Call for Proposals

Strategic Projects Funding Window 2026 27 | Reference SP2026/27-04

1 Invitation

The Services Sector Education and Training Authority invites eligible non-profit organisations to submit proposals for Strategic Projects that deliver measurable social and economic impact within the approved focus areas.

2 Purpose

The window supports targeted interventions that respond to sector and community needs, expand economic participation and create sustainable benefits. Projects must demonstrate a credible link between the identified need, proposed activities, measurable outcomes and longer-term impact.

3 Focus areas

Proposals must address one or more of the following:

- 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.

4 Who may apply

Applications are open to legally registered South African organisations operating on a non-profit basis, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), non-profit organisations (NPOs), non-profit companies (NPCs), community-based organisations (CBOs) and community trusts.

5 What to submit

Applications must include:

- A completed application form.
- A project proposal addressing all requirements in the application guidelines, limited to five A4 pages, using a minimum font size of 11 points and margins of at least 2 cm. The limit includes the cover page, contents page, tables and illustrations, but excludes the application form and supporting documents listed below.
- A completed project implementation template.
- A completed budget template.
- Proof of legal registration.
- POPI declaration form 1C (fully signed)
- Declaration of Interest(Form 1a) (fully signed)

- Copies of identification documents of authorised representatives, certified within the three months preceding the application submission date. Certification dates must be clearly legible.

Applicants must use the prescribed templates and follow the Application Guidelines. Failure to submit a published mandatory document will result in the application not proceeding to technical evaluation.

Evaluation will be based on the completed Application Form and prescribed templates. The project proposal, limited to five pages, provides supporting detail and may clarify or substantiate information in these documents. It will not be scored separately and cannot substitute for a missing required response or template.

6 Evaluation

Compliant applications will be assessed against approved internal criteria. Evaluators will consider the following matters:

Assessment consideration	What evaluators will look for
Alignment with the purpose and approved focus areas	Direct and evidenced alignment with at least one approved focus area and the identified need.
Transformational impact and measurable outcomes	The depth, significance, measurability and durability of the expected social or economic change.
Feasibility, implementation and monitoring	A coherent delivery method, realistic plan, suitable resources, practical controls and credible monitoring arrangements.
Organisational and governance capacity	Relevant capability, governance, key personnel, systems, current commitments and accountable delivery arrangements.
Budget, value for money and sustainability	Reasonable costs, credible cost-to-outcome logic, affordability, sustainability and no unjustified or duplicated expenditure.

Applications that satisfy the approved technical requirements may proceed to due diligence. Qualification does not guarantee funding. Funding recommendations remain subject to verification, ranking, the approved allocation method, available budget and Accounting Authority approval.

7 Application details

Field	Detail
Opening date and time	19 October 2026
Closing date and time	06 November 2026
Application platform	**To be provided in due course**
Enquiries	Specialproject2026/27@serviceseta.org.za

8 Important information

- Late applications will not be considered.
- Services SETA may request clarification or conduct due diligence but will not introduce new evaluation criteria after the window opens.
- Applicants must disclose other funding, delivery partners, subcontractors, related parties and beneficial interests.
- Applicants must complete and sign the prescribed Applicant Declaration, confirming that the funding requested will not duplicate funding received, approved or claimed from another SETA or any other funding source for the same learners, training interventions or project costs.
- Any pending funding applications covering the same activities or costs must be disclosed. Applicants must notify Services SETA promptly of any subsequent funding approval that may result in duplicate funding.
- Services SETA may approve, partially approve or decline an application on documented grounds consistent with the approved rules.