



**DISCRETIONARY GRANT: 1st FUNDING WINDOW FOR 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR APPLICATIONS: PIVOTAL PLAN AND SPECIFIC INITIATIVES**

**Opening Date: 11 November 2024 | Closing Date: 31 January 2025**

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) invites relevant stakeholders to apply for Discretionary Grants for the 2025/26 Financial Year (1st Funding Window). The first funding window invites applications to address national and sector needs to be implemented from 01 April 2025 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;
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 support for 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 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 or 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; and
19. Administration of merSETA bursaries.

**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 Compliant 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 the 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 organisations and Skills Development Facilitators (SDFs) on NSDMS takes at least 48 hours.
- b) **The funding window opens on 11 Nov 2024 and closes on 31 Jan 2025.**
- c) The 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 applications will not be considered.
- e) No email applications will be accepted.