



PRESIDENTIAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
INTERVENTION



**PYEI QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT:
Q3: OCT – DEC 2025**

**Making Great Strides in Unlocking
Earning Opportunities for Young People**



THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Message from the Deputy Minister in the Presidency

Building on the momentum of the first half of the 2025/26 financial year, the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) continues to make great strides in coordinating the youth employment ecosystem in unlocking further earning and learning opportunities for young people. By the end of Q3, more than 5.77 million young people were registered on SA Youth, with over 4.8 million registered on ESSA. As of Q3 2025/2026, the PYEI has facilitated access to over 2.36 million earning opportunities through SA Youth and an additional 402,515 opportunities through ESSA since the inception of the PYEI.

This marks an increase of over 294,000 new opportunities since last quarter. Notably, the PYEI continues to demonstrate its commitment to contributing to closing equity gaps in the labour market for young people with over 70% of opportunities on SA Youth being accessed by young women.

The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund, one of the largest formal-sector employment outcomes funds globally, continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of outcomes-based financing in driving sustainable employment. During the most recent reporting period, the programme moved into its final delivery and verification phase. To date, over 9,170 young people have been enrolled, exceeding the enrolment target by 110%, and over 6,800 verified job placements have been achieved, representing 94% of the placement target. These results underscore the success of the Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund pilot in delivering scale, quality, and sustained employment outcomes, while generating critical lessons to inform the scale up of outcomes-based financing in public service delivery in South Africa.

The NPMN Innovation Fund continues to provide catalytic capital for new models of unlocking youth employment opportunities. As of the end of Q3, the third round of the fund has provided young people access to over 2,800 earning opportunities. Several projects are beginning to demonstrate particularly strong momentum.

Notable examples include Umuzi, who have scaled its digital training programmes to over 300 participants, with early cohorts transitioning into freelance and work-integrated learning opportunities in high-demand tech roles. Property Point has placed more than 120 young people into estate agency pathways across eight provinces, supported by accredited training and access to professional certification. In the health sector, Innovation Edge continues to capacitate hundreds of doctors to establish their own sonography practices, addressing a critical gap in local communities. Collectively, these results demonstrate the Fund's ability to back diverse, innovative models that connect young people to earning in ways that are responsive to local demand and labour market realities.

We remain focused on driving demand-led solutions and strengthening systems that support sustainable youth employment. The continued momentum of the PYEI is a testament to the shared commitment of our partners and stakeholders, and above all, the resilience and ambition of South Africa's young people. We will continue to share our progress through these quarterly reports. As always, detailed data and insights are available on the PYEI dashboard [here](#).

Ms Nonceba Mhlauli

Deputy Minister in the Presidency



Introduction

The President launched the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) in 2020 as a comprehensive approach to address the country's youth unemployment challenge. The PYEI is a multi-stakeholder partnership that accelerates efforts to transition young people from learning to earning.



The Presidency's Project Management Office (PMO) coordinates and provides strategic direction while key national departments and entities lead the implementation together with a diverse set of partners.

In the PYEI, partners are working to achieve three core objectives:

- ▶ Drive systems change to address the barriers that young people face in establishing themselves in the labour market
- ▶ Aggregate existing opportunities and create new opportunities for young people
- ▶ Link young people to opportunities and available support in a single national network

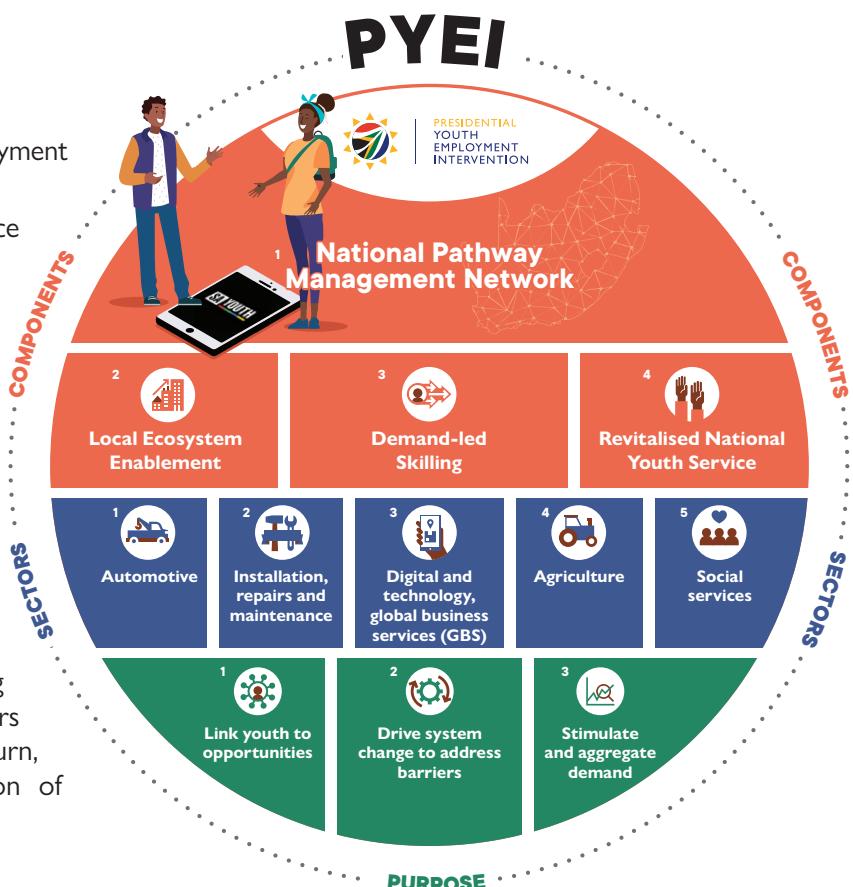
Central to the PYEI's efforts is the establishment of a National Pathway Management Network. The NPMN allows young people to find and seize opportunities that unlock earning pathways.

Other PYEI components include:

- ▶ Demand-led skills development
- ▶ Enabling local ecosystems to facilitate self-employment and enterprise opportunities
- ▶ The revitalisation of the National Youth Service (NYS)

The desired impact is to **contribute to a South Africa where young people are actively participating in the economy with greater dignity and a sense of agency over their contribution to society.**

The PYEI closely integrates with other interventions coordinated by the Presidency to drive structural reforms and enable job creation, such as Operation Vulindlela and the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES). PES provides funding for several PYEI components and directly delivers public employment opportunities for youth. In turn, the PYEI's NPMN supports the implementation of PES programmes.

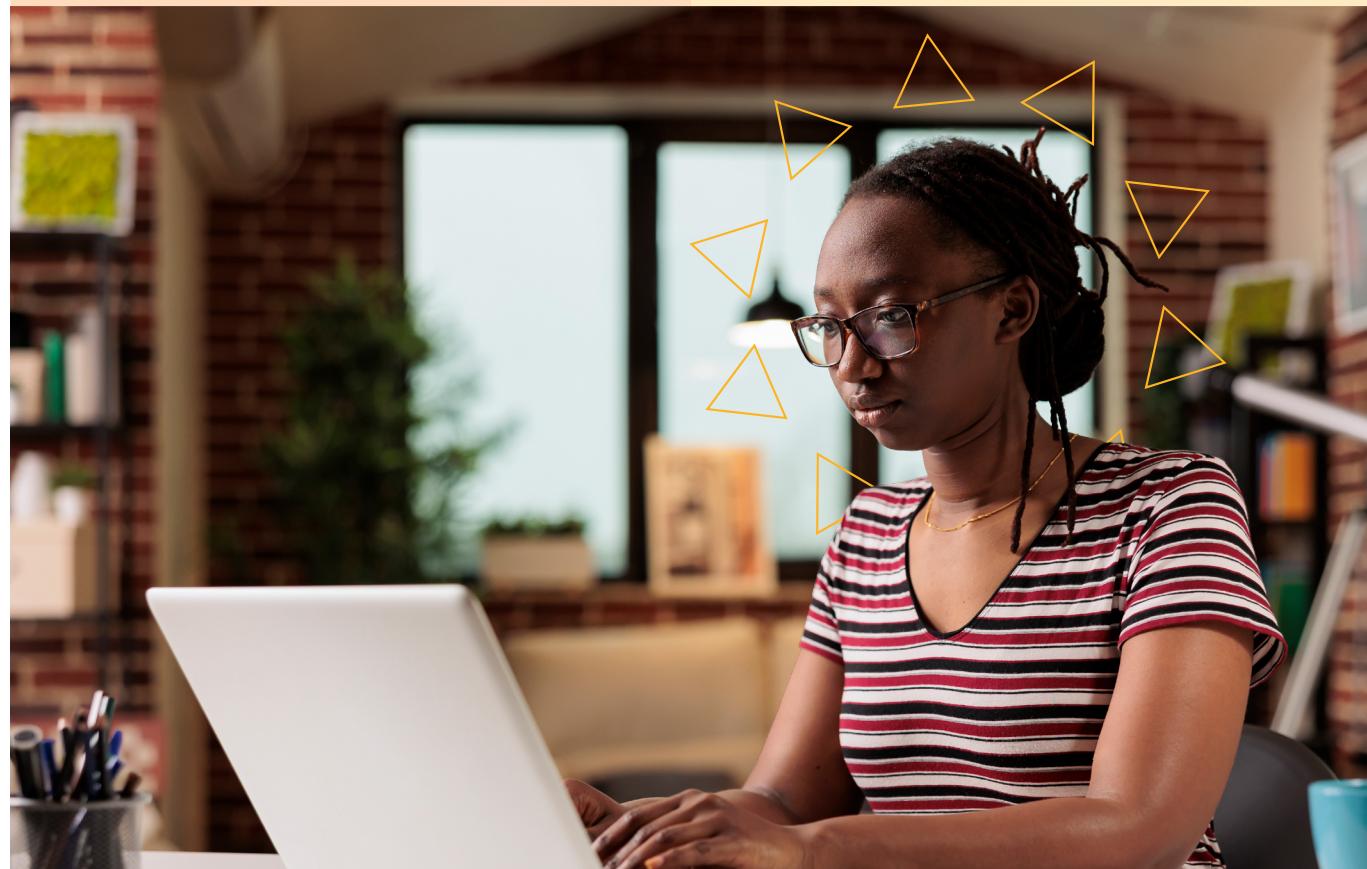


What has been achieved since inception?

In the third quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year, we continued to see great progress made in unlocking earning opportunities for young people in South Africa.

The PYEI has three overarching targets that capture how the intervention seeks to support young people on their journey to sustainable earning. To date, the PYEI has exceeded two of its three overarching targets, with evaluations underway to assess progress made toward the third target.

TARGET (2020 – 2025)	ACTUAL (2020 – to date)
At least 5 million young people are engaged in the National Pathway Management Network and access services to help them grow their employability and pursue opportunities.	Over 5.7 million young people are registered and accessing opportunities in the National Pathway Management Network. 
Young people supported to access 1.5 million temporary earning opportunities including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid service opportunities.	Young people have been supported to access to over 2.36 million temporary earning opportunities , including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid-service opportunities. 
500 000 young people engaged in sustainable earning opportunities through workforce development programmes.	Work-in-progress. Evaluations and tracing studies have commenced. 



Achievements and highlights from Quarter 3

(OCT – DEC 2025)

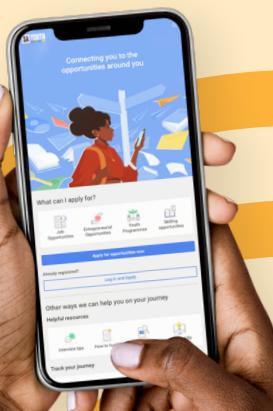
Young people secured 294 530 earning opportunities through the NPMN.

In the third quarter of the new financial year, **255 620 earning opportunities** were secured by young people through the SA Youth platform. A further **38 910 earning and learning opportunities** were secured on ESSA.



employment & labour
Department:
Employment and Labour
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SA YOUTH



An additional 34 368 young people were recruited for Phase 4 of the Revitalised National Youth Service.

The third quarter of the financial year saw the recruitment of an additional **1 971** young people into phase 4 of the Revitalised National Youth Service (NYS), bringing the total number of young people recruited in Phase 4 to **34 368**.

To date, the NYS has placed **132 784** young people in paid service opportunities across all four phases.



National Youth Service
Proud to serve

Expanding workplace experience opportunities for 11 297 young people.

In the third quarter of the financial year, the Youth Employment Service (YES), a private sector-led initiative, placed **8 829** young people in workplace experience opportunities in various sectors of the economy. In addition, the Department of Higher Education and Training placed **2 468** young TVET learners and graduates into workplace experience opportunities.

 **higher education & training**
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 **yes**
YOUTH
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SERVICE



Supporting young people to build their enterprises.

In the third quarter of the financial year, young people continued to receive direct support for their enterprises. A total of **6 724** financial and non-financial enterprise opportunities were provided by the National Youth Development Agency in Q3.

 **small business development**
Department:
Small Business Development
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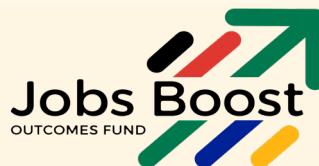
 **nyda**
NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH OUR FUTURE



SPOTLIGHT 1

Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund: Q1 2025/2026 Results

The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund is an exciting initiative aiming to deliver high-quality jobs for previously excluded youth, by incentivising skills providers to deliver appropriate skills development and support job readiness programmes and interventions.



The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund is a R300 million outcomes-based financing mechanism designed to tackle youth unemployment by linking public funding directly to verified employment outcomes. Rather than paying for activities such as training or workshops, the Fund uses a pay-for-performance model that incentivises implementation partners to place young people into formal jobs and support them to sustain employment over time. This approach shifts delivery risk away from the public sector and ensures that funding is released only once employment outcomes have been achieved.

The most recent quarter marked a turning point in the fund, as Jobs Boost moved decisively into its final delivery and verification phase. While enrolment and placement activity largely concluded earlier in the pilot, the period from November 2025 to January 2026 was characterised by a rapid acceleration in verified three- and six-month sustained employment outcomes, alongside significantly increased financial disbursements as milestones matured.

By the end of January 2026:

9,174 young people had been enrolled, reaching 110% of the enrolment target

7, 249 young people had been placed into jobs, reaching 94% of the target

Over **R220 million** had been disbursed to implementation partners for verified outcomes

This continued progress highlights the fund's effectiveness in driving real employment outcomes, especially among historically excluded young people, and exceeding expectations in both scale and retention.

As the pilot nears completion, a final round of milestone verifications will conclude by March 2026, alongside an external evaluation. Key lessons around evidence systems, risk mitigation, employer engagement, and adaptive fund management are already informing the design of a scaled-up phase that aims to serve even more young people in 2026 and beyond.

We will continue to share key lessons learned from the fund around data systems, risk management, and demand alignment in upcoming reports.

Click [here](#) to read the latest Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund progress report.



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SPOTLIGHT 2



Innovation Fund Partner Spotlight: Property Point VC (PPVC)



PROPERTY POINT

TRANSFORMING THE INDUSTRY

Property Point VC (PPVC) is piloting an innovative pathway into South Africa's property sector by supporting young people to become certified, income-earning candidate property practitioners. Funded through the PYEI's National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) Innovation Fund, the initiative combines accredited training, work placements, and professional certification to enable youth to enter a regulated profession that has historically been difficult to access without networks or capital.

The NPMN Innovation Fund is a grant initiative led by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and administered by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). Through funding initiatives like PPVC, the Fund is unlocking earning opportunities for young people by testing innovative, demand-led pathways into growth sectors of the economy.

Through the PPVC programme, participating young people are supported with:

- Accredited estate agency training aligned to regulatory requirements
- Placement within established estate agency branches across the country
- Support to obtain Fidelity Fund Certificates, enabling legal practice as candidate property practitioners
- Monthly stipends during the placement period to support sustained participation
- Work-readiness, mentoring, and psychosocial support, delivered in partnership with Harambee and Mygrow

As of the end of Q3, 122 young people had been placed across 41 estate agency branches in eight provinces, with participants beginning to generate income through rental and sales mandates alongside their stipends. The project demonstrates strong inclusion outcomes, with the majority of participants being young people from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and over half of participants being women.

By addressing both skills gaps and structural barriers to entry, such as certification costs and access to professional networks, PPVC is creating a sustainable pathway into formal employment and self-employment within the property sector. The initiative highlights how targeted innovation funding can unlock professional career pathways for young people while contributing to a more inclusive and representative property industry.

The PMO in the Presidency continuously monitors progress with implementation.

To continue to follow our progress, visit the PYEI Dashboard [here.](#)

