

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Training Opportunities



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) was launched in 2004 as one of Government's initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty through the provision of training and short- to medium-term labour-intensive work opportunities to poor, unskilled and unemployed South Africans.

The shortage of skills in South Africa continues to remain a challenge and therefore training opportunities become critical in the implementation of the EPWP across its four sectors, namely: The Infrastructure Sector; Non-State Sector; Environment and Culture Sector; and Social Sector, which are implemented nationally by all spheres of Government.

Training opportunities in the EPWP are provided for:

- Beneficiaries working on EPWP projects, and training is offered through Skills Programmes, Learnerships and Artisan Development
- Officials managing the EPWP projects and contractors working on Infrastructure projects through Learnerships, training on Labour-intensive Methods and through the EPWP Learning Programme.

Objectives of Training in the EPWP

Training is an important component within the EPWP to ensure that beneficiaries gain skills while they work on EPWP projects, with the aim of enhancing their chances of being placed on other viable programmes upon exit from EPWP projects.

Nature of Courses and Training Programmes

The EPWP endeavours to provide accredited training to its beneficiaries in the form of:

- **Skills Programmes:** Occupationally-directed programmes, which comprise of a pre-registered cluster of unit standards
- **Learnerships:** Structured learning programmes within a specific industry, which are unit standard-based and comprise more than 120 credits
- **Artisan Development:** Technical training system, including both practical, theoretical and workplace learning components offered in designated trades to achieve artisan status



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EPWP Project Type	Recommended Learning Routes/ Programmes	Recommended Training Providers
Short-term projects Projects lasting less than 12 months	Short Courses	Accredited providers for the short courses
Medium-term projects Projects lasting 12 months to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SETA-registered Skills Programmes • Learnerships 	Accredited providers for the skills programmes and full qualifications
Long-term/ongoing Projects lasting 2-3 years	Learnerships	Accredited providers for full qualifications
Exit opportunities	Artisans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited FET colleges and HET institutions • Fully accredited providers for Learnerships • Accredited trade test centres • Bursaries for further studies at FET colleges and institutions of higher learning



Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by training in EPWP?

Training is any structured learning or skills development intervention, which is intended to enhance the productivity of EPWP beneficiaries during EPWP project implementation and facilitates placement and employability beyond the EPWP project. EPWP training covers both technical and soft skills interventions, which are accredited by Skills Education Training Authorities (SETAs) and other qualifying authorities.

As an EPWP beneficiary, how do I access the training offered by the EPWP?

To qualify for training, one has to be working on an EPWP project. The Project Manager should request training from the public body implementing the project until the training needs are submitted to the EPWP Regional Training Manager. Details on processes to follow can be accessed from the EPWP Regional Training Managers, who are based in each province.

Do all the EPWP beneficiaries receive training?

No, not all the EPWP beneficiaries receive training. The need for training is informed by the nature of the project, the selection criteria of the learners and the availability of funding. The project lifespan is also a determining factor, as the nature of training is also informed by the length of the project being implemented.

When are EPWP beneficiaries trained?

Depending on an agreed mode, beneficiaries can be trained before the start of project implementation, during the implementation of the project or after the project has ended. Training after the project has ended will be conducted only where there are proven viable exit opportunities.

How is the training funded?

- The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), through the National Skills Fund (NSF)
- Funding through Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs)
- Own department funding or project funding using budgets from the EPWP Project Implementers who also provide training through Skills Programmes, Learnerships and Artisan Development as per the various needs of the EPWP Sectors and Provinces.

What are the kinds of training programmes offered?

Learnerships, Skills Programmes and Artisan Development Programmes.

Who assures the quality of training?

Training in the EPWP is accredited training, where the quality is assured by the Skills Education Training Authorities (SETAs) and other quality assuring bodies.



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME