



## DISCRETIONARY GRANT: 1st FUNDING WINDOW FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR APPLICATIONS: PIVOTAL PLAN AND SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

Opening Date: **20 December 2023** | Closing Date: **29 February 2024**

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) invites relevant stakeholders to apply for discretionary grants for the 2024/25 Financial Year (1st Funding Window). The first funding window aims to invite applications to address national and sector needs to be implemented as from 01 April 2024 for the initiatives listed below:

1. Skills development programmes through partnerships with levy-paying and non-levy-paying employers/companies to address Occupations in Demand, Professional, Vocational, Technical and Academic Learning (PIVOTAL), List/occupational shortages/skills gaps as identified in the merSETA Sector Skills Plan (SSP) and Annual Performance Plan (APP);
2. Skills development programmes for Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) skills and occupations as identified in the APP. Please refer to merSETA website ([www.merseta.org.za](http://www.merseta.org.za)) for SSP 2024-25 (i.e., Occupational Shortages and Skills Gap in the sector and the merSETA Priority Skills List, inclusive of those of the merSETA chambers/sub-sectors and the ERRP);
3. Candidacy programmes for engineering graduates registered to acquire professional registration;
4. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education Institution (HEI) Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programmes to facilitate/support TVET and HEI students to acquire national qualifications;
5. Cooperative enterprise development programmes for both the merSETA Occupations in Demand and supporting business/organisation to develop skills;
6. Skills development for trade union memberships;
7. Development of Black leadership and management skills/capacity, with particular emphasis on females within the merSETA industries;
8. Skills development for Black Industrialists;
9. Retrenchment Assistance Programmes (RAP) for workers retrenched from the merSETA member companies;
10. Skills development for township, rural, Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) offering the merSETA services and products.
11. Green skills development programmes for the merSETA sectors;
12. Entrepreneurship training for youth to support self-employment within the merSETA sector industries;
13. Skills development programmes for people with disabilities for Occupations in Demand and skills gaps as identified in the merSETA SSP and APP;
14. Community Education and Training (CET) and TVET lecturers exposed to the industry through skills programmes;
15. CET and TVET funded for the merSETA occupational programmes, equipment and workshop infrastructure;
16. Bursaries for employed and unemployed learners entering, continuing and completing studies;
17. Programmes / qualifications development projects for transforming/ emerging/ new Occupations in Demand;
18. Programmes in advancing community sustainably, addressing social issues and adhering to the merSETA's values and strategic objectives;
19. The merSETA Chamber initiated research or innovation projects; and
20. TVET research and innovation for engineering related domains.

In addition, preference will be given to applications from the following stakeholder groups:

- a) merSETA levy-paying and non-levy-paying employers;
- b) Community Based Organisations (CBOs)/ Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)/ Non-profit Organisations (NPOs);
- c) Cooperatives operating within the merSETA sector;
- d) Trade Unions;
- e) Higher Education Institutions;
- f) TVET/ CET Colleges;
- g) Research Organisations; and
- h) Skills Development Providers.

### Mandatory Compliance Documents

- a) Proof of company registration.
- b) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate – must not have expired.
- c) Valid B-BBEE Certificate or a sworn B-BBEE affidavit, where applicable.

**Failure to submit any of the above-listed documents will result in the disqualification of the application.**

New applicants must provide proof of / track record of education and training / skills development capacity to deliver learning programme/s for which application addresses.

### How to Apply?

- a) All applications must be submitted through National Skills Development Management System (NSDMS) via the Projects Portal Platform on <https://nsdms.merseta.org.za/> before the closing date. **Note:** Registration of new organisation and SDF on NSDMS takes at least 48 hours.
- b) The funding window opens on 20 Dec 2023 and closes on 29 Feb 2024.
- c) merSETA reserves the right to request supplementary information where applicable, and applicants will be given seven (7) working days to submit the information or address any queries that the merSETA may have concerning the applications submitted. **Failure to submit the supplementary information requested within the stipulated time will lead to disqualification.**
- d) The due date for submission will not be extended, and any late or incomplete application will not be considered.
- e) No email applications will be accepted.



## Performance Targets 2024/25

APP Targets (PIVOTAL Programmes)	Unemployed (Learners)	Employed (Learners)	Total Target
1. Learners registered for WIL programmes from TVET	500		500
2. Learners registered for WIL programmes from HEIs	750		750
3. Learners registered for workplace experience/internships	400		400
4. Learners registered for skills programmes	3000	2000	5000
5. Learners registered for learnership programmes	4000	1000	5000
6. Engineering graduates registered for candidacy programmes	25		25
7. Learners registered for bursary programmes (new entries)	88	104	192
8. Learners registered for bursary programmes (continuing)	350	50	400
9. Learners registered for AET programmes			50
10. Learners registered for trade / artisan qualifications (new registrations)			4000
11. Learners entering Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) programme			1500
12. People trained on entrepreneurship supported to start their business			120
13. CET learners accessing AET programmes			20
14. TVET college lecturers exposed to the industry through skills programmes			70

APP Targets (Partnerships to support programmes)	Total Target
1. Cooperatives trained on sector and national identified priority occupations or skills	4
2. SETAs through their skills planning research, identify skills needs of small and emerging enterprises	584
3. TVET partnerships established	25
4. HEI partnerships established	12
5. CET partnerships established	3
6. SETA-employer partnerships established	1200
7. CBOs/NGOs/NPOs funded for skills to grow/develop and sustain their activities or organisation	22
8. Trade Unions supported through skills development	2
9. Rural Development Projects supported through skills development	4
10. TVET Centres of Specialisation (CoS) supported	4
11. TVET colleges funded for merSETA occupational programmes, equipment and workshop infrastructure	4
12. Number of SETA offices maintained in TVET colleges	3
13. Career development events in urban areas on occupations in high demand	21
14. Career development events in rural areas on occupations in high demand	21
15. Career development practitioners trained	30
16. Capacity building workshops on career development services initiated	9
17. Occupational qualifications/ part-qualifications and/or skills programmes submitted to the QCTO	27