



SOUTH AFRICA • SIYASEBENZA

JOBS FUND

13th Funding Round

Launch: 18 May 2026

Applications Close: 30 June 2026, 15h00



national treasury
Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





The Jobs Fund is pleased to announce its 13th Funding Round: **CATALYSING DEMAND-LED GROWTH IN THE GREEN & INFORMAL ECONOMY**

CALL TO ACTION

The Jobs Fund invites experienced intermediaries to submit applications for its 13th funding round.

South Africa's labour market continues to face substantial challenges, with a growing labour force and limited job opportunities, leading to persistently high unemployment. A key pillar in combating unemployment is the informal economy. However, innovative measures are needed to address the barriers impeding growth in the sector.

Parallel to this, the green economy has the potential to significantly contribute to sustainable job creation, particularly in sectors that focus on reducing carbon emissions, improving resource efficiency, and promoting sustainable practices. Green jobs are being created in various sectors, including renewable energy (wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal), agriculture, forestry, transport, and construction.

Despite progress in the green economy, several barriers remain, including skills shortages, limited access to financing, and technological challenges.

The Jobs Fund seeks to partner with organisations that share its vision to find innovative solutions to unlock the employment-creation potential of both the green and informal sectors to address South Africa's unemployment crisis. It's important to note that proposals offering innovative solutions to job creation in other labour-absorbing sectors will also be considered.

The current Call for Proposals will be implemented using Challenge Fund principles, which means only the most competitive proposals will be considered for funding.

The Jobs Fund will target funding toward initiatives that focus on innovative solutions for demand-led growth.

Competitive interventions strengthen the resilience and growth of the green and informal economies by improving access to markets, technology, finance, infrastructure, and skills. Proposals that focus on women and youth will be prioritised.

Proposals must clearly demonstrate market demand, the pathway to job creation and sustainability.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The Jobs Fund will only consider applications for a minimum grant amount of R5 million. Applicants should also note that, within 3 years, the initiative must be fully implemented, the grant fully disbursed, and the target number of jobs and other project-specific outcomes achieved. After the three-year implementation phase, project performance will be monitored for 2 years.

Applicants must demonstrate that they can raise cash-matched funding at a minimum of 1:1 for private and public sectors and 1:0.5 for NPOs. Please read the Term Sheet which sets out what the Fund will recognise as matched funding.



APPLICATION DETAILS

The Jobs Fund allocates funding through a competitive process. All applications must be submitted online through the Grant Management System, accessible via the [Jobs Fund website](#).

The Jobs Fund's 13th Funding round opens on 18 May 2026. The Term Sheet provides guidance on the Fund's criteria.

Please note the following:

- Visit the Jobs Fund website to learn about the type of projects the Fund has supported.
- Consider the guidance note on Key Learnings from our 12th funding round.
- The funding round has a hard closing date of 30 June at 15:00. No late applications will be accepted.

Our Application Assessment Process:

STAGE 1: Eligibility Assessment. Review your prospective project/concept against the Fund's eligibility requirements (see the 13th Funding Round Term Sheet) to see if it qualifies.

STAGE 2: Concept Assessment. The Concept Note application needs to be competitive when assessed against the Fund's impact criteria and against other applications. The Fund will advise on the status of the application at the end of Stage 2 (within 3-4 months). Note that grant funds are not allocated at this stage.

STAGE 3: Business Case Assessment. Successful applicants from Stage 2 will be invited to submit a business case. Applicants will be notified within 3-4 months of being requested to submit their business case. The full application process takes about 9-10 months, including the December-January closures and depending on applicants' responsiveness when requested to submit supporting documentation.

STAGE 4: Contracting. The Jobs Fund will require successful applicants to sign a Grant Agreement within one month of being advised that they have been successful in their grant application. Note that the evaluation process is competitive: not all strong applications will receive funding.

ABOUT THE JOBS FUND

The National Treasury established the Jobs Fund in June 2011 to support innovative initiatives and approaches to job creation. The R9 billion fund operates on challenge fund principles, and all funding allocations are made on a competitive basis in a transparent and open manner.

Once-off grants are awarded to projects that demonstrate sustainable job-creation potential, and project partners are required to match the grant funds at a ratio of 1:1 or higher and at a ratio of 1:0.5 for NPOs.

The Jobs Fund is not a mass employment programme, nor is it intended to tackle long-term structural causes of low growth and unemployment. Rather, it provides a targeted programme of support for effective labour market interventions that result in sustainable employment creation.

Since 2011, the Jobs Fund has successfully held 12 funding rounds and contracted over 180 projects. As of 31 December 2025, these projects have:

- ★ Created over **343,000** jobs and internships, with a strong focus on women (58%) and youth (66%) beneficiaries.
- ★ **418,777** work-seekers and entrepreneurs trained, improving employability and business outcomes.
- ★ **98%** of beneficiaries are previously disadvantaged individuals, ensuring inclusive growth.
- ★ Disbursed **R7.7 billion** in government grants and leveraged **R15.7 billion** in matched funding from private and non-profit partners.
- ★ For every Rand contributed by the government, partners have contributed **R2.05**, all of which is directed toward scaling employment outcomes.

