

# Partnering with civil society to alleviate poverty



Tackling unemployment and poverty is a national priority – the Expanded Public Works Programme is working with civil society organisations to achieve even greater impact in the lives of people.

**T**he Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one element of a broader government strategy to reduce poverty through the reduction of unemployment.

Phase I had the goal of creating one million work opportunities over its first five years. Phase II, which runs from 2009 to 2014, has increased the scale significantly, aiming to provide 4.5 million work opportunities (two million full-time equivalent jobs) over the next five years.

The EPWP's Non State Sector programme (NSS) was introduced in 2009 to help non-profit organisations (NPOs) – in their community

development initiatives through the provision of wage subsidies. The wage subsidy (R60 a day) is added to the existing wage paid to the beneficiaries by the organisations and cannot be used for any other activities in the organisation.

## What is the NSS programme?

There are two components of the NSS:

- The Community Works Programme (CWP), which is area-based and is managed by the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG).
- The Non-Profit Organisations Programme, which is institutionally based and is managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW).

The NSS has a target of 640 000 work opportunities and 280 000 full-time equivalent jobs, with 60% allocated to the Community Works Programme and 40% to non-profit organisations, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs) and faith-based organisations.

The programme guidelines are that:

- Programmes must create work opportunities for unemployed people
- Programmes must be labour intensive
- Programmes must be implemented by non-profit organisations, and
- The activities should benefit society and/ or communities where they are being implemented and should have a focus on the poor.

## What are its objectives?

The purpose of the NSS programme is to:

- Create an avenue for organisations to assist government in creating income for large numbers of individuals through socially constructive activities in their local communities.
- Provide accredited training to beneficiaries so that at the end of the year beneficiaries can evolve into the second phase of the job market, which would be to exit into full-time jobs in line with the six job drivers of governments' new growth path.
- Encourage municipalities to utilise the human capacity of NPOs funded by the programme in developing local communities.

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## BECOMING PART OF THE NSS

The Independent Development Trust (IDT) implements the programme for the Department of Public Works. The process is as follows:

### Which NPOs are eligible to apply?

In order to be eligible NPO's must:

- Be registered as an NPO (NGO, CBO or FBO) with the Department of Social Development.
- Have a solid plan to expand by creating EPWP work opportunities, and align to EPWP principles of focusing on poor unemployed South Africans.
- Have proof of capacity for scaling up those programmes that would generate increased employment.
- Be highly labour intensive.
- Have been in operation for more than three years (this is to ensure that credible entities with good track record participate, and allows medium-sized entities to participate).
- Have good financial, administrative and reporting systems.
- Present proof of their ability to report on; work to be undertaken, number of extra jobs created, duration of work opportunities, cost of the work opportunity, training provided (if any), number of beneficiaries employed by gender and age and developmental outputs.
- Provide an expansion plan over the contractual period must be submitted. Budget to be outlined.
- Have a more community development focus.

NPOs participating in the Community Works Programme (CWP) as implementing agents and those that render social, environmental and cultural sector EPWP-designated programmes are not eligible to apply.

### 1. Apply to participate

Non-profit organisations (NPOs) can apply to participate in the programme. The criteria include the size of the organisation, capacity, funding and length of time in existence and track record, governance structures, financial, auditing and administration systems.

### 2. Submit a proposal

NPOs that qualify submit proposals by a specified deadline indicating the work to be undertaken, work opportunities to be provided, duration of work, full-time equivalents, cost of work opportunities, and developmental outputs. The NPO must show that it has matching funding to deliver the service.

### 3. Prequalification

A due diligence of selected organisations is done to assess financial, auditing and administration systems, governance arrangements, funding and sustainability.

### 4. Evaluation of submissions

The IDT evaluation committee selects NPOs to be funded. The evaluation process is done on the basis of a formula that is clear and transparent. Geographic targeting is a component of the decision, and funding is provided on the following basis – a one-year contract renewable on the basis of performance with funds provided for wages.