THE PRESIDENCY: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Private Bag X1000, PRETORIA, 0001

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Jobs & Livelihoods Window

Just Energy Transition (JET) Funding Platform — JET Project Management Unit, The Presidency

The Just Energy Transition (JET) Funding Platform (the "FP") invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for initiatives that enhance decent jobs in the formal economy and strengthen livelihoods in the informal economy in communities affected by South Africa's Just Energy Transition.

Note: The JET Funding Platform does not directly hold or disburse grant funding.

The Platform facilitates the matching of selected projects with potential funding partners. Progression to later stages of the Platform's assessment or selection process does not constitute, nor should it be interpreted as, a guarantee of funding.

1. Background & Rationale

Building on learnings from earlier open windows, this themed window focuses on Jobs & Livelihoods in the JET to improve the quality of applications and strengthen funder matching. It prioritises demand-led pathways to employment, enterprise support, and resilient incomes for vulnerable groups.

2. Geographic Focus

2.1. Primary preference: The coal belt or communities with strong socio-economic links to coal value chains.
2.2. Secondary preference: National

3. Objectives

3.1. Promote access to decent work in the formal economy (especially for youth and women) through demand-led skilling and placement pathways.
3.2. Support improved livelihoods and resilience in the informal economy through practical, market-linked interventions.

4. Priority Areas

4.1. Formal economy

4.1.1. Demand-led technical, soft-skills and work-readiness training with clear placement pipelines.
4.1.2. Job matching and placement services, internships and work-based learning.
4.1.3. Public-private partnerships for workforce development aligned to sector demand.

4.2. Informal economy

4.2.1. Enterprise support to increase incomes: access to markets, finance, tools and BDS.
4.2.2. Strengthen local ecosystems and cooperation; catalyse private sector support.
4.2.3. Practical interventions that improve productivity, stability and resilience.

5. Who Can Apply?

5.1. Non-profit organisations (NPOs/NGOs), social enterprises, training providers, private sector entities.
5.2. Applicants must demonstrate relevant track record in demand-led skills, workforce development and/or informal enterprise support.
5.3. Experience in the coal-belt is desirable.

6. Exclusions

Individuals; government institutions, political parties; pure research/feasibility-only requests; private companies seeking pure operating expansion unrelated to this window's objectives.

7. Grant Request Provisions

7.1. Funding range: R1 million – R20 million (higher amounts may be considered where strong co-funding and transformational impact are demonstrated).
7.2. Grant duration: up to 24 months (subject to funder requirements and project nature).
7.3. Co-funding: encouraged but not mandatory; please indicate source, amount and status if applicable.
7.4. Disbursement: milestone-based, aligned with deliverables and reporting (subject to funder terms).

8. Core Impact and Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Benchmarks

Projects are assessed against measurable benchmarks, including:

Impact criteria	Benchmark measurement
Community involvement	• % of interventions that have planned for community involvement as part of their design • % of interventions reporting "Level 3-Community engagement" (on a scale of 0 to 5) in the intervention or higher. Detailed definition to be provided should the project progress to the stage of submitting a full Funding Application.
Institutional strengthening & capacity building	• Level(s) is the intervention's primary intention for institutional strengthening aimed? – Micro – level: At community and or local role – players and groups/ – Meso – level: At local or provincial government level and or the nearest level of administration. Implementation partners / NGOs. – Macro – level: At policy level, national government, education system, think tanks, development finance institutions etc. • % of interventions that report a positive change across institutional elements (capacity, systems, resources, information, coordination) Note: Institutional strengthening refers to any interventions or technical assistance intended to support change in relation to institutional elements which address organisational: Capacity; Resources; Information sharing; Coordination; Systems; and/or Performance.

Job creation	• Number of non-permanent direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created or maintained during establishment of the intervention • Number of direct FTE jobs created or maintained after establishment of the intervention Note: **Non-permanent** refers to a job that is for a fixed term often corresponding to phases of intervention implementation. **Direct** refers to employment where the labour demand results in a job as an immediate result of an intervention. It does NOT include supply chain, spillover or induced benefit jobs. **Full-time equivalent** (FTE) refers to a job that is approximately 40 working hours per week. **Created or maintained** refers to a job where labour supply has been matched to labour demand for the phase of the intervention. It does not include planned jobs or appointments pending
Livelihood and resilience	• % of interventions that self-report livelihoods contributions "On track" or better in planned asset categories • Number of households estimated to have benefitted from intervention Note: Livelihood has been introduced as a category to track changes involving multiple capabilities and assets, not just financial changes. A livelihood is defined as 'the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources), and activities required for a means of living. Livelihoods reporting should be oriented to the human and environmental benefits associated with the results of the JET.
Gender equality	In line with standard Gender Lens Investing (GLI) benchmarks covering women's leadership, employment, ownership and beneficiary reach are: • At least 30% women in leadership positions • At least 40% women in overall employment • At least 25% women ownership • At least 30% of products or services directly benefiting women

9. Application Process

This window follows a tiered selection process designed to minimise applicant burden while surfacing implementation-ready initiatives. **Only the Top 20 Expressions of Interest will be invited to submit a full application** to be assessed and scored,

9.1. Step 1: EOI submission via the Funding Platform portal.

9.2. Step 2: Eligibility screening & quick assessment
9.3. Step 3: Adjudication Committee shortlists the Top 20 EOIs.
9.4. Step 4: The Top 20 are invited to submit a full application (guidance to be provided).
9.5. Step 5: Project Selection Committee scores full applications against JET FP criteria.
9.6. Step 6: Applicants to be invited for virtual meeting with the JET FP team and Project Selection Committee
9.7. Step 7: JET FP and Selection Committee meet with JET FP Project Review Committee for decision-making
9.8. Step 8: Communicate outcome to projects. Selected projects proceed to matching with funders; others are declined with feedback (where possible).

Please note: Only twenty (20) applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

10. Indicative Timeline

EOI opens on 23 February 2026 and closes 5 April 2026 at 23:59

11. Selection Criteria

11.1. Alignment with window objectives and geographic focus.
11.2. Focus on youth and women; inclusion and equity considerations.
11.3. Feasibility and readiness to deliver within 24 months (evidence of partnerships, pipeline, and delivery capacity).
11.4. Potential for impact (jobs created/placements; informal incomes improved) and sustainability beyond grant period.
11.5. Organisational capacity and track record; governance and compliance.
11.6. Additionality and value for money; potential to leverage co-funding.
11.7. Learning and MEL approach (clarity of outcomes, indicators, and evidence).

Please note: Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

12. Submission Instructions

12.1. Submit your EOI via the Funding Platform Portal: jetfundingplatform.org.za
12.2. Queries: use the JET PMU contact box.

13. Compliance & Due Diligence

Shortlisted applicants (Top 20) will undergo due diligence including governance, tax and other compliance checks.

14. Contact

For questions or clarifications email: helpdesk@jetfundingplatform.org.za

Please note: The JET Funding Platform reserves the right to amend timelines and requirements. Selection into later stages does not guarantee funding; matching depends on alignment with funders' mandates.