



**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR  
SPECIAL PROJECT OR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS  
FOR 2025/2026**

**Opening Date of Special Projects or Strategic Partnership: 05 November 2025**

**Closing Date of Special Projects or Strategic Partnership: 23 January 2026**

The Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) invites stakeholders, including levy-paying and non-levy paying stakeholders, to apply for Special Projects or Strategic Partnerships that are mutually beneficial and aligned to the five strategic focus areas and mandate of the LGSETA.

**Special Project:** A special project is a discretionary grant project, which is an innovative initiative that strategically supports skills development aimed at creating greater impact in the local government sector.

**Strategic Partnership:** A strategic partnership is a discretionary grant project that includes programmes or interventions that address any of the five strategic focus areas of the LGSETA aligned to its mandate. Strategic Partnerships aim to support the implementation of the LGSETA Strategic Partnership Model which can be monetary, co-funded or non-funded and covers a duration of a maximum of three years.

**Who can apply?**

The LGSETA will consider applications from registered legal public or private organisations/entities of different sizes that contribute to the mandate of the LGSETA including but are not limited to municipalities, relevant government departments, organisations and or institutions guided by the list outlined in the LGSETA SSP as well as international organisations that support the mandate of LGSETA. A joint application by organisations (e.g District Municipality partnering with their respective local municipality to implement a joint project as part of the District Development Model (DDM)), is accepted where an organisation identifies an area of collaboration in line with any of the LGSETA's five strategic priority focus areas.

**LGSETA Accounting Authority Special Projects and Strategic Partnership Areas of Collaboration**

Strategic Focus Area	Programme Focus
1. Enhancing Good Governance, Leadership and Management Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Development Programme</li> <li>• Governance and Ethical leadership</li> <li>• Traditional Leadership Development Programme</li> <li>• Leadership and Management</li> </ul>
2. Promoting Sound Financial Management and Financial Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Financial Management (Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful (UIFW), Revenue Management, Management of water losses and electricity losses, Debt management, Asset Management)</li> <li>• Internal Audit and Risk Management</li> <li>• MPACs</li> <li>• Supply Chain Management</li> <li>• Distressed Municipalities</li> </ul>
3. Enhancing Infrastructure and Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4IR Digital Skills and SMART Municipalities</li> <li>• Emergencies and Disaster Management, Climate Change, natural disasters including droughts, floods, and fire</li> <li>• Just Energy Transitioning (JET)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DDM approach – nine broad service delivery areas</li> </ul>
4. Enhancing Municipal Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Development Planning (IDP)</li> <li>• Strategic Human Resource Management/Development</li> <li>• Community Development Support</li> <li>• Worker education and worker development</li> </ul>
5. Promoting Spatial Transformation and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town and regional Planning</li> <li>• Local Economic Development and related economic sub-sectors</li> <li>• Special Economic Zones</li> </ul>

**Strategic Partnerships includes:**

- LGSETA five strategic focus areas
- LGSETA strategic partnership value chain
- Strategic sectoral or national priorities for local government;
- Professionalism or professional development in local government
- Skills priorities of dysfunctional or distressed municipalities
- Supporting marginalised groups including women, persons with disabilities, youth and rural context
- Partnerships aligned to any of the following nine broad service delivery areas of the LGSETA DDM approach:
  - Energy
  - Economic Development
  - Community Services
  - Public Safety and Security
  - Settlements and Housing
  - Town and Regional Planning
  - Transport, Roads, and Storm Water
  - Waste and Refuse Management and
  - Water and Sanitation
  - Traditional Leadership
  - LGSETA Integrated High Impact Programmes
  - Job creation interventions

**How to apply?**

1. Applicants based on the prescripts above are invited to apply by sending **ONLY ONE APPLICATION**, using the LGSETA Special Project and Strategic Partnership Proposal Template. (see *proposal template on the LGSETA Website*).

**Submissions:**

1. The Special Project and Strategic Partnerships application must be **SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY** to the email address [dgapplications@lgseta.org.za](mailto:dgapplications@lgseta.org.za) (No applications should be sent to personal email addresses or hand delivered).
2. The application window opens **05 November 2025 at 8:00 am** and closes on the **23 January 2026 at 23:59** (midnight). The deadline will not be extended. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**
3. **ONLY ONE application will be accepted per institution** using the Special Projects and Strategic Partnership proposal template. Multiple applications **WILL NOT** be considered.
4. Discretionary Grant documentation including Special Projects and Strategic Partnerships, evaluation criteria, qualifications and guidelines are accessible from the LGSETA website [www.lgseta.org.za](http://www.lgseta.org.za).

**Please Note:**

1. All the Discretionary Grant applications are subject to approval by the LGSETA Accounting Authority.
2. The allocation of these grants will be dependent on the availability of funds and on applicants meeting all requirements as per the programmes funding criteria, policies, and procedures.
3. LGSETA reserves the right to cancel the discretionary grant funding window in whole or in part at its discretion.
4. If you have not heard from us within three (3) months of submitting your application, please consider your application unsuccessful.
5. All inquiries must be directed to email DG Secretariat at [dgapplications@lgseta.org.za](mailto:dgapplications@lgseta.org.za)