



South Africa Siyasebenza

BREAKING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT IN THE
GREEN AND INFORMAL ECONOMIES

JOBS FUND 12TH FUNDING ROUND

LAUNCH: 22 APRIL 2025

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 3:00PM, 05 JUNE 2025

BRIEFING SESSION: 08 MAY 2025

TRAINING SESSION: 13 MAY 2025



national treasury
Department:
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UNLOCK JOB CREATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: JOIN THE GREEN AND INFORMAL ECONOMY CHALLENGE!

CALL TO ACTION

The Jobs Fund invites proposals that will address critical employment barriers in South Africa's green and informal economies. We seek sector intermediaries from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors with solid implementation expertise to propose innovative and implementable solutions that will create sustainable jobs and stimulate economic growth. Successful proposals must demonstrate how interventions will overcome labour market barriers and ensure job sustainability beyond the initial grant funding period.

What we're tackling

South Africa's unemployment rate is high, with youth (ages 15–34) and women facing the greatest challenges. In Q4 2024, the national unemployment rate was 31.9%, and youth unemployment reached 44.6%. Over 3.3 million people are employed in the informal sector, however the sector remains underdeveloped compared to other emerging economies. Both the green and informal economy hold untapped potential for job creation but face barriers such as skills gaps, financing challenges and regulatory issues.

Why this matters

The future of South Africa's economy depends on both the formal and informal sectors, particularly in green innovation. The Jobs Fund aims to drive inclusive growth in these sectors by partnering with intermediaries that will create sustainable jobs while addressing environmental and social challenges.

Your role

We invite proposals focused on overcoming employment barriers in the green and informal economies.

Green economy: The green economy refers to economic activities that aim to reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aim for sustainable development without degrading the environment. Sectors include renewable energy, waste management, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, green transport and water management.

Informal economy: The informal economy includes economic activities, enterprises, jobs and workers that are not covered by formal arrangements, such as enterprise regulatory frameworks or social and legal worker protection. Sectors include street vending, small retail, construction, care work, repair and maintenance services, artisanal work, market trading, waste picking, home-based work, small-scale farming and informal transportation.



WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We need innovative, scalable solutions to address:

- Skills gaps in green technologies and sustainable practices
- Limited access to funding for green businesses or informal sector initiatives
- Regulatory and policy barriers hindering growth
- Poor working conditions and lack of social protection in the informal economy
- Limited access to markets and financing for informal enterprises.

Key criteria

- **Innovative solutions:** Proposals must offer scalable, creative solutions to employment barriers.
- **Three-year implementation:** Projects must be implemented within three years. The grant and matched funding must be fully disbursed and the target number of jobs, along with other project-specific outcomes, must be achieved.
- **Sustainability:** Proposals must explain how the project will remain sustainable after the grant period.
- **Matched funding:** A minimum of 1:1 matched funding from private/public partners or 1:0.5 for not-for-profit entities.
- **Measurable impact:** Outcomes for creating jobs, alleviating poverty and reducing barriers must be clear.

Proposal requirements

- Proven ability to implement large-scale projects
- Strong track record in the sector
- Clear milestones and measurable outcomes
- Financial sustainability beyond the grant period.

Application process

- The Jobs Fund allocates funding through a competitive process. All applications must be submitted online on the Jobs Fund Grant Management System, which can be accessed via the Jobs Fund website.

- The term sheet, which will be published on the website on **22 April 2025**, contains more information on the appraisal process and the eligibility criteria.

In the interim, please note the following:

- Collaboration is encouraged.
- The application will first be assessed against the eligibility criteria as outlined in the term sheet. If it fails to meet these criteria, it will be disqualified and will not proceed to the competitive assessment against the Jobs Fund's impact criteria, which include ability to scale and potential for systemic change.
- The Fund's independent Investment Committee makes the final decision on grant allocation.
- Applicants will be notified of the assessment outcome and must conclude contracting within a specified time, or risk losing the grant allocation.
- This funding round opens on **22 April 2025** and closes at 3.00pm, on **05 June 2025**. No late applications will be accepted.
- **Grant amount:** Applications requesting a minimum of **R5 million** will be considered.
- **Support services:** include briefing sessions and guidance from the Jobs Fund, with detailed instructions available on the application portal.
- This funding round will be implemented using challenge fund principles, which means the Fund will deploy a portfolio approach in its consideration of proposals for funding.



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HOW TO APPLY

Submit your proposal through our application portal or contact us for more information:



jobsfund.praxisgms.co.za



jobsfund@treasury.gov.za



www.jobsfund.org.za



Briefing session



Training session

ABOUT THE JOBS FUND

Since its launch in 2011, the Jobs Fund through its 11 Funding rounds has catalysed innovative job creation interventions across multiple economic sectors.

As one of the largest challenge funds globally, it distinguishes itself through its in-house technical capacity, proven implementation ability and by its active promotion of the adoption of the challenge fund methodology in South Africa. Together with its partners, the Jobs Fund has achieved remarkable outcomes:

- **Innovative job creation:** Developing new approaches to address supply and demand side labour market challenges

- **Matched funding:** Sharing investments between partners and government at a 1:1 ratio
- **Private sector partnerships:** Scaling successful job creation models through collaboration
- **Job creation:** Creating 210,719 permanent jobs and 114,534 short-term jobs/internships
- **Labour market interventions:** Supporting over 180 initiatives addressing labour market constraints
- **Funding leverage:** Securing R14.8 billion in matched funding, tripling public investment
- **Grant disbursement:** Disbursing over R7.4 billion in grants
- **Complementary role:** Supporting other government employment initiatives.

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