



South Africa. Siyasebenza

THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPENS ON 3 DECEMBER 2012 AND CLOSES ON 15 MARCH 2013

OVERVIEW OF THE JOBS FUND

The Jobs Fund was established by the South African government to catalyse innovation in job creation. The fund was launched on the 7th June 2011.

The fund operates on challenge fund principles; funding allocations are transparent, open and competitive. R9 billion has been set aside for the fund. It awards once-off grants to partner organisations through a competitive project application process. Project partners are required to match the grant fund allocation either on a 1:1 ratio for private sector partners or 1:0.2 for non-private sector partners.

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF THE JOBS FUND

The Minister of Finance appointed the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to manage the Jobs Fund.

Final decisions on the allocation of grants are made by an independent Investment Committee which considers eligible applications against the Jobs Fund impact criteria.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Applications for the following two funding windows are invited:

Enterprise Development

The Enterprise Development funding window aims to lower the cost and risk barriers that inhibit the development of innovative, private sector led enterprise models, partnerships, ideas and projects that could lead to sustainable job creation.

This window looks for initiatives that develop innovative commercial approaches to long-term job creation in ways that combine profitability with high social impact.

This includes funding "umbrella" initiatives that can act as channels of support for smaller enterprises or benefit smaller enterprises indirectly, such as facilitation of market linkages and supply chain diversification.

Infrastructure Investment

The infrastructure window will co-finance light infrastructure investment projects that are necessary to unlock job creation potential in a particular area.

Initiatives could include providing critical missing infrastructure that creates trading opportunities; enhances access to markets; improves the business environment for enterprises and catalyses employment linked investment.

The key characteristics of competitive projects include: large scale impact; contribution to systemic change; innovation; value for money; a clear link to job creation, and a demonstrable capacity to implement.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Fund will, on a competitive basis, consider co-financing proposals from the private sector, non-governmental organisations, government departments and municipalities.

TWO-STAGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Jobs Fund has a two-stage application process; the Concept Application Stage and Full Application Stage.

STAGE 1 Concept Application Stage

This first stage requires the submission of a Concept Application in a standardised format, via the electronic application system. The Concept Application includes a description of all the key features of the project and enables an initial assessment of the eligibility of an application as well as its competitive performance against the impact criteria.

Once all applications have been scored, they are ranked in order to identify the strongest projects within each funding window or broad category of projects and a decision is taken as to which proposals should proceed to Stage Two: Full Applications. This is the first competitive point in the application process.



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STAGE 2 Full Application Stage

Once concept applications are approved, a detailed project proposal will be requested. The request will be accompanied by guidance notes to help improve the quality and chance of success for the full application. However, while the Jobs Fund Project Management Unit may consult with the applicant during the development of their detailed proposal, project design, associated activities and targets remain the responsibility of the applicant.

The recommended project appraisals from this stage will then be submitted to the Investment Committee for funding approval. Competitiveness of the project proposals is a key consideration.

WHY A TWO-STAGE PROCESS?

The Jobs Fund appreciates that submitting an application can be a time consuming process. The concept application stage allows applicants to test the strength and relevance of their concept, without having to submit a detailed business plan.

Only applicants with strong concepts will be asked to submit a detailed application for a full appraisal.

HOW DO I APPLY?

- The Jobs Fund's third call for proposals opened at 2pm on 3 December 2012 and will close at 5pm on 15 March 2013.
- The online application form can be accessed from the Jobs Fund website www.jobsfund.org.za
- Register on the site to create an application. You will be able to work on and save your application online until the call for proposals closes.
- The Jobs Fund website also provides guidance on how to submit a competitive application.

ELIGIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The full eligibility and impact criteria can be downloaded from the Jobs Fund website. www.jobsfund.org.za. A summary of the criteria is laid out below.

The Jobs Fund uses two types of criteria.

1. **Eligibility criteria:** these criteria determine whether or not you qualify to apply to the Jobs Fund.
2. **Impact assessment criteria** are used to score all eligible applications and to compare them to each other on a competitive basis.

The objective of the Fund is to co-finance public and private sector projects that significantly contribute to job creation...

The Fund's impact assessment criteria are guided by the following principles (amongst other things) that the application must demonstrate:

- *Innovation* – the Fund seeks to fund innovative, path-breaking initiatives.
- *Clear link with job creation* – the initiatives must prove beyond doubt that the intervention will result in sustainable job creation.
- *Competition* – the allocation of grants will be determined by an open, competitive process to incentivise good ideas and maximize impact.
- *Additionality* – the Jobs Fund will target activities and investments that enable the initiative to yield significant additional impact and value in a way that could not have happened without a Jobs Fund grant.
- *Once-off, limited duration grants* – grants will target specific initiatives which are clearly defined and which require limited, temporary support that will lead to their on-going sustainability.

Only applications with the highest impact scores will be accepted for consideration.

PROJECTS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE JOBS FUND.

The Jobs Fund will not fund projects in the following categories:

- Bail out of distressed companies
- Start-up companies and initiatives with no proven record
- Training activities that are not linked to job placement
- Initiatives with large capital investment but minimal job creation potential
- Double dipping funding – the Jobs Fund does not seek to crowd out other funding sources.

CONTACT US

For more information on the Jobs Fund, contact us on:



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