

## **NEW CALL FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS PROGRAMME 6 (PESP 6) FUNDING GUIDELINES 2025 - 2026**

<b>OPENING DATE</b>	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	<b>OUTCOMES DATE</b>
16 September 2025	09 October 2025	01 December 2025

These guidelines have been compiled to assist applicants who wish to apply for funding from the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP 6) that is available to the sector to be disbursed via the National Arts Council (NAC).

The PESP 6 aims to provide an economic stimulus to support sector initiatives, thus individuals and registered arts organisations and institutions are requested to propose projects that create jobs in the creative and cultural sector.

This Programme forms part of the Government’s intervention to re-activate the sector to economic recovery and reconstruction (Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan – ERRP), post the COVID-19 pandemic devastation.

**Applicants who received NAC Annual Funding are eligible to apply for the PESP 6 Funding Call.**

The following are the funding guidelines applicants need to adhere to when making an application.

### 1. Who is eligible for funding?

<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Organisations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual applications are for a single applicant who is undertaking a project. (This is meant to benefit individual arts practitioners, for example, choreographers, composers, etc.)</li> <li>• In cases where several people are working collaboratively on a project, one member of the group should take the lead in applying.</li> <li>• Applicants must be either South African citizens, permanent residents, or refugees. or Priority will be given to South African citizens.</li> <li>• Projects can be implemented in SA, across the continent or abroad.</li> <li>• Applications from individuals working for government departments and entities will not be accepted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications from formally registered organisations, groups and institutions are acceptable.</li> <li>• Lead applicants of registered South African companies must be South African citizens, permanent residents, or refugees. Priority will be given to South African citizens.</li> <li>• Projects can be implemented in SA, across the continent or abroad.</li> <li>• Applications from organisations or institutions led or owned by individuals working for government departments and entities will not be accepted.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Please note that Individuals under the Government Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Community Work Program (CWP), Internships/Learnerships will be eligible to apply.</i></p>	<p><i>Please note that Individuals under the Government Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Community Work Program (CWP), Internships or Learnerships will be eligible to apply.</i></p>

## 2. Funding Approach

### 2.1. Disciplines eligible for funding:

Craft, Dance, Literature, Multidiscipline, Music, Theatre including Musical Theatre, and Visual Arts

### 2.2. Types of projects to be considered (included but not limited to):

Applicants are encouraged to apply for all types of arts or culture projects such as creation, composition, workshops, showcases, exhibitions, script writing, residencies, performances, and other art-related activities. Applications presenting content and offering training in South African Indigenous art forms and intellectual property are encouraged to apply. Proposed projects must demonstrate impact and value for the communities in which they are implemented.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Animation/multimedia design</li> <li>▪ Art teaching at community level</li> <li>▪ Arts and culture-related publications</li> <li>▪ Capacity building/skills development projects</li> <li>▪ Community outreach arts and culture projects</li> <li>▪ Creation of new works/products e.g., ceramics, pottery, wood carving, embroidery, applique, tapestry, weaving and textile design, new choreographic works, scriptwriting/acting for theatre, photography, music recordings</li> <li>▪ Research for script development for theatre</li> <li>▪ Dance performances/productions</li> <li>▪ Residencies</li> <li>▪ Exhibitions</li> <li>▪ Fashion design with a cultural element</li> <li>▪ Festivals including literary festivals or book fairs (these will be considered only if they have a community participation component)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Music concerts</li> <li>▪ Musical theatre productions</li> <li>▪ Public art</li> <li>▪ Publishing subsidies for book publishing houses (only for the publishing creative writing)</li> <li>▪ Puppetry</li> <li>▪ Creative writing (writing and research grants, including autobiographies/biographies, novels, short stories, drama books folklore/storytelling, poetry, and children's literature)</li> <li>▪ Running costs will be supported in association with the relevant artistic programme costs (not to exceed 15% the of budget)</li> <li>▪ Theatre productions</li> <li>▪ Storytelling</li> <li>▪ Self-publishing by established/prolific authors</li> <li>▪ Any other arts related activities that can demonstrate the creation of work opportunities and economic stimulus.</li> </ul> |
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**2.3. Application assessment criteria:**

- Artistic merit and innovation (through digital arts, where applicable), as well as increasing access to markets, audience development, community reach and economic spin-offs,
- Ability to transform the sector through increased employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and/or showcasing of South African’s cultures including Indigenous and/or marginalised art forms,
- Job creation with a focus on youth, women, and vulnerable groups, and where applicable, employment creation opportunities beyond the sector itself,
- Sector experience and/or innovative ideas,
- A sound and feasible budget and project activity plan.

**3. Categories of projects and/or items that are not funded:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architecture</li> <li>• Church choirs</li> <li>• Competitions/Award Ceremonies</li> <li>• General magazines</li> <li>• Novice writers applying for publishing</li> <li>• Infrastructure costs</li> <li>• Interior design</li> <li>• Music arrangement of other person’s work without permission</li> <li>• Personal commissions and commissions by other institutions</li> <li>• Purchasing of books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing of equipment</li> <li>• Purchasing of musical instruments</li> <li>• Purchasing of Stage Equipment</li> <li>• Running costs not associated with the project being applied for</li> <li>• Seed funding</li> <li>• Vanity press/publishing</li> <li>• Videos and film</li> <li>• Writing in other subjects that are not of a creative writing genre</li> </ul>
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#### 4. Project Budgets

- Due to budgetary constraints, the NAC may not be able to fund the full budget of a project. Applicants are therefore encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources. Applicants must declare any other sources of funding.
  
- Applicants can apply for a maximum threshold as indicated below:

TYPE OF	PROJECT AMOUNT	NUMBER OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES CREATED
<b>MAJOR ART OR ART OR CULTURE PROJECT</b>	<b>R800 000.00</b>	Applications must propose at least <b>70 job opportunities</b> including the number of artists to be employed, capacity building, audience development and should focus on <b>youth</b> and <b>vulnerable groups</b> as beneficiaries.
<b>MEDIUM SCALE ART OR CULTURE PROJECT</b>	<b>R500 000.00</b>	Applications must propose at least <b>40 job opportunities</b> including number of artists to be employed, capacity element, audience development and should focus on <b>youth</b> and <b>vulnerable groups</b> as beneficiaries.
<b>OTHER ARTS OR CULTURE PROJECTS</b>	<b>R300 000.00</b>	Applications will be assessed based on the artistic merit of the project at the <b>discretion of panel members</b> , and should focus on <b>youth</b> and <b>vulnerable groups</b> as beneficiaries

- Applications requesting more than the maximum allocation budget as indicated above will not be considered and will automatically be disqualified.
  
- The allocation will be in line with the redress and transformation imperatives of the NAC.

## 5. Compulsory Supporting Compliance documents required

The following compliance documents will be required for an application to be considered before being forwarded to the adjudication panel:

Individuals	Organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identity Documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Certified copy of South African ID or Certified Permanent Residence Permit</b> (The certification date must be clear and visible and should not be older than 12 months, certified passports and driver’s licenses will not be accepted).</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Banking Details</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bank statement/bank letter must have the name of the individual on the Bank’s letterhead (not older than 3 months).</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Curriculum Vitae/Biography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A full Curriculum Vitae/Biography of the applicant, with sufficient detail to show applicant’s qualifications, relevant experience, and capacity to implement the project.</li> <li>- CVs <b>must be complete</b>, not summaries.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Examples of your previous work or involvement in the arts, such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Photographs</li> <li>- Videos or video links</li> <li>- Brochures</li> <li>- Published or printed materials</li> </ul>           (These examples will assist in the assessment of your application).         </li>   <li>• <b>Reference Letters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two reference letters submitted (signed, dated, full address and contact details not older than 18 months).</li> <li>- Letters must be from two different organisations, not two individuals in the same organisation.</li> <li>- Reference letters must correctly reference the applicant (individual by</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identity Documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Two Certified copies of South African ID’s or Certified Permanent Residence Permits, one of the lead applicant and one of the Office bearers</b> (The certification date must be clear and visible and should not be older than 12 months, certified passports and driver’s licenses will not be accepted).</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Banking Details</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bank statement/bank letter must have the name of organisation on the Bank’s letterhead (not older than 3 months).</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Copy of the organisation’s registration certificate</b></li>   <li>• <b>Curriculum Vitae/Biography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two Full Curriculum Vitae/Biography (one from lead applicant and Senior office bearer (i.e. one other manager occupying a management position in the organisation, with sufficient detail to show applicant’s qualifications, relevant experience, and capacity to implement the project.</li> <li>- CVs <b>must be complete</b>, not summaries.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Examples of the organisation’s previous work or involvement in the arts, such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Photographs</li> <li>- Videos or video links</li> <li>- Brochures</li> <li>- Published or printed materials</li> </ul>           (These examples will assist in the assessment of your application).         </li>   <li>• <b>Reference Letters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two reference letters must be submitted (signed, dated, full address and contact</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>name for individual applications).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letters must include referee's full address and contact details (logos alone are insufficient). Letters from traditional authorities with P.O. BOX addresses will be accepted.</li> <li>- Letters must have the signature of the referee, typed names without a verifiable signature are not accepted.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Its compulsory for applicants proposing capacity building projects to submit a training manual. CVs of facilitators must be submitted as well.</i></b></p>	<p>details not older than 18 months).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letters must be from two different organisations, not two individuals in the same organisation.</li> <li>- Reference letters must correctly reference the applicant organisation by name.</li> <li>- Letters must include referee's full address and contact details (logos alone are insufficient). Letters from traditional authorities with P.O. BOX addresses will be accepted.</li> <li>- Letters must have the signature of the referee, typed names without a verifiable signature are not accepted.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Its compulsory for applicants proposing capacity building projects to submit a training manual. CVs of facilitators must be submitted as well.</i></b></p>
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## 6. Financial Reporting Requirements

Funding Allocation Amounts	Reporting Expected
Funding allocation up to R350 000	Project income and expenditure report with proof of expenditure
Funding allocation for R 351 000 – R800 000	Project financial statement signed off by a registered accountant

## 7. Administration compliance

- Applicants are required to submit all compulsory documents listed on the application form via the online platform GMS or via manual applications (see below)
- Incomplete applications will **not** be considered and will automatically be disqualified.

## 8. Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is **09 October 2025** at **23h59, Manual applications, hand delivered or couriered must be received by 17:00.**

## 9. General Information

- Not more than one project per beneficiary can be funded.
- Applicants can only be funded once per financial year as per NAC Regulations (1999). However, applicants approved for NAC annual project funding may also apply for and be granted funding in PESP 6 (the funding programme provided by the Presidency to stimulate the economy and the sector).
- Only one application will be supported by both a natural person (individual) and juristic person (organisation/company). The lead applicant of an organisation application cannot be funded as an individual applicant.
- Applications for touring projects may be considered during this call.
- Projects that foster cultural exchange and dialogues between citizens of South Africa and other countries may be considered.
- Applicants who have been invited to perform abroad should have some form of financial support from the host country/organisation.
  - The host country/organisation should send proof of costs that it will cover such as accommodation, food, daily subsistence allowance and transport within the country.
  - A letter of invitation from the host organisation should also accompany the application to the NAC.
- Any financial support from other sponsors/hosts must be declared.
- Residencies may be supported when an artist is invited by an institution to participate in a residency.
- A letter of invitation for the residency must support the application.
- Applications for workshops should show evidence that the participants will acquire particular skills and clear objectives of the workshop should be stated.
- A detailed programme outline/content for the workshop is required; a biography of the facilitator/s and targeted participants/ audience should be clearly outlined.
- The requirement for audited financial statements and tax pin status at the time of applying has been removed from the compliance requirement list, however a valid tax pin status remains a requirement for approved beneficiaries before entering into a contract with NAC.
- Only successful beneficiaries will be required to submit a tax pin status after receipt of a grant award letter.
- Any change of address or contact details must be communicated to the NAC offices within seven (7) days of such a change.
  
- All successful projects must be concluded by **31 March 2026.**

## **10. Submission of applications**

- Applicants must apply online through the Grants Management System on <https://nac.praxisgms.co.za/>
- Manual applications will also be made available via email at [pesp@nac.org.za](mailto:pesp@nac.org.za) or from NAC offices or call 011 010 8850/011 010 8886 for applicants who lack resources to apply through GMS. Manual applicants will be required to sign a register when delivering manual applications. Posted or couriered applications are accepted only if the post or courier is dated on or before 09 October 2025.
- Late submissions past the deadline date and time will not be accepted.

## **11. Reservation of Rights**

- The NAC reserves the right to allocate funds according to its priorities and budget limitations.
- No applicant is automatically entitled to funding. All funding is at the discretion of the NAC.
- No applicant is entitled to funding based exclusively on its history or service delivery outputs.
- The NAC will make financial awards to support a project if the goals and objectives are in line with Council's specifications.
- The procedure followed by the NAC in handling applications up until the processing of payments is the same across the different categories or disciplines.
- The adjudication and selection of projects are the responsibility of the Advisory Panels of experts who determine the success of each project application, subject to final approval by the Council.

## **12. Disclaimer**

All applicants who failed to comply with the NAC funding guidelines for this call will receive their Non-Compliance Decline Letters before the official outcomes date to allow them to solicit other funding opportunities.

The letter will not contain the specific reason for the decline. The letter will however contain contact details of the relevant Arts Development Officers to assist in providing specific reasons for the decline.

Applicants who will require a specific reason for their Non-Compliance Decline Letters are thus requested to contact the Arts Development Officer who will be cited in the letter to assist them with detailed reasons for the decline of their application.

Panel and Council members are not eligible to apply directly for funding during their term of office. This policy is in place to maintain transparency, fairness, and to avoid any conflict of interest in the decision-making process.

## **13. Appeals**

In terms of section 12(1) of the NAC Act. You may submit your appeal within 30 days from the date on which the action or decision in question was made known by the Council, and appeal to the Minister of Arts and Culture.

Please send an email to [NACAppeals@dsac.gov.za](mailto:NACAppeals@dsac.gov.za) with the following information:

- The name and address of the appellant as per your application
- The application number (7-digit number or PESP6 reference)
- The grievance
- The reasons for the grievance

- END -