



THE merSETA's Funding Application Guideline

February – January
2021

APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY-FUNDED PROJECTS

February / January 2021

This guideline outlines specific interventions to apply for when responding to the call for Discretionary Grant application notice. Each initiative stipulates the set of initiatives to be addressed and entities eligible for application. Only relevant entities' application that show capacity to deliver will be considered. Entities may apply for one or more of the interventions falling under the initiatives. All initiatives are for the benefit of the Skills for Rapid Economic Reconstruction and Recovery.

1. COOPERATIVES SUPPORT INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC AREAS FOR APPLICATION INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- 1.1 Skills development interventions to create capacity to cooperative to participate in the supply chain of the mer sector.

Target applicant/s: Individual cooperatives, or, an umbrella body for cooperatives, or registered NPOs, NGOs, CBOs that actively provide skills development for the cooperative sector.

2. PROGRAMMES TARGETING RURAL AND TOWNSHIP ECONOMY, SMMEs, BLACK INDUSTRIALISTS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY, ETC

- 2.1 General accredited management skills
- 2.2 Technical/engineering/manufacturing production related training and other training for skills required for operational efficiency and production efficiency.

Proposals may include funding for efficiency and productivity improvement by including partnership with HEI industrial engineering departments (involvement of



students under supervision of professor/associate professor/post doc fellow in providing industrial engineering/productivity and process engineering support and advice). Entities may also partner with providers that offer productivity improvement skills. The cost to partnerships must be included in the proposal.

Target applicant/s: Entities owned by designated black people (for black industrialist interventions), entities intending to support rural and township economy, entities working with people with disability, and SMMEs.

3. GREEN SKILLS/CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS FOR APPLICATIONS INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- 3.1 Implementation of qualifications, skills programmes, skills sets for supporting environmental friendly production processes or skills for new/emerging green businesses linked to the mer sector industries
- 3.2 Development of green friendly policies, processes, procedures, guidelines practices for production/manufacturing

Target applicant/s: PSET E&T institutions, accredited skills development providers, registered NPOs, NGOs, CBOs specialising in activities for the green economy industrial sectors, new or emerging businesses green businesses linked to merSETA sector industries.

should account for the majority of the training or mentoring beneficiaries.

4. TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) COLLEGES INTERVENTION: SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS FOR APPLICATIONS ARE:

- 4.1 TVET college support on occupational programmes through availability of equipment and workshop infrastructure.
- 4.2 Support on development of augmented reality and/or virtual reality simulation training platforms for merSETA qualifications and skills development programmes.
- 4.3 Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) innovation skills development facilities supported by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) on private public partnerships (PPPs).
- 4.4 Bursaries for TVET college lecturers to improve their technical or pedagogy skills through qualifications or part qualifications.



- 4.5 TVET college managers training on curriculum related studies credit bearing or non-credit bearing skills development programmes
- 4.6 TVET college lecturers support on industry exposure skills development programme or project or activity, so as to contribute to their development
- 4.7 Research into the feasibility of utilising TVET college campuses as community spaces for stimulating the growth of community-based enterprises (See Annexure Guidelines for Funded Research Projects Nov/Dec 2020, for further details and scope)

Target applicant/s: TVET Colleges, Original Equipment Manufacturers, Higher Education Institutions, merSETA companies/employer organisations w.r.t. industry exposure, research institutions, research providers

5. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET) COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS INTERVENTION: SPECIFIC INTERVENTION FOR APPLICATION ARE:

- 5.1 CET College lecturers supported through skills programmes to contribute to their development as lecturers – either those related to technical or discipline related to merSETA qualifications, or those related to improving their pedagogy skills.
- 5.2 CET college managers training on curriculum related studies credit bearing or non-credit bearing skills development programmes.
- 5.3 CET college support on occupationally directed programmes through availing equipment and workshop infrastructure.

Target applicant/s: Community Education and Training Colleges, TVET Colleges, Original Equipment Manufacturers, Higher Education Institutions. Partnerships and collaborations will be an added advantage.

6. RESEARCH:

- 6.1 TVET and community colleges as working spaces for community-based enterprises.

Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and Community Colleges have a wealth of resources that are not fully utilised for the greater benefit of the community around them. There are a number of informal workers, cooperatives and community based entrepreneurs who may benefit from access to facilities and workshops that have equipment and machinery. These resources may be financially



out of reach to community based enterprises who fall within the merSETA scope of coverage .To grant access to such facilities may be of great economic benefit to informal workers, SMEs and entrepreneurs alike.

(See Annexure Guidelines for Research Funded Projects Feb 2021, for further details and scope, only applications that address the set out guidelines will be considered)

Target applicant/s: Public universities, research institutions, research providers

7. RETRENCHMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (RAP)

7.1 Retraining of retrenched employees to re-enter employment for jobs identified as being in demand

Project proposals should cover the following, but not limited to:

- Research data/evidence of demand and related accredited or approved programmes
- Pre-training (e.g. information sessions, career counselling, screening and skills recognition),
- Training programme/s and post-training steps and processes (post-training assistance includes resumé writing, networking advice, job search assistance via the internet and help with job interviews and self-marketing to potential employers).

7.2 Retraining for enterprise or self-employment opportunities including cooperatives

- Retraining skilled retrenched craft and trade workers, ARPL candidates, retrenched workers with disability to; and
- Enterprise or cooperative development linked to income generation opportunities such as municipal projects, merSETA occupationally directed community opportunities, provincial growth and development opportunities, merSETA industries supply chain opportunities, etc.

Target applicant/s: merSETA recognised employer organisations, labour organisations, NPOs & NGOs with the capacity to provide one or both types of interventions, accredited skills development providers, PSET education and training institutions, government departments and public entities (national, provincial, local), incubation hubs/organisations. Partnerships and collaborations will be an added advantage.



8. INCUBATION OF SHARED SERVICES COOPERATIVES ESTABLISHMENT BY GRADUATES

8.1 Support for the incubation and development shared services cooperatives by graduates to offer to clusters of small businesses, township businesses, etc general organisational/business sustainability services such as human resource management, payroll administration, marketing, business and financial planning, etc

Target applicant/s: TVET Colleges, Higher Education Institutions, relevant government departments and public entities (national, provincial, local). Partnerships and collaborations will be an added advantage.

9. AGENCIES TO MANAGE TRAINING IN SMMEs

9.1 Management of development of SMMEs as training spaces for WBL type learning programmes (e.g. trade related learnerships, apprenticeships) including but not limited to recruitment of learners, contracting of learners, payment of learners, placement of learners in participating SMMEs, payment of learning grants to participating SMMEs and skills development providers, recruitment of work experience mentors/coaches, managing integration of theory, practice and work experience, assessments, log book completions, trade tests programmes. Applying agencies would need to indicate their network of SMMEs. Letters of commitment from SMMEs to participate and take on learners/apprentices would be an advantage.

Target applicant/s: TVET Colleges, Higher Education Institutions, Public or Private Agencies, training centres.