

SERVICES SETA 2026/27-DG-01: DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Services SETA invites sector employers, employer associations, professional bodies, recognised trade unions and accredited Skills Development Providers to apply for the 2026/27 Discretionary Grant (DG) window. Through this DG window, the Services SETA will fund Learning Programmes aligned to the Sector Skills Plan (SSP), Strategic Plan (SP), the 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan (APP) and the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP) 2030. These Learning Programmes build scarce and critical skills and enable workplace-based learning with host employers.

Funding Window Dates

Opens: Monday, 10 November 2025 at 08h00

Closes: Tuesday, 9 December 2025 at 15h00

Late, manual, or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

1. Purpose of the Grant

This Discretionary Grant funds accredited learning and workplace-based learning with host employers, including Learnerships, Apprenticeships, Artisans Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Skills Programmes, Adult Education and Training (AET) and Candidacy - see the full list in Table 1 below. The outcome is a sustainable pipeline of skilled, competent and employable beneficiaries for the services sector.

2. Funding Priorities

Applicants must prioritise Learning Programmes on the Sector Priority Occupations and Interventions List (SPOIL) and Hard-to-Fill vacancies (see annexure A). Proposals outside of these categories will not be considered.

3. Who Can Apply?

The following entities operating within the services sector are eligible to apply:

- Services SETA Employers.
- Business Associations within the Services SETA scope.
- Professional Bodies within the Services SETA scope
- Trade Unions within the Services SETA scope
- Accredited Skills Development Providers (SDPs)

3. Learning Programmes

Services SETA will be allocating Discretionary Grant funding for the Learning Programmes set out in the table below.

Code	Learning Programme Name	Province	Who can apply
LP01	Learnerships Unemployed	National	Employers and Associations
LP02	Learnerships Employed	National	Employers and Associations
LP03	Apprenticeships	National	Employers and Associations
LP04A	Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) Unemployed	National	SDPs
LP04B	Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) Employed	National	SDPs
LP11A	Recognition of Prior Learning Unemployed	National	SDPs
LP11B	Recognition of Prior Learning Employed	National	SDPs
LP10	Adult Education and Training Employed	National	Employers and SDPs
LP12	Skills Programmes Employed	National	Employers, Associations, Union, SDPs
LP13	Skills Programmes Unemployed	National	SDPs
LP14	Candidacy Unemployed	National	Professional Bodies

Note:

*Applications must match the “Who can apply” column. Proposals outside these categories will not be considered.

4. Preference

Subject to funding availability and compliance, preference will be given to:

- Stakeholders who have successfully implemented Services SETA-funded Learning Programmes with evidence of timely learner enrolment, implementation, completion, certification and closure.
- Levy Paying Employers (LPEs) that have submitted their Workplace Skills Plan (WSP) and Annual Training Report (ATR) in 2025.
- Qualifications and occupations aligned to SPOIL and hard-to-fill vacancies
- Proposals supported by plans to absorb learners into employment post successful completion.
- Proposals that support equity targets for Black learners, women and youth under 35 years.
- Accredited SDPs or new entrants partnering with experienced, accredited SDPs.

Note: Preference improves the scoring and ranking of compliant applications but does not guarantee an award; all awards remain subject to due diligence, funding availability and Accounting Authority approval.

5. How to Apply

DG Portal

- Applications must be submitted online via the Services SETA DG portal www.serviceseta.org.za.
- All enquiries must be directed to dgenquiries@serviceseta.org.za.

6. Mandatory Compliance Documents

To be considered for this Discretionary Grant window, the following mandatory supporting documents need to be submitted. Failure to do so will lead to automatic disqualification.

- Company Registration Documents
- Valid Tax Clearance or Exemption Certificate
- List of Directors
- List of Companies within Group (where applicable)
- Declaration of Interest (Form 1a) (signed)

- Declaration of Authorised Person (Form 1b) (signed)
- POPI Declaration (Form 1c) (signed)
- Certified copies of shareholders' ID documents — certification not older than six (6) months.
- Certified copies of Authorized Persons ID documents — certification not older than six (6) months.
- Certified copies of Directors ID documents — certification not older than six (6) months.

Additional documents in line with Learning Programmes selection:

- Host Employer confirmation — a letter from the Host Employer confirming the number of learners per occupation that can be accommodate for workplace-based learning and acknowledgement that Workplace Approval will be applied for as it is a prerequisite for Learning Programme Commencement.
- SDP Accreditation confirmation.
- Professional Designation confirmation.

Learning Programmes	Applicability of Additional Documents
Learnerships	Host Employer AND SDP Accreditation confirmation
Apprenticeships	Host Employer AND SDP Accreditation confirmation
Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL)	Accreditation confirmation
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	Accreditation confirmation
Adult Education and Training (AET)	Accreditation confirmation
Skills Programmes	Accreditation confirmation
Candidacy	Professional Designation confirmation

7. The Evaluation of Applications Will Follow the Following Process

- Stage 1 - Submission through the DG portal.
- Stage 2 - Compliance and evaluation – evaluation of mandatory documents
- Stage 3 - Due diligence – applicants maybe requested to provide additional documents.

8. Evaluation Criteria

- Financial capacity and stability – ability to pre-finance and manage cashflow.
- B-BBEE status – contribution level as per Codes.
- Geographic reach – province, sites and accessibility for learners.
- Track record – prior experience and past performance on similar programmes.
- Organisational scale and maturity – size and years in operation.
- Alignment to core business – qualifications and interventions match the entity's operations.
- Alignment to sector needs – fit to SSP, SPOIL and hard-to-fill vacancies.
- Accreditation status – current SDP and programme/qualification accreditation.

9. Due Diligence

- COIDA Letter.
- Proof of registration for UIF.
- Latest Annual Financial Statement
- Good standing Bank Letter.
- Payment of Stipend (For entities with previous similar experience).
- Host employer readiness – confirmed placements, supervision and OHS compliance.
- Project management capability – delivery plan, staffing and governance.
- Value for money – realistic budgets, unit costs and scale relative to outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to enroll learners within 60 days (Working Day) from the date SETA inform you to enroll learners.
- Plans to absorb learners into employment post successful completion.
- Additional information might be required not listed above.

10. Critical Compliance Information for Applicants

- All the successful applicants are expected to implement the project in 2026/27 Financial Period.
- Learner Registration Deadline: All successful applicants must have the capacity to recruit learners and submit complete learner registration documents to the Services SETA within the prescribed period advised by Services SETA in the offer letter.
- Preference will be given to recruitment of learners or beneficiaries by applicant prioritising to Services SETA equity targets
 - 80% African
 - 70% Women
 - 60% Youth under 35 years
- If you have not heard from us within three (3) months of submitting your application please consider your application unsuccessful.

11. Important Notice on Funding Awards & SETA Discretion

Important notice on funding awards and SETA discretion

- All discretionary grant applications are subject to approval by the Services SETA Accounting Authority.
- Submission is a request for funding, not an award.
- Decisions depend on funding availability, alignment to the SSP and APP, full compliance with the published criteria, and due diligence outcomes.
- Services SETA may, at its discretion:
 - Decline projects that commenced before approval.
 - Decline set-up costs, capital expenditure and existing operating expenses for current employees
 - Decline training already funded elsewhere or by another SETA
 - Reduce the number of beneficiaries requested
 - Part-fund or decline an application
 - Cancel the funding process
 - Reallocate funding if learner enrolment deadlines are missed.

Funding decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CEO

Date: 07 November 2025

Annexure A: Sector Priority Occupations and Interventions List (SPOIL) and Hard-to-Fill vacancies by Learning Programme

LEARNERSHIPS UNEMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
1	118730	Occupational Certificate	Healthcare Cleaner	Level 2
2	121667	Occupational Certificate	Manual Skin Care Therapist	Level 4
3	120670	Occupational Certificate	Auctioneering	Level 4
4	118706	Occupational Certificate	Marketing Coordinator	Level 5
5	101869	Occupational Certificate	Project Manager	Level 5
6	117371	Occupational Certificate	Laundry Worker	Level 2
7	102147	Occupational Certificate	Facilities Management	Level 6
8	118768	Occupational Certificate	Quality Manager	Level 6
9	118709	Occupational Certificate	Small Business Consultant	Level 5
10	118741	Occupational Certificate	Commercial Cleaner	Level 1
11	102161	Occupational Certificate	Office Administrator	Level 5
12	121691	Occupational Certificate	Principal Agent	Level 5
13	118712	Occupational Certificate	Above Surface Cleaner	Level 1
14	118710	Occupational Certificate	Kitchenette Cleaner	Level 1
15	118713	Occupational Certificate	Commercial Floor Cleaner	Level 1
16	121690	Advanced Occupational Certificate	Franchise Manager	Level 6
17	99700	Occupational Certificate	Property Valuer	Level 4
18	124447	Occupational Certificate	Entrepreneurial Business Manager	Level 4
19	124485	Occupational Certificate	Entrepreneur	Level 3
20	99692	Occupational Certificate	Garden Worker	Level 2
21	118711	Occupational Certificate	Commercial Ablution Cleaner	Level 1

LEARNERSHIPS EMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
22	121689	Occupational Certificate	Cleaning Practitioner	Level 3
23	99687	Occupational Certificate	Contact Centre Manager	Level 5
24	121627	Occupational Certificate	Beauty Practitioner	Level 4
25	121672	Occupational Certificate	Beauty Body Treatment	Level 5
26	124489	Occupational Certificate	Make-up Artist	Level 4
27	119452	Occupational Certificate	Stone Engraver	Level 4
28	119448	Occupational Certificate	Stone Erector	Level 3
29	119449	Occupational Certificate	Stone Polisher	Level 3
30	119452	Occupational Certificate	Auctioneering	Level 4
31	99692	Occupational Certificate	Garden Worker	Level 2
32	117371	Occupational Certificate	laundry Sorter	Level 2
33	117369	Occupational Certificate	laundry Washer	Level 2
34	117372	Occupational Certificate	laundry Finisher	Level 2
35	118768	Occupational Certificate	Quality Manager	Level 6
36	118768	Occupational Certificate	Quality Assurer	Level 5
37	121689	Occupational Certificate	Cleaning Practitioner	Level 3
38	117371	Occupational Certificate	Laundry Worker	Level 2
39	118710	Occupational Certificate	Kitchenette Cleaner	Level 1
40	118713	Occupational Certificate	Commercial Floor Cleaner	Level 1
41	121690	Advanced Occupational Certificate	Franchise Manager	Level 6
42	99700	Occupational Certificate	Property Valuer	Level 4
43	124447	Occupational Certificate	Entrepreneurial Business Manager	Level 4
44	118730	Occupational Certificate	Healthcare Cleaner	Level 2
45	118741	Occupational Certificate	Commercial Cleaner	Level 1

APPRENTICESHIPS UNEMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
1	119446	Occupational Certificate	Stonemason	Level 3
2	91761	Occupational Certificate	Electrician	Level 4
3	102497	Occupational Certificate	Hairdresser	Level 4

ARTISAN RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING EMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
1	97226	Occupational Certificate	Hairdresser	Level 4
2	119446	Occupational Certificate	Stonemason	Level 3

ARTISAN RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING UNEMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
3	91751	Occupational Certificate	Electrician	Level 4
4	97226	Occupational Certificate	Hairdresser	Level 4

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING EMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
1	118730	Occupational Certificate	Health Care Cleaner	Level 2
2	99692	Occupational Certificate	Garden Worker	Level 2
3	118741	Occupational Certificate	Commercial Cleaner	Level 1
4	121607	Occupational Certificate	Beauty Therapist	Level 4
5	102147	Occupational Certificate	Facilities Management	Level 6
6	121689	Occupational Certificate	Cleaning Practitioner	Level 3
7	120670	Occupational Certificate	Auctioneering	Level 4

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING UNEMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
8	121691	Occupational Certificate	Principal Agent	Level 5

SKILLS PROGRAMMES UNEMPLOYED				
No.	Skills Programme ID	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level	Credits
1	SP-291202	General Residential Repairer	Level 3	31 credits
2	SP-191205	General Garden Maintenance Worker	Level 1	26 Credits
3	SP-250126	Crime Scene Cleaner	Level 3	55 Credits
4	SP-250127	High Pressure Water Jet Operator	Level 3	55 Credits
5	SP-210501	Assistant Handy Person	Level 3	82 Credits
6	SP-211009	Workplace Essential Skills	Level 4	20 Credits
7	SP-250709	Payroll Calculations Worker	Level 4	21 Credits
8	SP-250710	Project Management for Non-Project Managers	Level 6	60 Credits
9	SP-201201	Workplace Preparation	Level 2	30 Credits
10	SP-210409	Conflict Management	Level 5	8 Credits

SKILLS PROGRAMMES EMPLOYED				
No.	Qualification ID	Qualification Type	Qualification Descriptor	NQF Level
11	SP-240204	Mortician Administrator	Level 3	40 Credits
12	SP-291202	General Residential Repairer	Level 3	31 Credits
13	SP-191205	General Garden Maintenance Worker	Level 1	26 Credits
14	SP-250126	Crime Scene Cleaner	Level 3	55 Credits
15	SP-250127	High Pressure Water Jet Operator	Level 3	55 Credits
16	SP-210501	Assistant Handy Person	Level 3	82 Credits
17	SP-211009	Workplace Essential Skills	Level 4	20 Credits
18	SP-250709	Payroll Calculations Worker	Level 4	21 Credits
19	SP-250710	Project Management for Non-Project Managers	Level 6	60 Credits
20	SP-201201	Workplace Preparation	Level 2	30 Credits
21	SP-210409	Conflict Management	Level 5	8 Credits
22	SP-210603	Advanced Spatial Intelligence Data Scientist	Level 5	40 Credits
23	SP-191215	Barber	Level 3	36 Credits
24	SP-230301	Chemical Hair Reformation Attendant	Level 4	51 Credits
25	SP-230302	Hair and Scalp Treatment Attendant	Level 2	23 Credits
26	SP-230303	Hair Colouring Attendant	Level 4	51 Credits
27	SP-230303	Hair Cutting Attendant	Level 4	60 Credits
28	SP-230305	Hairstylist	Level 3	56 Credits
29	SP-210604	Spatial Data Intelligence Scientist	Level 5	56 Credits
30	SP-240205	Coffee Bar Technician's Assistant	Level 3	45 Credits
31	SP-250708	Managing workplace discipline	Level 5	43 Credits
32	SP-250712	Confined Space Worker	Level 2	5 Credits

CANDIDACY
Any Professional Designations of Professional Bodies within the Services SETA scope.