

2026/2027 DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING WINDOW

The Wholesale and Retail SETA (W&RSETA) invites stakeholders and relevant institutions to apply for the following programmes under the 2026/27 Discretionary Grant Funding Window:

CATEGORY A: ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of Artisan Development programmes to support the W&RSETA's contribution to the National Development Plan target to produce **30 000** artisans annually by 2030 and reduce the skills gap for artisans in the Wholesale and Retail Sector.

Eligible Programmes and Applicants

Only applications for artisan qualifications obtainable through a trade test will be considered for funding.

CATEGORY B: CANDIDACY PROGRAMME

Placement and support candidates to achieve professional designations to address Hard to-Fill Vacancies as identified in the Sector Skills Plan.

Eligible Programmes and Applicants

Applications for Candidacy programmes that require screening and preparation of candidates for final assessments to obtain a professional designation will be considered for this funding window.

INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE FUNDING WINDOW:

INTERVENTIONS	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
Category A: Apprenticeship / Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private skills development providers accredited by the QCTO, NAMB or other related bodies (e.g. SAMSA) • W&RSETA levy-paying companies • Accredited RPL trade centres • TVET colleges
Category B: Candidacy programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional bodies • W&RSETA levy-paying companies

ALLOCATION CRITERIA:

- W&RSETA Levy-paying companies must have submitted their Annexure II documents for the 2025/2026 financial year by 30 April 2025.
- Applicant track record in the successful implementation of Apprenticeship/ARPL programmes and related administration (enrolment/registration & completions) will be considered when awarding the grants.
- Applicant track record in the successful implementation and administration (enrolment/registration and completion) of candidacy programmes will be considered when awarding the grants.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

- All applications must be made online through the W&RSETA Management Information System (MIS) using an SDL / X / N- number to access the system.
- Where a W&RSETA SDL is not applicable, applicants must contact **Maria Mahlangu** and **Promise Dlamini** for assistance.

FUNDING MODEL

- Funding for apprenticeship programmes will be allocated per gazetted rate of **R206 292.00** over a period of three (3) years.
- Funding for ARPL programme will be allocated per the gazetted rate of **R33 000.00** for employed and **R55 000.00** for unemployed learners.

ALLOCATION PROCESS:

- Award Letters will be issued to successful applicants after the closing date of **05 May 2026**. Should applicants not receive an Award Letter by **05 June 2026** their application should be considered unsuccessful.
- All learners for whom funding is awarded, must be registered on the W&RSETA MIS by **30 August 2026**. Failure to register learners within the stipulated timelines will result in the re-allocation of funding awarded.
- Applicants must demonstrate their capacity to deliver the programmes (Apprenticeship /ARPL/ Trade Test) by submitting the following relevant documents:
 - trade test centre accreditation letter for the trades applying for.
 - workplace approval letter (only applicable for apprenticeship programmes).
 - SDP accreditation letter.
- For Candidacy Programme (e.g. Accountants, etc.) applications, the capacity of professional bodies to deliver the programme must be demonstrated. Declaration of Workplace Placement must be submitted during application stage or before registering the beneficiaries and contracting with the W&RSETA.
- All supporting documentation must be uploaded with the signed Award Letter on the MIS once an award has been made.

APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE:

Applications will close at midnight on **05 May 2026**. No late applications will be considered .

QUERIES

For enquiries related to these funding windows, please contact:

Office Contact Details:			
Intervention	Contact Person	Contact Number	Provincial E-mail
Apprenticeship /Artisan/ ARPL registration	Maria Mahlangu	012 430 4930	mmahlangu@wrseta.org.za
	Promise Dlamini	012 430 4930	pdlamini@wrseta.org.za
Candidacy Programme	Maria Mahlangu	012 430 4930	mmahlangu@wrseta.org.za
	Promise Dlamini	012 430 4930	pdlamini@wrseta.org.za