

SERVICES SETA 2026/27-DG-03: 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.

1. DISCRETIONARY GRANT

Please refer to the **Discretionary Grant Policy and applicable unit costs** (published alongside this advert) for guidelines on the amounts per learner per programme. Services SETA will approve applications according to the provisions of the Discretionary Grant Policy.

2. DISCRETIONARY GRANT WINDOW PERIOD

The window will be open from **19 October 2026 to 06 November 2026**.

3. NON-COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION

Stakeholders are invited to attend the online briefing session, as outlined below. This session will provide an overview of the various grant types, eligibility criteria, and application requirements, and will include a demonstration of the system and its application process. All prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend.

The link to access the briefing sessions will be communicated on the Services SETA banner, which is located on our website (www.serviceseta.org.za).

No.	Date	Time
1	22 October 2026	10h00 – 13h00
2	23 October 2026	10h00 – 13h00

4. DISCRETIONARY GRANT 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.

5. WHO CAN APPLY?

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

- Services SETA Levy paying Employers and Non-Levy paying Employers (Employers must provide their Skills Development Levy (SDL) number as proof of their SETA registration status)
- Sectoral Associations within the Services SETA scope.
- Professional Bodies within the Services SETA scope
- Trade Unions/Federation within the Services SETA scope
- Accredited Skills Development Providers (SDPs) *

Note * SDPs should be the ones accredited

6. DUE DILIGENCE

Applicants are advised that Services SETA will conduct a due diligence on short-listed applicants and further documents may need to be available during this process. Being shortlisted for Due Diligence does not guarantee the allocation of funding.

7. COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT WITH APPLICATION

- **Company registrations documents (CIPC)/Entity registration** the entity status must be active.
- Declaration of Interest (Form 1a) (Fully signed)
- Declaration of Authorized Person (Form 1b) (Fully signed)
- POPI Declaration (Form 1c) (Fully signed)
- List of Directors (Signed)
- Certified Copies of Directors ID (Certification not older than 3 months)
- Certified Copy of Authorised Person ID (Certification not older than 3 months)
- **Valid Tax clearance certificate / certificate of good standing** issued by SARS with a valid One-Time PIN.
- **Valid BBBEE Certificates/Sworn Affidavits.** The affidavit(s) must be duly commissioned.
- **CSD registration**
- **Letter of good standing financial provider**

8. IMPORTANT NOTES

- The application must comply with the Services SETA Discretionary Grant Policy and applicable unit costs, copies of which are available on the Services SETA website and portal.
- All recruited beneficiaries must meet the minimum entry requirements of the programme applied for.
- At least 90% of the unemployed learners must be aged between 18 and 35 on the date of registration.
- Applicants can only apply for a maximum of 2 learning programmes.

NB!! APPLICANTS APPLYING ALONG WITH A SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER (SDP)

This section only applies to Services sector employers, Sectoral Associations, Professional bodies and Trade Union/Federations who are applying for credit bearing programmes and are not accredited for the programme(s) as the main applicant:

Where any of the above applicants wish to apply for **credit bearing programmes** the applicant is required to provide the following documents for each of their preferred providers and each of the programmes applied for:

- ✓ The applicant must submit a valid and duly signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the accredited Skills Development Provider
- ✓ **Proof of accreditation and program approval letters** of all training provider/s for all learning programmes to be clearly marked for the programmes applied for. Reports from SETA IT systems will not be accepted.
- ✓ **Company registrations documents (CIPC)** the company status must be "In Business where applicable. (CIPC document for the SDP)
- ✓ **Valid Tax clearance certificate / certificate of good standing** issued by SARS with a valid One-Time PIN. (Tax clearance certificate for SDP)

Non submission/late submission of information/documents required above will lead to automatic disqualification without recourse.

Preference	Description	Evidence to be submitted
Previous Services SETA funded projects	Preference will be given to stakeholders who have successfully	Applicants must submit fully completed closure reports

Preference	Description	Evidence to be submitted
	implemented Services SETA-funded learning programmes, with evidence of timely learner enrolment, implementation, completion, certification and project closure.	for Services SETA-funded projects implemented and completed from 2021 to date.
Alignment to SPOIL and Hard-to-Fill Vacancies	Preference will be given to qualifications and occupations aligned to SPOIL and hard-to-fill vacancies. Only qualifications specified in the advert will be considered for award.	Proposed qualifications selected on the Services SETA portal
B-BBEE Status	Preference will be given to applicants with valid B-BBEE status. The B-BBEE level and score will be considered during evaluation.	Valid B-BBEE certificate or affidavit, where applicable.
Location of the Project	Preference will be given to projects implemented in the specified target provinces, districts, municipalities or areas identified as priority areas.	Indication of the province, district/municipality and specific project location

9. TYPES OF AVAILABLE GRANTS

Code	Learning Programme Name	Who can apply
LP01	Learnerships Unemployed	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers and Associations
LP02	Learnerships Employed	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers and Associations
LP03	Apprenticeships	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers and Associations
LP04A	Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) Unemployed	Skills Development Providers
LP04B	Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) Employed	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers and Skills Development Providers
LP11A	Recognition of Prior Learning Unemployed	Skills Development Providers
LP11B	Recognition of Prior Learning Employed	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers and Skills Development Providers
LP10	Adult Education and Training Employed	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers and Skills Development Providers
LP12	Skills Programmes Employed	Levy paying Employers, Non-Levy paying Employers, Associations, Unions/Federations and Skills Development Providers

Code	Learning Programme Name	Who can apply
LP13	Skills Programmes Unemployed	Skills Development Providers
LP14	Candidacy Unemployed and employed	Professional Bodies

10. SUBMISSION NOTES

- All applications must reach Services SETA on or before the **06 November 2026** at 23:59:59pm (midnight). Incomplete (material information not provided) applications will be summarily disqualified without recourse.
- Only online applications will be considered - no hand-delivery, postal or couriers of applications. Applications must be submitted on the portal.
- Applicants must upload all compulsory supporting documents required above on the application link as directed, and they must be valid at the time of submission. Applications missing one or more of the Applicant compulsory documents will be summarily disqualified without recourse.
- It is important that awarded projects commence within 60 days of the award of the grant.
- A four-phase evaluation process will be used to award grants – compliance checking, evaluation, due diligence and allocation. Only compliant applications will be evaluated.
- These grants should only be applied for by entities that wish to train learners and host at their companies and NOT by training providers sourcing business opportunities to offer their services.
- Applicants to ensure that the ratios indicated for mentors / principals allocated to unemployed learners and interns as required in the DG policy are adhered to. This will be verified prior to finalizing awards.

Applicants who require assistance may send an e-mail to dgwindow2627@serviceseta.org.za by 06 November 2026.

Services SETA reserves the right to decrease the number of spaces available. Services SETA further reserves its right not to make any awards in respect of this advert.

If you have not heard from us within three (3) months of submitting your application, please consider your application unsuccessful.

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CEO

Date:



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