

2024/25 DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING WINDOW

The Wholesale and Retail SETA (W&RSETA) invites its stakeholder companies to apply for Discretionary Grants for the 2024/25 financial year for interventions that address the <u>Sectoral Priority Occupations and Interventions</u>, <u>Emerging Occupations</u> and <u>Hard-to-Fill Vacancies</u> outlined in the Sector Skills Plan 2024/25.

Applications may be made for the following interventions:

Unemployed learners registered on NQF levels 2-3 learnerships & occupational qualifications

Unemployed learners registered on NQF levels 4-5 learnerships & occupational qualifications

Employed learners registered on NQF levels 2-3 learnerships or occupational programmes

Employed learners registered in NQF levels 4-5 learnerships or occupational programmes

Employed learners registered on **NQF levels 2-5** skills programmes or part qualifications (maximum 4 unit standards to be funded)

Unemployed learners registered on **NQF levels 2-5** skills programmes or part qualifications (maximum 4 unit standards to be funded)

Employed learners registered on RPL learning programmes

Graduate Internships: Diploma graduates to gain workplace experience in the Wholesale & Retail Sector

Graduate Internships: Degree graduates to gain workplace experience in the Wholesale & Retail Sector

Work Integrated Learning: TVET Placement of N6 students (**18-month Internships to obtain diplomas**)

Work Integrated Learning: TVET Placement (NCV level 4 learners to gain workplace experience)

Learners from HET institutions to undergo Internship programmes for 3-6 months to obtain their qualifications

Employed bursars

The following stakeholders are eligible to apply for funding in this funding window:

- W&RSETA levy-paying companies (submitted 2023/24 Annexure II)
- W&RSETA Employer Constituency Associations
- CET, TVET and HET institutions
- Accredited Skills Development Providers
- Government organisations and entities intending to support the W&R Sector

Allocation Criteria:

- Preference will be given to W&RSETA levy-paying employers when making awards.
- Levy-paying companies must have submitted Annexure II documents for the 2023/24 financial year by 30 April 2023.
- The W&RSETA will consider stakeholder track record on implementation of previously funded programmes in terms of:
 - Completion rate;
 - Absorption rate of unemployed beneficiaries;
 - Timeous completion of programmes per learner agreements / implementation plans;
 - Sufficient capacity to administer and implement programmes in the organisation; and
 - Beneficiary feedback

W&RSETA Key focus areas:

- The W&RSETA will prioritise unemployed programmes aimed at the following beneficiaries:
 - People living with disabilities
 - Learners from rural areas
 - Female beneficiaries
- The W&RSETA will verify the capacity to deliver the training and/or host learners prior to implementation (due diligence / workplace approval).
- Sound Financial status of entities hosting unemployed beneficiaries to sustain stipends of learners during the registration, contracting and claims processing period





Method of Application:

- All applications must be made online through the W&RSETA Management Information System (MIS) using an SDL number to access the system.
- Stakeholders must consult the relevant provincial office (where applicant is based) for assistance and access challenges.

Allocation process:

- Allocations will be approved on the MIS by the W&RSETA.
- Applicants must accept the allocations awarded on the MIS.
- Award Letters will be issued to successful applicants upon acceptance of the allocations.
- Should stakeholders not receive an Award Letter by **30 April 2024**, their application should be considered unsuccessful.
- The W&RSETA reserves the right to issue an award after this date should allocations be declined or not taken up.
- Award Letters must be signed and loaded on the MIS by the applicants within 10 working days.
- All learners for whom funding is awarded, must be registered by the W&RSETA on the MIS from **01 April 2024** up to **31 August 2024**. (Refer to the IMPORTANT NOTICE below regarding legacy qualifications and skills programmes that have a deadline date of 31 May 2024),
- Failure to register learners within the stipulated timelines will result in the re-allocation of funding awarded.
- All WBPL applications will be subject to workplace evaluation and approval for first time participants .

Application deadline date:

Applications will close at midnight on 29 February 2024. No late applications will be considered

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SUPER LARGE EMPLOYERS

Super large employers are also required to submit their applications in the **DG24/25** funding window. Their contracts will be drafted upon acceptance of the awards. Terms and conditions will be included in the Award letter and agreement.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that all legacy qualifications and skills programmes will expire on **30 June 2024**. All learners to be enrolled on these programmes, must be registered on the MIS by **31 May 2024** to ensure that their registrations are verified and approved by the W&RSETA by **30 June 2024**. Failure to meet this deadline date may result in the learners not being registered by **30 June 2024**.

QUERIES

Please contact the relevant provincial office for assistance if needed:

Province	Contact Person	Contact Number	Provincial Email
Eastern Cape	Mzamo Matyobeni	043 726 3281	mmatyobeni@wrseta.org.za
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