



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

Reference: SS EOI LS 2025/26 001

The Services SETA invites Skills Development Providers (SDPs) accredited for specific Occupational Qualifications to apply for Discretionary Grant Funding for Learnerships. 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: Monday, 09 February 2026 at 22h00

Closes: Friday, 13 February 2026 at 22h00

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 Learnerships, predominantly for unemployed learners with a limited allocation for employed learners, to Skills Development Providers accredited for the list of Occupational Qualifications 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 Qualifications (OQs)

The Occupational Qualifications (OQs) linked to the Services SETAs Sector Skills Plan (SSP) Hard-to-Fill vacancies set out in Table 1 below have been targeted for this EOI.

Table 1: Targeted OQs and Durations in months

#	SAQA ID	Qualification Designation	Field of Study	NQF Level	Total Credits	Duration in months
1	99692	Occupational Certificate	Garden Work	2	69	5
2	102147	Occupational Certificate	Facilities Manager	6	262	18
3	118748	Occupational Certificate	Labour Inspector	5	209	14
4	118768	Occupational Certificate	Quality Manager	6	270	18
5	120670	National Occupational Certificate	Auctioneer	4	180	12
6	121690	Advanced Occupational Certificate	Franchise Manager	6	134	9
7	121689	Intermediate Occupational Certificate	Cleaning Practitioner	3	120	8



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 Learnerships is set out in tables 2 and 3 below respectively. Monthly stipend rates are determined based on the NQF level of the Occupational Qualification, while total budget values are calculated based on the programme duration.

Table 2: Budget for Unemployed Learnerships

#	SAQA ID	Qualification Designation	Field of Study	Monthly Non-Stipend	Monthly Stipend	Total Non-Stipend	Total Stipend	Budget per Learner
1	99692	Occupational Certificate	Garden Work	R2 250,00	R3 000,00	R11 250,00	R15 000,00	R26 250,00
2	102147	Occupational Certificate	Facilities Manager	R2 250,00	R5 000,00	R40 500,00	R90 000,00	R130 500,00
3	118748	Occupational Certificate	Labour Inspector	R2 250,00	R5 000,00	R31 500,00	R70 000,00	R101 500,00
4	118768	Occupational Certificate	Quality Manager	R2 250,00	R5 000,00	R40 500,00	R90 000,00	R130 500,00
5	120670	National Occupational Certificate	Auctioneer	R2 250,00	R4 000,00	R27 000,00	R48 000,00	R75 000,00
6	121690	Advanced Occupational Certificate	Franchise Manager	R2 250,00	R5 000,00	R20 250,00	R45 000,00	R65 250,00
7	121689	Intermediate Occupational Certificate	Cleaning Practitioner	R2 250,00	R4 000,00	R18 000,00	R32 000,00	R50 000,00

Table 3: Budget for Employed Learnerships

#	SAQA ID	Qualification Designation	Field of Study	Monthly Non-Stipend	Monthly Stipend	Total Non-Stipend	Total Stipend	Budget per Learner
1	99692	Occupational Certificate	Garden Work	R2 083,33	R0,00	R10 416,67	R0,00	R10 416,67
2	102147	Occupational Certificate	Facilities Manager	R2 083,33	R0,00	R37 500,00	R0,00	R37 500,00
3	118748	Occupational Certificate	Labour Inspector	R2 083,33	R0,00	R29 166,67	R0,00	R29 166,67
4	118768	Occupational Certificate	Quality Manager	R2 083,33	R0,00	R37 500,00	R0,00	R37 500,00
5	120670	National Occupational Certificate	Auctioneer	R2 083,33	R0,00	R25 000,00	R0,00	R25 000,00
6	121690	Advanced Occupational Certificate	Franchise Manager	R2 083,33	R0,00	R18 750,00	R0,00	R18 750,00
7	121689	Intermediate Occupational Certificate	Cleaning Practitioner	R2 083,33	R0,00	R16 666,67	R0,00	R16 666,67

4. Who can apply?

Skills Development Providers (SDPs) with valid accreditation for the Occupational Qualifications 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;
- secure relevant, adequately equipped and preferably approved workplaces to serve as host employers; 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.
- 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 Learnerships, 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

A Host Employer Interest Letter, preferably signed by the Host Employer, confirming the intended workplace, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) compliance, and the indicative number of learners per qualification that the Host Employer can accommodate and supervise through suitably qualified workplace mentors.

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 proposed learner placement arrangements.



8.3 Host Employer Workplace Approval

Evidence of Workplace Approval issued by the Services SETA for the relevant Occupational Qualification; or proof of submission of an application for Workplace Approval to the Services SETA, accompanied by an affidavit accepting accountability for the remediation of all outstanding requirements within the first month of commencement.

An exception to the applicable Services SETA SOP shall be granted to successful applicants in this regard.

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