



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA



DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG):

SPECIAL FUNDING WINDOW FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR APPLICATIONS - SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

Career Awareness Initiatives

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The previously advertised **Discretionary Grant (DG) Special Funding Window for the 2026/27 Financial Year Applications - Specific Initiatives (19 September 2025 - 31 October 2025)** has been withdrawn. Eligible applicants who wish to be considered for funding are required to submit new applications in response to this advertisement.

Revised Application Period

Opening Date: **29 July 2026** Closing Date: **14 August 2026**

INVITATION TO APPLY

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) hereby invites eligible organisations to apply for funding under the 2026/27 Discretionary Grant Special Funding Window- Specific Initiatives.

The purpose of this funding window is to appoint suitably qualified service providers to implement Career Awareness initiatives that promote occupations in high demand within the manufacturing, engineering and related services sector, while supporting merSETA's strategic priorities and the National Skills Development Plan.

PROJECT

Career Awareness Events on Occupations in High Demand

The merSETA intends to appoint experienced and capable service providers to plan, coordinate and implement Career Awareness events in urban and rural communities throughout South Africa.

The initiatives are aimed at increasing awareness of career opportunities within the manufacturing and engineering sector, promoting skills development pathways and encouraging learners to pursue occupations in high demand.

A total of 50 events (25 urban and 25 rural) will be implemented. Applicants must specify their proposed urban and rural events, subject to a maximum of four (4) events in no more than two (2) provinces.

TVET College Partnership and Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate their ability to secure a formal partnership with the participating TVET college to support the registration of unemployed TVET learners for Work-Integrated Learning (WIL). The proposal must specify the number of unemployed TVET learners to be referred and registered for WIL at each Career Awareness event. Successful applicants will be required to facilitate the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between merSETA and the participating TVET college before project implementation.

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

Career Awareness events must primarily target:

- Learners in Grades 8 - 12 enrolled at Technical and Comprehensive High Schools;
- Learners studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.
- Learners with Special Educational Needs attending Special Schools.
- Unemployed TVET learners

IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

Projects will be implemented across all nine provinces:

- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- Northern Cape
- North West
- Western Cape

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH TVET COLLEGES

Successful service providers will be required to implement Career Awareness events in partnership with a local Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College.

The partnership will facilitate the formalisation of collaborative relationships between merSETA and TVET Colleges to strengthen learner access to career guidance, artisan development pathways and post-school education opportunities.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications will be evaluated against the published criteria, including organisational capacity, relevant experience, implementation methodology, project team, value for money, and compliance with the mandatory requirements.



Scan QR Code
to access the
Guideline

Link:

https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/ApplicationGuideline_DG-Special-Funding-Window_Career-Awareness_2026-27.pdf



Scan QR Code
to access the
Terms of Reference

Link:

https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/TermsOfReference_DG-Special-Funding-Window_Career-Awareness_2026-27.pdf

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified organisations, including:

- Community-Based Organisations (CBOs)
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs)
- Private Companies
- Sole Proprietorships
- Cooperatives operating within the merSETA sector
- Trade Unions
- Higher Education Institutions
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges
- Community Education and Training (CET) Colleges
- Accredited Skills Development Providers
- Event Management Companies

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to submit any of the following documents will result in disqualification:

- Proof of company registration
- Valid Tax Compliance Status (TCS) PIN or Tax Clearance Certificate
- Valid B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit (where applicable)

merSETA reserves the right to verify all information submitted.

TO ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF OPPORTUNITIES

Applicants may apply for implementation in any of the nine provinces, subject to the maximum of two (2) provinces per applicant. Submission of an application does not constitute or guarantee an award. The allocation of provinces, the number and location of events (including the urban/rural distribution), and the final award of funding are made at the sole and absolute discretion of merSETA. merSETA reserves the right to allocate fewer events than applied for, to award in some provinces and not others, or to make no award at all.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically through the National Skills Development Management System (NSDMS) Projects Portal: <https://nsdms.merseta.org.za>

Applicants are advised that:

- Registration of new organisations and Skills Development Facilitators (SDFs) on NSDMS may take up to 48 hours.
- Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.
- Incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- Applications submitted via email or any other platform will not be accepted.
- merSETA reserves the right to request additional information or clarification during the evaluation process.
- Applicants will be afforded seven (7) working days to submit any requested outstanding information. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

ENQUIRIES

For enquiries relating to this funding window, applicants should contact the merSETA through the details available on the official website.

Website: www.merseta.org.za

Telephone: 010 219 3000