

INTRODUCTION TO THE FUND

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched on December 3rd, 2005 with the primary objective of creating economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive cities in the country. It is the largest ever national urban initiative & envisages central government support of Rs. 50,000 crore over seven years period. JNNURM includes two Sub-Missions one on Urban Infrastructure and Governance and the second on Basic Services to the Urban Poor.

One refreshing aspect of JNNURM is that it acknowledges that each city needs to evolve its own solutions and responses, although the underlying urban governance structures are not necessarily different. Cities will ultimately have to find their own destinies, harnessing their economic opportunities as well as the passion and energies of their residents. This approach ensures that local solutions emerge to address local issues; it is also consistent with calls for greater decentralisation, local democracy and citizen participation.

JNNURM requires State Governments to enact a Community Participation Law, to enable constitution of Area Sabhas within municipal wards. States are also required to enact a Public Disclosure Law mandating Urban Local Bodies(ULBs) to periodically disclose information to its citizens. The Mission also requires that the City Development Plans being submitted to the Mission are formed with due level of stakeholder consultation at the grassroots level.

At the same time, it is being increasingly realized that communities have little capacity to participate. Providing the platform for participation as described above is only one aspect of enabling community participation; the other is to ensure that communities have capacity to fully utilize these spaces, and participate meaningfully. This issue is even more acute with respect to the urban poor.

To address this issue, a Community Participation Fund (CPF) has been established. The primary objective of this Fund is to create capacities in the communities to effectively engage and contribute in improving their living environment. It is meant to catalyze the process of community participation by creating a “Participatory Incubator” in some sense allowing communities to experience the process of collective decision-making for themselves and taking full accountability for these decisions on themselves.

This toolkit provides the necessary information for the Community Participation Fund of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). It serves as a broad set of guidelines for the fund. It will be revised from time to time by the JNNURM Mission Directorate, with feedback from the National Technical Advisory Group(NTAG), based on inputs and experiences on the ground.