



SERVICES SETA 2025/26 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) IN DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING FOR SKILLS PROGRAMMES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

The Services SETA invites Skills Development Providers (SDPs) accredited for specific Occupational Skills Programmes to apply for Discretionary Grant Funding to implement Skills Programmes. A previously advertised EOI failed to produce a sufficient pipeline for learner enrolments to meet the current Financial Year's targets, hence this additional, rapid and targeted invitation.

Application Period

Opens: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at 11h00

Closes: Monday, 16 February 2026 at 11h00

Please **read** this short briefing document before you apply. *Late, manual, or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Only apply if you have the requisite documents, listed in sections 7 and 8, readily available.*

1. Objective

To award Discretionary Grant funding for Skills Programmes, for unemployed and employed learners, to Skills Development Providers accredited for the list of Occupational Skills Programmes set out herein that can demonstrate experience and capacity to successfully enroll learners by no later than 31 March 2026. Offer Letters, planned to be issued to successful applicants in the week ending 20 February 2026, will include this suspensive condition.

2. Targeted Occupational Skills Programmes (SPs)

The Occupational Skills Programmes (SPs) set out in Table 1 below have been targeted for this EOI.

Table 1: Targeted SPs and Durations in months

#	QCTO Qualification ID	Field of Study	NQF Level	Total Credits	Duration in months
1	SP-211009	Workplace Essential Skills	4	20	2
2	SP-210409	Conflict Management	5	8	1
3	SP-230305	Hairstylist	3	56	4
4	SP-191215	Barber	3	36	3
5	SP-230302	Hair and Scalp Treatment Attendant	2	23	2
6	SP-230304	Hair Cutting Attendant	4	60	4
7	SP-230303	Hair Colouring Attendant	4	51	4
8	SP-210501	Assistant Handyperson	3	82	6
9	SP-230301	Chemical Hair Reformation Attendant	4	51	4
10	SP-191205	General Garden Maintenance Worker	1	26	2
11	SP-240204	Mortician's Administrator	3	40	3



The duration is derived from the accumulation of 15 credits or 150 notional hours per month which is informed by the average *working* month. SDPs are required to plan accordingly and ensure that programme planning enables learner enrolment within the current financial year, followed by the implementation duration of the qualification.

3. Budgets for Occupational Qualifications

The budget for Unemployed and Employed Skills Programmes is set out in tables 2 and 3 below respectively. Total budget values are calculated based on the programme duration.

Table 2: Budget for Unemployed Skills Programmes

#	QCTO Qualification ID	Field of Study	Monthly Non-Stipend	Monthly Stipend	Total Non-Stipend	Total Stipend	Budget per Learner
1	SP-211009	Workplace Essential Skills	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R5 000,00	R4 000,00	R9 000,00
2	SP-210409	Conflict Management	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R4 500,00
3	SP-230305	Hairstylist	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R10 000,00	R8 000,00	R18 000,00
4	SP-191215	Barber	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R7 500,00	R6 000,00	R13 500,00
5	SP-230302	Hair and Scalp Treatment Attendant	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R5 000,00	R4 000,00	R9 000,00
6	SP-230304	Hair Cutting Attendant	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R10 000,00	R8 000,00	R18 000,00
7	SP-230303	Hair Colouring Attendant	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R10 000,00	R8 000,00	R18 000,00
8	SP-210501	Assistant Handyperson	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R15 000,00	R12 000,00	R27 000,00
9	SP-230301	Chemical Hair Reformation Attendant	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R10 000,00	R8 000,00	R18 000,00
10	SP-191205	General Garden Maintenance Worker	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R5 000,00	R4 000,00	R9 000,00
11	SP-240204	Mortician's Administrator	R2 500,00	R2 000,00	R7 500,00	R6 000,00	R13 500,00

Table 3: Budget for Employed Skills Programmes

#	QCTO Qualification ID	Field of Study	Monthly Non-Stipend	Monthly Stipend	Total Non-Stipend	Total Stipend	Budget per Learner
1	SP-211009	Workplace Essential Skills	R2 500,00	R0,00	R5 000,00	R0,00	R5 000,00
2	SP-210409	Conflict Management	R2 500,00	R0,00	R2 500,00	R0,00	R2 500,00
3	SP-230305	Hairstylist	R2 500,00	R0,00	R10 000,00	R0,00	R10 000,00
4	SP-191215	Barber	R2 500,00	R0,00	R7 500,00	R0,00	R7 500,00
5	SP-230302	Hair and Scalp Treatment Attendant	R2 500,00	R0,00	R5 000,00	R0,00	R5 000,00
6	SP-230304	Hair Cutting Attendant	R2 500,00	R0,00	R10 000,00	R0,00	R10 000,00
7	SP-230303	Hair Colouring Attendant	R2 500,00	R0,00	R10 000,00	R0,00	R10 000,00
8	SP-210501	Assistant Handyperson	R2 500,00	R0,00	R15 000,00	R0,00	R15 000,00
9	SP-230301	Chemical Hair Reformation Attendant	R2 500,00	R0,00	R10 000,00	R0,00	R10 000,00
10	SP-191205	General Garden Maintenance Worker	R2 500,00	R0,00	R5 000,00	R0,00	R5 000,00
11	SP-240204	Mortician's Administrator	R2 500,00	R0,00	R7 500,00	R0,00	R7 500,00

4. Who can apply?

Skills Development Providers (SDPs) with valid accreditation for the Occupational Skills Programmes set out in Table 1.



5. Preference

Preference will be given to SDPs that can demonstrate, in their application, experience and capacity to:

- recruit suitably qualified learners; and
- meet all administrative and documentary requirements by no later than 20 March 2026.

6. How to Apply

- Applications must be submitted via the [online application form](#).
- An **online briefing session** will be held on Wednesday, **11 February 2026 at 15h00**. You are encouraged to attend via link: [EOIs Learnerships and SPs 2025/26 Online Briefing | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#).
- If you have not received an Offer Letter by Monday, 23 February 2026, please consider your application unsuccessful.

7. Compliance Documents

For this Discretionary Grant EOI, the following mandatory documents must be submitted, failure to do so will lead to automatic disqualification:

- 7.1 Company Registration Document.
- 7.2 Valid Tax Clearance or Exemption Certificate.
- 7.3 SDP Accreditation Confirmation for the relevant qualification.

8. Desk Top Due Diligence Documents

To demonstrate experience and capacity to implement Discretionary Grant-funded Skills Programmes, applicants are required to submit the following documents or similar **as applicable** (please submit only relevant documentation):

8.1 Experience Confirmation

Experience Confirmation letter(s) and/or Project Closure report(s) for Skills Development projects implemented, preferably approved by the donor, confirming the number of learners enrolled and successfully completed.

A maximum of five (5) documents may be submitted, which must be no older than five (5) years, and should reflect the most relevant and recent experience.

8.2 Host Employer Interest (for employed learners only)

A Host Employer Interest Letter, preferably signed by the Host Employer, confirming the prospective number of learners per qualification that the Host Employer intends to enroll onto the Skills Programme.



Where a signed Host Employer letter is not available at the time of application due to the limited application window, applicants may submit a motivated declaration identifying the prospective Host Employer(s) and prospective learners for each.

9. 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.
- Services SETA may, at its discretion:
 - Part-fund or decline an application.
 - Cancel this EOI process.

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

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CEO

Date: 09 February 2026