



**merSETA**

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINE FOR DISCRETIONARY-FUNDED PROJECTS**

**December 2021**

This guideline outlines specific interventions to apply for when responding to the call for Discretionary Grant application notice closing 28 February 2022. 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 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:** Registered higher education institutions by relevant South African regulatory bodies. The application may also include partnerships with industry players to achieve a specific outcome.

### **2. COOPERATIVES SUPPORT INITIATIVE: SPECIFIC AREAS FOR APPLICATION INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

2.1 Skills development interventions to create capacity to cooperatives to enhance enterprises growth. Priority skills include but not limited to finance, management, ICT and mer sector related skills.

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 project.

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

- 3.1 Skills development interventions to create capacity to cooperative to enhance enterprises growth. Priority skills include but not limited to finance, management, ICT and manufacturing related skills.
- 3.2 Entrepreneurial skills and other skills for business sustainability such as financial planning, marketing, learnership, and skills programmes.
- 3.3 Skills programmes, or skills sets for supporting environmentally 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. TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) COLLEGES INTERVENTION: SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS FOR APPLICATIONS ARE:**

- 4.1 TVET college support for occupational programmes; 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 TVET college lecturers support on industry exposure skills development programme or project or activity, to contribute to their development
- 4.5 Research projects for the TVET sector

**Target applicant/s:** TVET Colleges are eligible to apply for this intervention. The applicants may include their application envisaged partnerships 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 support for occupational programmes; equipment and workshop infrastructure.
- 5.2 CET support for infrastructure related to online teaching and learning support & management for short learning programmes.
- 5.3 Bursaries for CET college lecturers to improve their technical 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 CET college lecturers support on industry exposure skills development programme or project or activity, to contribute to their development
- 5.6 CET adult learners entering and completing short learning programmes

**Target applicant/s:** Community Education and Training Colleges. Entities with expertise in online teaching learning technology platforms are encouraged to apply in partnership with the CET for 5.2.

## **6. Trade Unions Partnership**

Possible interventions for union partnerships include but not limited to:

- 6.1 Bursaries for employed union members;
- 6.2 Bursaries for unemployed union members' children;
- 6.3 Skills programmes for union members; and
- 6.4 Non-credit bearing interventions.

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

## **7. EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

- 7.1 The employer partnerships and stakeholders have an opportunity to apply for 3 consecutive years for entities who have not taken this option in window 1 and 2 of DGYR 22 calls for application.
- 7.2 Entities who applied for only 1 year in window 1 or window 2 of DGYR22 have an opportunity to apply for DGYR 23 and 24.

**Target applicant/s:** The opportunity is open to all merSETA companies. The companies must be registered and comply with South African legal prescripts.

## **8. CBOs/NGOs/NPOs for skills to growth, development, and sustainability.**

8.1 This partnership category is open to South African registered CBOs, NGOs, and NPOs operating in the mer sector. The funding in this category of stakeholder is for skills to grow or develop and sustain the activities or organisations.

**Target applicant/s:** The opportunity is open to CBOs, NGOs, and NPOs whose work is in the mer sector.

## **9. Rural development projects**

9.1 This intervention is open to South African registered entities who want to implement merSETA interventions to benefit the rural communities and individuals. The application should stipulate where the project will be implemented i.e., province, district, local municipality.

**Target applicant/s:** registered entities who want to implement merSETA interventions.

## **10. Organisation providing capacity building/training programmes for career advice practitioners/counsellor**

This intervention is open to South African registered entities who want to implement career guidance interventions aimed at benefitting the mer-Sector. The potential interventions include but not limited to:

10.1 Training of career development and advice practitioners to provide services that help learners, or adults, or workers to manage their careers and make occupational and study decisions. Practitioners includes, but not limited to technical high school teachers for life orientation subjects, career guidance practitioners in companies.

**Target applicant/s:** The opportunity is open to higher learning institutions, CBOs, NGOs, and NPOs whose work is in the mer sector and specialise in career guidance.

## **11. Organisation to implement research & innovation projects**

In line with the strategic intentions of the merSETA, efforts are continuously underway to review and strengthen the role of its mandate in the manufacturing sector. This intervention calls for Expressions of interest in the following areas of expertise:

- 11.1 Retrenched worker labour market analysis for the manufacturing sector
- 11.2 Discretionary grant funding metrics in the context of sector skills planning
- 11.3 Grant beneficiary track and trace systems development

#### 11.4 Supporting SEZs and Economic Hubs through skills development

Guidelines and formal request for information relating to number 11 above will be shared with those entities who have expressed an interest in any of the topic listed above.

**NB: applicants are advised to consider in their applications the following merSETA strategic programme areas contributing to the 5 (Five) year outcomes.**

- Development of SME as training spaces programme
- Skills for Black industrialist development programme
- Green skills programme
- Black people in leadership and management development
- Expanding the participation people living disabilities in merSETA skills development programmes
- Retrenchment [Assistance](#) Programme

#### **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 stakeholders applying through this platform are encouraged to complete in full. Stakeholders have an option to also attach a proposal through the project portal platform.

**Deadline to receive proposals is 28 February 2022 at 23:59. Applications should be submitted through NSDMS.**

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