



**merSETA**

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINE FOR DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021**

This guideline outlines specific interventions for which to apply when responding to the window 2 notice calling for Discretionary Grant applications. Each initiative stipulates the set of interventions 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 diversification and growth of mer sector and its industries (current, emerging and new).

### **1. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION PARTNERSHIPS**

1.1 Interventions will include but not limited to: graduate placement, work integrated learning, short learning programmes, research, and 4IR.

**Target applicants:** Higher education institutions registered by relevant South African regulatory bodies. The application may also include partnerships with industry players to achieve a specific outcome.

### **2. SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVES OPERATING BUSINESSES RELATED TO MERSETA SECTOR INDUSTRIES VALUE CHAIN INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC AREAS FOR APPLICATION INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

2.1 Skills development interventions to create capacity to cooperatives to enhance enterprises growth. Skills include but not limited to finance, management, ICT and mer sector priority skills identified in the sector skills plan and annual performance plan.

2.2 Mentorship interventions to support cooperatives linked to mer industries to function effectively.

**Target applicant/s:** Entities registered as cooperatives or umbrella bodies of cooperatives are eligible to apply for this initiative.

**3. SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT: SPECIFIC AREAS FOR APPLICATION INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

- 3.1 Skills development interventions to create capacity to enhance enterprises growth. Skills include but not limited to finance, management, ICT and mer sector priority skills identified in the sector skills plan and annual performance plan.
- 3.2 Entrepreneurial skills and other skills for business start-up and sustainability such as financial planning, marketing. These skills may be delivered through learnerships and skills programmes.
- 3.3 Skills programmes, or skills sets for supporting environmental friendly production processes or skills for new/emerging green businesses linked to the mer sector industries.

**Target Applicant/s:** Open to small businesses which employ 1- 49 employees. Rural and township based businesses are highly encouraged to apply. Applicants are encouraged to submit their BBBEE certificate or an exemption affidavit.

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

- 4.1 Support for occupational programmes (development or review, and, support for implementation); equipment and workshop infrastructure.
- 4.2 Bursaries for TVET college lecturers to improve their technical or pedagogy skills through qualifications or part qualifications.
- 4.3 TVET college managers training on curriculum related studies credit bearing or non-credit bearing skills development programmes
- 4.4 Support for TVET lecturers on industry exposure skills development programme or project or activity, for improved technical skills
- 4.5 Research projects for the TVET sector
- 4.6 TVET graduate placement within Public TVET Colleges for workplace experience

**Target applicant/s:** TVET Colleges are eligible to apply for these interventions. The applicants may include in their application envisaged partnerships with Original Equipment Manufacturers, Higher Education Institutions, merSETA

companies/employer organisations w.r.t. industry exposure, research institutions, research providers.

**5. PUBLIC COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET) COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS FOR APPLICATION ARE:**

- 5.1 Support for occupational programmes (development/review and implementation); equipment and workshop infrastructure.
- 5.2 Support for set up of infrastructure related to online teaching and learning support & management for the provision of short learning programmes.
- 5.3 Bursaries for CET college lecturers to improve their technical and, or pedagogy skills through qualifications or part qualifications.
- 5.4 CET college managers training on curriculum related studies credit bearing or non-credit bearing skills development programmes
- 5.5 Support for CET lecturers on industry exposure skills development programme or project or activity, for improved technical skills
- 5.6 Adult learners entering and completing education and skills development programmes offered through CET colleges
- 5.7 HEI and TVET graduate placements within Public CET Colleges for workplace experience

**Target applicant/s:** Community Education and Training Colleges. The applicants may include in their application envisaged partnerships with Original Equipment Manufacturers, Higher Education Institutions, merSETA companies/employer organisations w.r.t. industry exposure, curriculum development institutions

Entities with expertise in online teaching learning technology platforms are encouraged to apply in partnership with the CET for 5.2.

**6. DESIGNATED BLACK PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS FOR APPLICATION ARE:**

- 6.1 Accredited academic programmes from NQF level 6 and above targeting engineers/technicians/artisans/workshop floor supervisors aimed at transitioning

participants to management responsibilities. Post graduate certificate or diploma course in management for engineering graduates (recent/new graduates)

6.2 Leadership and management mentoring and, or coaching programmes by accredited coaches or coaching service providers

**Target applicant/s:** Higher education institutions (HEIs) and registered entities accredited to provide leadership mentoring and coaching are eligible to apply for this initiative.

HEIs and accredited mentoring and coaching entities may apply as partners.

**NB:** Training of designated Black females should account for the majority of the training or mentoring/coaching beneficiaries.

## **7. BLACK INDUSTRIALIST INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC AREAS FOR APPLICATIONS INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

7.1 Skills development interventions to create capacity to enhance enterprises growth.

Skills include but not limited to finance, management, ICT and merSETA sector related technical/engineering skills.

7.2 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 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). Companies may also partner with providers that offer productivity improvement skills. The cost to partnerships must be included in the proposal.

**Target applicant/s:** Black owned manufacturing companies operating in the mer sector industries/supply chain, can be in partnership with PSET E&T institutions and accredited skills development providers to implement qualifications and or skills programmes/skills sets.

## **8. TRADE UNIONS PARTNERSHIPS**

- 8.1 Bursaries for employed union members;
- 8.2 Bursaries for unemployed union members' children;
- 8.3 Skills programmes for union members

**Target applicant/s:** The initiative is open to trade unions in the mer sector.

## **9. EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**

- 9.1 The employer partnerships and organisations have an opportunity to apply in advance for 2 more years. This relate to partners who applied in the last window of 1 February 2021 – 30 June 2021. The system will be opened for these entities to apply for year 2 and 3. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all the available options.
- 9.2 Entities who did not apply in the last window of 1 February 2021 – 30 June 2021 have an opportunity to apply for three consecutive years. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all the available options.

**Target applicant/s:** The opportunity is open to all merSETA employers and eligible organisations and are encouraged to apply for the 3 year provision.

## **10. ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM**

Entities that specialise in system analysis and coding to develop online teaching and learning platform should submit an expression of interest with entity profile and capabilities to develop and maintain a platform of this nature. The expressions of interest will be subjected to an evaluation and entities with potential will be shortlisted and provided with additional project information to submit project proposals for final evaluation.

**Target applicant:** Preference will be given to South African registered entities.

## **HOW TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATIONS**

The applications will be submitted through the NSDMS platforms: normal DG application platform, and the project portal platform. The project portal has a template which entities applying through this platform are encouraged to complete in full. Entities have an option to also attach a proposal through the project portal platform.

**Deadline to receive proposals is 15 December 2021 at 23:59. Applications should be submitted through NSDMS.**

**IMPORTANT:** Once an entity has made a submission, it must take a screen shot that will show it has made the submission and the date and time of the submission.

**Applications submitted after this deadline will NOT be considered.**