



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: GRASSROOTS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI, is calling for applications from grassroots innovators looking for funding, technical assistance, and support for developing a new product or process up to prototype and proof of concept stage.

A grassroots innovator is defined as “an individual who undertakes innovations to solve local challenges using local resources and capabilities through working outside the realm of formal innovation institution”.

## WHO CAN APPLY

- South African citizens of any age (ID copy required)
- Individual (or representing a team) with an innovative solution that solves a clear social problem
- Individuals must meet the criteria of a grassroots innovator
- Have full ownership of the Intellectual Property and rights to the proposed solution
- Applicants with no access to innovation development support, infrastructure, funding or training
- Is willing to commit time to the programme activities for a maximum period of 24 months

## SUPPORT PACKAGE ON OFFER

- Intellectual Property registration
- Industry compliance and certification
- Product and technical development expertise, design prototyping infrastructure and hard/software materials
- Production of a prototype
- Business development training and support
- Networking, mentorship, and market access activities

## HOW TO APPLY

### Applications must be submitted to TIA as follows:

- Complete and sign the GIP Application Form (downloadable on the TIA website) and Certified ID Copy

Applications should be submitted at [grassroots.innovation@tia.org.za](mailto:grassroots.innovation@tia.org.za).

For more information: [visit www.tia.org.za](http://www.tia.org.za)

## CLOSING DATE

Applications must be submitted by **17h00 on 15 December 2025**. No late submission will be accepted.

## ENQUIRIES

For all enquiries contact [grassroots.innovation@tia.org.za](mailto:grassroots.innovation@tia.org.za) or call 012 472 2829 / 2701.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

### Requirements for application:

- Concept stage of the solution
- Innovation in the use of technology and the quality of the solution to solving the problem
- Technical and financial feasibility of developing the solution
- Demonstration of clear social impact for a targeted market
- Clear articulation of the commercialisation viability of the innovation

## NON-FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

- Staff salaries/stipends for additional team members
- Operational activities not related to innovation activities
- Acquiring of licenses to replicate external innovations
- Research projects
- Research institutions and organisations
- Student bursaries, research projects
- Infrastructure development