instalments**:

First instalment: 70%

Second instalment: 30%.

16. What are the conditions for receiving the second instalment?

The remaining **30%** is released after:

Utilization of at least **70% of the first instalment**, and

Submission of the required **Utilization Certificate (UC)**.

17. What is the validity period of the grant?

The grant is valid for **2 years from the date of disbursement**. Any unutilized balance, if applicable, must be returned to i-Hub Gujarat.

18. Can the grant be used for general business expenses?

No. The financial assistance must be used **exclusively for approved activities directly related to testing and validation** of the product, process or service.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

19. Is equipment procurement allowed?

Procurement or rental of **equipment, tools, kits or other inputs** may be permitted when they are directly required for the approved testing/validation activity, subject to applicable procurement rules and approvals.

20. Is monitoring of the supported activity required?

Yes. Beneficiaries may be required to participate in **physical or virtual verification**, third-party evaluation/verification, social audit or other review mechanisms as required by i-Hub Gujarat.

21. What happens in case of misuse of funds or non-compliance?

Financial assistance may be **recovered in cases of misrepresentation, misuse of funds or non-compliance**, as per prevailing norms.

22. How many startups/innovators are expected to be supported?

The scheme targets **more than 100 startups per year**, subject to the availability of funds and applicable approvals.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

23. Does the applicant need a competent technical team?

Yes. The applicant should have a **competent team with relevant technical/domain skills and experience** and should demonstrate that the proposed concept/idea is sustainable and commercially viable.

24. Can testing be conducted with government, industry or academic institutions?

Yes. The scheme specifically supports **testing & validation implementation with government, industry, academic institutions or other relevant end users**, wherever applicable.

25. Does approval of the application guarantee the full ₹10 lakh?

No. **₹10 lakh is the maximum financial assistance**, while the actual assistance is subject to evaluation, approval, the proposed activity, estimated expenditure and the sanctioned amount.

26. What is the purpose of testing and validation under this scheme?

Testing and validation are intended to generate **technical evidence, operational evidence, user feedback and other results** that can support refinement, quality/compliance readiness, further deployment and commercialization of the product or service.

27. Where can applicants apply?

Applications are invited through the **online/digital application mechanism prescribed by i-Hub Gujarat**.

THANKING YOU

About i-Hub : i-Hub is an incubation centre established under the SSIP by the Education Department, Government of Gujarat, and is registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. i-Hub serves as a catalyst for strengthening the startup ecosystem throughout Gujarat, through its cohesive strategies and efforts to develop an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth. By linking students, academia, and industry, i-Hub bridges the gap between "Mind to Market," encouraging collaboration and innovation throughout the entrepreneurial journey.



www.ihubgujarat.in



support@ihubgujarat.in



[/ihubgujarat](https://www.instagram.com/ihubgujarat)