2026/2027 HAIRDRESSING ARTISANAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA) hereby invites eligible stakeholders and relevant institutions to apply for the 2026/2027 Hairdressing Artisanal Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

The programme is aimed at strengthening artisanal development in the hairdressing sector while promoting the establishment and growth of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). The programme is aligned with the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP) 2030 and will be implemented nationally, with balanced provincial representation.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMMES AND APPLICANTS

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

Intervention: Apprenticeship / Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL)

Eligible applicants include:

- W&RSETA levy-paying companies.
- Public TVET Colleges.
- Skills Development Providers accredited by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB) or other relevant education and training quality assurance bodies.
- Accredited RPL Trade Test Centres.

ALLOCATION CRITERIA:
Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- W&RSETA levy-paying companies must have submitted their Annexure II documentation for the 2025/2026 financial year by 30 April 2025.
- Skills Development Providers and/or TVET Colleges must be accredited by QCTO/ NAMB or other ETQAs for a Hairdressing Qualification
- The applicant's track record in the successful implementation of Apprenticeship/ARPL programmes will be considered.
- The applicant's vocational training capacity will be assessed from evidence that the requested number of learners directly aligns with the available training stations and facilitators, ensuring compliance with prescribed learner to station and learner to facilitator ratios. An overview of the Training Facility to be submitted with the application.
- The applicant's capacity to manage programme administration, including learner enrolment, registration and completion, will also be considered.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

- All applications must be submitted online through the W&RSETA Management Information System (MIS) using an SDL, X or N-number to access the system.
- Applicants must demonstrate their capacity to deliver the relevant Apprenticeship, ARPL and Trade Test programmes by uploading the following supporting documentation:
  - Trade Test Centre accreditation letter for the relevant trade.
  - Workplace approval letter (Applicable to Apprenticeship programmes).
  - Skills Development Provider (SDP) accreditation letter.

- Implementation Plan (The Implementation Plan should cover a summary/overview of the Hairdressing Training Facilities that demonstrates adequate capacity to accommodate the requested learner intake with available workstations and Project Team (Assessors and/or facilitators attached CVs). Applicants that aim to group learners into two or more cohorts must indicate in their overview document how this will be implemented).

- Where a W&RSETA SDL number is not applicable, applicants are advised to contact the designated W&RSETA officials for assistance.

FUNDING MODEL

The applicable funding rates are as follows:

- Apprenticeship Programme: R206,292.00 per learner, over a period of three (3) years.
- ARPL – Employed Learners: R33,000.00 per learner.
- ARPL – Unemployed Learners: R55,000.00 per learner.

20% of participants who successfully complete the programme will be afforded an opportunity to present a Business Plan for further funding on Entrepreneurship Infrastructure Support.

ALLOCATION PROCESS:

- Award Letters will be issued to successful applicants after the application closing date.
- Applicants who have not received an Award Letter by 30 November 2026 should consider their application unsuccessful.
- All learners for whom funding is awarded, must be registered on the W&RSETA MIS by **15 February 2027**. Failure to register learners within the stipulated timelines will result in the re-allocation of funding awarded

APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE:

Ms Teams Virtual Briefing Session on **16 October 2026** at **10H00.**
Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3833483792737843?p=Jo2PHd8FHYRFj9SOtj
Meeting ID: 383 348 379 273 784 3
Passcode: GD6Ty3G6
Applications will close at midnight on **25 October 2026.** No late applications will be considered.

QUERIES

For enquiries related to the programme, please contact

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

Eligible institutions and stakeholders are encouraged to submit their applications before the closing date and ensure that all required supporting documentation is provided.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH.