



# Supporting South Africa's Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
17 FEBRUARY - 28 MARCH 2022



**national treasury**

Department:  
National Treasury  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





## THE JOBS FUND

The Jobs Fund (a programme of the National Treasury) was established as a Challenge Fund to test innovative employment models. The Challenge Fund instrument as implemented by the Jobs Fund has over years been successful in crowding in funding, ideas, innovation, and technical expertise from the market.

The Jobs Fund partners and shares risk with intermediaries, i.e., private sector, non-profits and other government agencies and has played a catalytic role in stimulating innovation and finding solutions to social challenges specifically employment creation. To date (as of 31 December 2021) the Jobs Fund has disbursed R5.85bn, leveraged R11.76bn in matched funds and created 287,441 jobs at an average grant cost of R20,349 per job. 64% of these created jobs are filled by youth (184,902).

## SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICA'S POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Our country finds itself confronted with an unprecedented level of unemployment. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa recorded the deepest and most persistent unemployment challenge globally.

The 2021 Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) reported that in the third quarter the unemployment rate was 34.9%. If discouraged work seekers are included, the unemployment rate rises to 46.6%. Youth are disproportionately affected, youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 66.5% and 43.8%, respectively.



Beyond the devastating health impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound and sustained economic impact domestically and abroad. The hard lockdown, resulted in output levels for 2020 dropping to levels last seen in 2013. According to Stats SA, roughly 409,000 fewer people were employed in the third quarter of 2021 than the previous year's third quarter. On the back of the COVID-19 pandemic, the President had proposed an Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan for South Africa. In his State of the Nation Address on 10 February 2022, the President re-emphasised the importance of putting South Africa to work and provided further direction on the key enablers for economic growth. Achieving these objectives requires a whole of society approach; the Public, Private and Non-State sectors must work better together and find innovative solutions to scale economic and social impact.

Through its current partnerships and by bringing on board new partnerships, the Jobs Fund seeks to contribute to the call to action - Putting South Africa to Work using a proven implementation approach and team to drive change, innovation and scaling solutions for employment creation.

The Jobs Fund invites applications that will implement a systems approach to:

- Accelerate the growth of entrepreneurs/ business owners.
- Better address problems at the local level and drive systems change (local economic development).
- Build human and institutional capacity and contribute to transitions from dependency to sustainability.
- Develop economic sectors with growth and high labour absorption potential (a focus on youth and women will be an advantage).
- Build eco-systems of support for the informal sector.
- Develop appropriate financial instruments, value chain development, and market access that will unlock the trapped potential in economic sectors that can contribute to the acceleration of employment creation.
- Address both labour demand and supply barriers.
- Scaling Social Impact with a specific emphasis on employment creation.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the path to sustainability and the breakthrough solution for employment creation i.e., key success factors for a competitive application include jobs created and scaling impact. Furthermore, applicants must articulate how the intervention

### CONTACT DETAILS

[www.jobsfund.org.za](http://www.jobsfund.org.za) | [jobsfund@treasury.gov.za](mailto:jobsfund@treasury.gov.za) | [@JobFund\\_NT](https://twitter.com/JobFund_NT) | [vimeo.com/thejobsfund](https://vimeo.com/thejobsfund)


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will ensure success in the current Covid-19 context and contribute to the post-pandemic economic recovery.

## OUR FUNDING WINDOWS

Applications can be submitted through the Enterprise Development, Support for Work Seekers, Infrastructure Investment (included in Enterprise Development) and Institutional Capacity Building funding windows:

**Enterprise Development:** Targets initiatives that develop innovative commercial approaches to long-term job creation in ways that combine profitability with high social impact. These projects should reduce risk, remove barriers to market access or improve or broaden value and supply chains.

**Support for Work Seekers:** Seeks to link active work-seekers, especially youth and women, to formal and informal sector opportunities and job placement. This window targets initiatives aimed at facilitating rapid access to employment and work-related training for unemployed people, particularly youth and women.

**Infrastructure Investment:** Looks to co-finance light infrastructure investment projects such applications will also be accepted under the Enterprise Development Window, provided the applicant demonstrates how the investment will unlock entrepreneurial and job creation potential in particular youth and women in a particular economic sector or geographical area.

**Institutional Capacity Building:** Targets projects that will improve operational efficiencies, remove barriers to doing business, catalyse innovation and thereby scale up the potential for job creation.



## FUNDING CRITERIA

The Jobs Fund has pre-determined eligibility criteria to ensure that each project that proceeds to the business case assessment stage has the minimum operating experience, infrastructure, administrative capacity to successfully implement the proposed project and demonstrate value for money for the Jobs Fund. The assessment process commences with a strict appraisal of the project and its compliance with the eligibility criteria. At a minimum, applicants and applications must meet all the following criteria:

- The funding request must be for a minimum grant size of **R10 million** for applications under the Enterprise Development and Support for Work Seekers Funding Windows and a minimum grant size of **R5 million** for applications under the Institutional Capacity Building Funding Windows.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to secure matched funding in the form of direct cash contributions at a minimum level of **1:1 for private companies** and public entities and **1:0.5 for NPOs**.
- Applicants must be in full compliance with administrative requirements (including Tax Compliance Status).
- Applicants (contracting party) must be solvent, have been operating for more than two years, and have complete audited annual financial statements for the previous two financial years (these criteria apply specifically to the lead applicant).
- Implementers (who could be the applicant) must have a track record of more than three years of technical experience in the area of interest.
- The initiative should take a maximum of 2 years (24 months) to achieve the project targets. Initiatives that can demonstrate realistic/plausible impact (e.g., job creation) in a shorter period will be considered more competitive.
- Applicants need to acknowledge that while the intellectual property (IP) will reside with the applicant, all successful applicants must permit the Jobs Fund to use the concept for learning and dissemination purposes. The learning material will be developed in conjunction with the owner of the IP and will not be used for commercial dissemination.
- Existing/ previous Jobs Fund Partners will only be eligible to respond to the call if they meet **ALL** the following additional criteria as of **31 December 2021**:
  - The project must have reached **at least 50%** of its contracted implementation period.
  - Performance on applicable contracted job and placement

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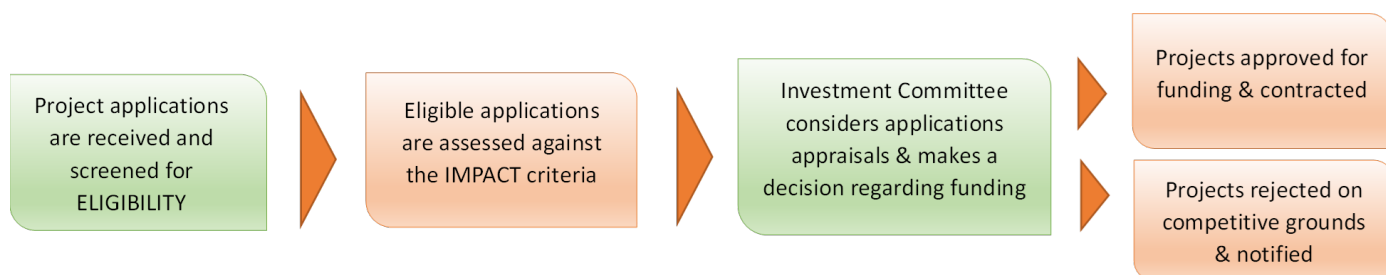


- targets combined must be **greater than 50%** since inception date.
- iii. The project must have reached **at least 50%** inception to date expenditure as measured against total contracted expenditure.

- iv. The project must have achieved **at least 80%** of its stated Covid-19 grant aims as applicable.
- v. The project must have spent **at least 80%** of the disbursed Covid-19 grant as applicable.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The Jobs Fund allocates grant funding through a competitive, one stage process. All applications must be submitted online using the following link: <https://jobsfund.praxisgms.co.za>



## NOTE

- This funding round opens 17 February 2022 and closes 28 March 2022 at 15:00. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.
- All applications must be completed [online](#).
- Due diligence is conducted to verify the validity of proposals, targets, and applicant details.
- Applicant administration systems must support good governance, and robust monitoring and evaluation must be built into project design and budget.
- FICA compliance is essential.

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The Jobs Fund  
[jobsfund@treasury.gov.za](mailto:jobsfund@treasury.gov.za)



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