



SERVICES SETA SPECIAL PROJECTS 2026/27 APPLICATIONS GUIDELINES

Reference: SP2026/27-03

1. Introduction

The Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Services SETA) invites proposals for Special Projects that deliver measurable social and economic impact.

Special Projects are intended to support targeted interventions that respond to sector and community needs and contribute to national priorities related to employment, inclusion and economic participation. These projects are funded at the discretion of Services SETA and form part of its broader mandate to develop skills and enable access to sustainable opportunities.

2. Alignment to National Priorities

Special Projects funded under this window are expected to align with South Africa's national development agenda, including the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 and the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP) 2030, with a focus on inclusive growth, job creation and social transformation.

Proposals should demonstrate how the intervention responds to barriers to participation and opportunity within communities, including social and economic vulnerabilities that affect access to education, skills and livelihoods, and how it contributes to sustainable, measurable outcomes for targeted beneficiaries.

3. Purpose of the Funding Window

This funding window seeks to support initiatives that:

- Extend beyond standard training interventions
- Deliver tangible and sustainable benefits to individuals and communities
- Improve access to economic opportunities, livelihoods and services
- Contribute to transformation and inclusion within the services sector

Projects should demonstrate a clear link between activities, outcomes and long-term impact.

4. Eligible Applicants

Applications are open to:

- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs)
- Non-Profit Companies (NPCs)

- Community-Based Organisations (CBOs)
- Community Trusts

Applicants must be legally registered in South Africa and operate on a non-profit basis.

5. Focus Areas

Proposals should address one or more of the following areas:

- Rural and township development and revitalisation
- Youth and women empowerment
- Inclusion of persons with disabilities
- Support to military veterans and their dependants
- Enterprise development and self-employment
- Job creation and local economic development

Applicants should clearly indicate the target communities and geographic areas of implementation.

6. Nature of Projects

Projects funded under this window are expected to:

- Address a clearly defined need or challenge
- Present a coherent and implementable intervention
- Integrate appropriate components, which may include training, services, partnerships or enterprise support
- Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact, including employment, income generation or improved access to opportunities

Learning components may form part of a project but should be positioned within a broader intervention that delivers meaningful outcomes.

Projects that consist solely of standard training programmes without a broader impact component may not be prioritised.

7. Proposal and Application Requirements

Applicants are required to submit a complete application comprising the following:

7.1 Project Information

- Project title and location
- Description of the problem or need
- Target beneficiaries

7.2 Project Design – Use Project Implementation Template

- Proposed activities and approach
- Implementation plan with timelines and key milestones

7.3 Expected Outcomes

- Anticipated social and/or economic impact
- Indicators or measures of success

7.4 Budget – Use Budget Template

- Estimated project cost
- Key cost items and justification

7.5 Organisational Capacity

- Overview of the organisation
- Relevant experience and capability to deliver

7.6 Mandatory Supporting Documentation

Applicants must submit the following supporting documents as part of the application:

- Organisation registration documents (NPO / NPC / Trust registration)
- Certified identification documents of authorised representatives

Failure to submit mandatory documentation will result in disqualification during compliance screening.

8. Evaluation Approach

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Alignment to the purpose and focus areas
- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed intervention
- Expected impact and outcomes
- Organisational capacity to implement
- Reasonableness and value for money of the budget

Services SETA may request further information or clarification where required.

9. Due Diligence

Shortlisted applicants will be required to provide supporting documentation to confirm:

- Legal registration and compliance
- Governance and organisational capacity
- Financial and operational capability

Failure to provide requested information or adverse findings may affect the outcome of the application.

10. Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the official online application form.

Applicants will receive confirmation upon submission. Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for further information or engagement.

11. Important Considerations

- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding .
- Funding is subject to evaluation, due diligence and approval processes.
- Services SETA reserves the right to approve, partially fund or decline any proposal.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

12. Key Dates

Opening Date: 28 April 2026

Closing Date: 27 May 2026

13. Enquiries

Email: SP2026@serviceseta.org.za

Website: www.serviceseta.org.za