



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

Media Statement: Discretionary Grant 1st Funding Window 2025/26

To: All Media

Attention: News Editors / Manufacturing and Engineering Reporters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 NOVEMBER 2024

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) is thrilled to announce the opening of its first funding window for Discretionary Grants for the 2025/26 financial year, inviting applications from 11 November 2024 to 31 January 2025. This funding initiative supports programmes that are set to launch on 1 April 2025, aligning with the merSETA's commitment to building a robust, future-ready workforce through targeted skills development and education.

With this grant, the merSETA is calling on eligible organisations, educational institutions and employers to step forward and collaborate in shaping the next generation of skilled professionals and leaders. The funding window aims to tackle key industry and national priorities, from job-ready skills training and youth entrepreneurship to environmental sustainability and small enterprise support.

Funding Priorities for a Brighter Future

The merSETA Discretionary Grant funding is tailored to make a tangible impact across various critical areas, including:

- Equipping workers with high-demand skills through PIVOTAL programmes and specialised training;
- Supporting the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) by investing in essential workforce skills;
- Creating pathways for engineering graduates to achieve professional status through candidacy programmes;
- Empowering TVET and Higher Education students with Work Integrated Learning opportunities for practical experience;
- Cultivating black leadership, with a focus on amplifying the roles of women in merSETA sectors;
- Fostering innovation through youth entrepreneurship training and supporting township, rural and SMME development;
- Developing green skills essential for a sustainable and resilient manufacturing and engineering sector;
- Offering Retrenchment Assistance Programmes (RAP) for retrenched workers to help them regain stability and re-skill; and
- In addition to these areas, the grant supports training programmes for union members, bursaries for employed and unemployed learners, and skills initiatives aimed at addressing community development and social challenges in line with the merSETA's values.

Who Should Apply?

The merSETA encourages applications from diverse stakeholders, including:

- Levy-paying and non-levy-paying merSETA employers;
- Community-based Organisations (CBOs) and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs);
- Cooperatives and trade unions within the merSETA industries;
- TVET, CET and Higher Education Institutions; and
- Research organisations and accredited skills development providers.

What's Needed to Apply

Applicants should ensure all compliance documents are submitted, including:

- Proof of company registration;
- A current Tax Clearance Certificate;
- A valid B-BBEE certificate or sworn affidavit (where applicable);

Note for New Applicants: A proven record of skills development experience or training capacity is required for consideration.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via the National Skills Development Management System (NSDMS) at <https://nsdms.merset.org.za>. Please allow at least 48 hours for new organisation or Skills Development Facilitator (SDF) registrations on the platform. Incomplete or late applications cannot be accepted. The merSETA may request supplementary information, which must be provided within seven working days to avoid disqualification.

Issued by the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA).

About the merSETA

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) is one of the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) established to promote skills development in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998 (as amended).

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