



# COVID-19 funding relief

The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on communities and businesses has led to wide-scale relief responses from the private and public sector. This digital toolkit is aimed at helping business owners by navigating available support as of 15 April 2020 in South Africa.

[Continue](#)



# COVID-19: Funding relief and claims

Below is a list of relief programmes and their intended target markets. For more information, click on each box to see who they support and how to apply

## Absa

### Absa payment relief

**Target market:**  
All customers that are not in arrears or under debt review irrespective of turnover or segment of the bank.

- Retail
- Private and Wealth
- Business
- Corporate

[More info](#)

## Trusts

### The South African Future Trust

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
The scheme is available to SMME clients of either Absa or any of the three major banks.

### Sukuma Relief Programme

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
SMEs that can prove without reasonable doubt that their business were in financial distress as a result of COVID-19.

## Government

### UIF Temporary Relief Scheme

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
UIF registered companies.

### Tourism business relief fund

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
SMMEs in all tourism sub-sectors.

### COVID-19 SMME Debt Relief Scheme

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
CIPC registered companies.

### Sports COVID-19 Relief Fund

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Athletes confirmed to participate in events, canceled due to COVID-19.

### Business Growth/Resilience Facility

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Businesses taking advantage of supply opportunities resulting from COVID-19.

### Arts & Culture COVID-19 Relief Fund

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Institutions of the Department of arts and culture, Non- DSAC Funded Projects.

## Tax Relief

### Employment tax incentive

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Employers that were registered with SARS before or on 1 March 2020.

### Accelerated payment

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Accelerated payment of employment tax incentive of all tax compliant business as registered with SARS.

### Spaza Shop Grant Funding

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Sole proprietors operating spaza shop.

### MCEP COVID-19 Programme

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Companies that manufacture and provide essential supplies.

### Pay as you earn 20% delay

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
All tax compliant business.

### IDC COVID-19 Supplies Intervention

**Target market:** [More info](#)  
Any area that support supply chains critical for the economy.

# Absa payment relief



## Type of support

- Clients who qualify will get a three-month non-payment period to help ease their financial burdens. Loan instalments, interest and fees will accrue monthly and will be capitalised to your loan account, but loan terms and repayments will be adjusted to help you cope during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Corporate and business clients will receive tailored solutions specific to their individual circumstances. These solutions will apply to credit products, including:
  - Loans
  - Mortgage-backed Business Loans
  - Commercial Asset Finance
- Our plan does not carry any extra fees or costs. It is aimed solely at helping our clients who are struggling with cashflow due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Eligibility

Absa created a payment relief plan to help clients who are financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan applies to corporate, business and retail clients who have credit products. The plan is free to all qualifying clients.



## How to apply

- Absa will approach qualifying clients directly to discuss their payment relief options.
- Business and Corporate clients who do not meet the qualifying criteria need to approach the bank and will be evaluated on a case-to-case basis for a bespoke solution.
- For more details, visit the Absa COVID-19 page: [www.absa.co.za/personal/covid-19/](http://www.absa.co.za/personal/covid-19/)

# The South African Future Trust (SAFT) - R1 billion fund ✕

The South African Future Trust is an independent trust that was set up by Nicky and Jonathan Oppenheimer, in partnership with the South African government and private sector.

## Type of support

- A five-year interest-free loan from SAFT to give their employees a lifeline to buy the essentials they need.
- R750 weekly wage per employee for 15 weeks or R11 250 per employee.

**Proceeds of the loans will be paid directly into the accounts of the participating employees. Employees are not liable for repayment of this loan.**

## Eligibility

- Absa SMME clients with a turnover of less than R25 million per year, who are in good financial health, but have short-term cashflow constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic and who have been trading for at least 24 months.

## How to apply

- Clients can apply for funding from 3 April 2020.  
**Email: [absa.saft@absa.africa](mailto:absa.saft@absa.africa)**
- For more details, please visit:  
**<https://www.absa.co.za/personal/covid-19/south-african-future-trust/>**

# Sukuma Relief Programme - R1 billion fund size



The Rupert family and Remgro Limited pledged R1 billion.



## Type of support

- **For sole proprietors:**
  - A grant of R25 000 per qualifying business to be used to pay for overheads.
- **For close corporations, companies and trusts:**
  - An unsecured interest-bearing loan of between R250 000 and R1 million, with a non-repayable grant of R25 000 per qualifying business.
- It will be interest-free for 12 months with no repayment obligations during this period.
- It is repayable after 12 months, and incurs interest at the prime rate from month 13.
- The money can be used to cover payroll, rental and other monthly operating overheads.

There is no security requirement for the loan.



## Eligibility

- Formally registered
- Financially viable before the COVID-19 outbreak
- Be both tax- and regulatory-compliant



## How to apply

### Application process is online only:

- <https://finance.businesspartners.co.za/welcome-to-the-sukuma-relief-programme/>
- Show annual financial statements
- Show three months' bank statements
- Proof of employees who may be assisted
- Rent statement
- Supporting documents or letter stating how your business is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

# UIF Temporary Relief Scheme (TRS)



## Type of support

- Benefits calculated based on income replacement rate sliding scale, capped at R17 712 per month.
- For the duration of the lockdown, or a maximum of three months, the benefit will be that of no less than the minimum wage.
- After three months, the employee might receive less than the minimum wage based on the sliding scale.

<https://www.skillsportal.co.za/content/temporary-employeremployee-relief-scheme-TERS>



## Eligibility

- Reason for closure must be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Claims do not depend on whether or not the employee has any UIF credits.



## How to apply

- Application forms and documents must be emailed to your nearest UIF processing centre.
- Processing time is within 30 days of a valid submission.
- Report closure via email **Covid19TERS@labour.gov.za** – an automatic response outlining the application process will be received.

## COVID-19 SMME Debt Relief Scheme - R200 million fund size



### Type of support

- A soft loan funding for six months, starting from April.
- The interest will be calculated at prime less 5%, which currently means an interest rate of 3.75%.
- R500 000 maximum per SMME.



### Eligibility

- CIPC-registered companies – by at least 28 February 2020.
- 100% owned by South African citizens
- 70% of employees are South African citizens
- Priority to businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities
- Registered and compliant with SARS and UIF



### How to apply

- Registration on the national SMME database – <https://smmesa.gov.za>

## Business Growth/Resilience Facility - R300 million fund size



### Type of support

- Loan funding @ prime -5%
- Working capital: Stock, bridging finance, purchase order finance, capital requirement finance.



### Eligibility

- CIPC-registered companies
- 100% owned by South African citizens
- 70% of employees are South African citizens
- Registered with SARS; tax-compliant  
UIF-compliant



### How to apply

- Registration on the national SMME database – <https://smmesa.gov.za>
- Contact [debtrelief@seda.org.za](mailto:debtrelief@seda.org.za) for assistance with microenterprises



# Spaza Shop Grant Funding - R30 million fund size



## Type of support

- Loan funding @ prime -5%
- Working capital: Stock, bridging finance, purchase order finance, capital requirement finance.



## Eligibility

- The business is owner-operated
- The business has the required municipal permit to trade
- Is registered with SARS
- Willing to buy locally made goods from designated South African small businesses
- Spaza shops to meet required hygiene regulations during the lockdown



## How to apply

- Registration on the national SMME database – <https://smmesa.gov.za>
- Contact [debtrelief@seda.org.za](mailto:debtrelief@seda.org.za) for assistance with microenterprises

# IDC COVID-19 Supplies Intervention



## Type of support

- Short-term loan
- Revolving credit facility
- Guarantees to banks for banking facilities, imports, ordering requirements
- IDC loan and trade finance facilities: P + 1% pa
- Guarantees: 2% pa



## How to apply

- Submit documents to [callcentre@idc.co.za](mailto:callcentre@idc.co.za)
- Contact Mr Gerrit Claassen at **011 269 3482**
- or Mr Rishel at **011 269 3261** for more info



## Eligibility

Any sector that is impacted in the following way:

- Supply chain interruptions
- Access to raw materials – cost and quality
- Access to markets – perishable products lost in transit due to longer delivery periods
- Working capital disruptions – longer lead times
- Market loss – e.g. export markets constrained by logistics or replaced by production
- Surge of imports to address the spike in demand
- Underperforming budgets – impact of extended downtime
- Reduced productivity – employees' wellbeing

# Tourism business relief fund - R200 million fund size



## Type of support

- The relief will be distributed in a spatially equitable manner to ensure that all provinces benefit.

### Benefits will be divided as follows:

- 70% for black-owned businesses
- 50% for female-owned businesses
- 30% for youth-owned businesses
- 4% for businesses owned by people with disabilities



## How to apply

Applications have not opened yet.

- **Call Centre:** +27 (0)860 868 747
- **Email:** callcentre@tourism.gov.za
- **Number:** +27 (0)12 444 6000
- **Fax:** +27 (0)12 444 7000



## Eligibility

- Must be a registered business with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC).
- Turnover must not exceed R2.5 million per year.
- Must have a valid tax clearance certificate.
- Guaranteed employment for a minimum number of staff for a period of three months.
- Proof of minimum wage compliance.
- Must provide proof of UIF registration for employees employed by the business.
- Be an existing tourism-specific establishment as outlined in the scope of application.
- Must be in existence for at least one business financial year

# Sports COVID-19 Relief Fund - R150 million fund size



## Type of support

- Beneficiaries must submit a claim that does not deviate from the original MOA and provide supporting documents such as contracts and valid invoices.

**The DSAC reserves the right to determine a flat rate fee for all such beneficiaries.**



## How to apply

- Visit [www.srsa.gov.za](http://www.srsa.gov.za) – the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture

### For further enquiries call:

Mickey Modisane: 082 992 0101

Zimasa Velaphi: 072 172 8925

Masechaba Ndlovu: 066 380 7408



## Eligibility

- Proof of booking and cancellation
- Their taxes must be in order
- Athletes on the Operational Excellence Programme are also eligible to apply for the relief funding.
- Athletes who have not earned the status of being national athletes will be catered for by their provinces.

# Arts and Culture COVID-19 Relief Fund - R150 million fund size



## Type of support

- Beneficiaries will have to submit a claim that does not deviate from the original MOA and provide supporting documents such as contracts and valid invoices.

**The DSAC reserves the right to determine a flat rate fee for all such beneficiaries.**



## How to apply

- Visit [www.srsa.gov.za](http://www.srsa.gov.za) – the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture

### **For further enquiries call:**

Mickey Modisane: 082 992 0101

Zimasa Velaphi: 072 172 8925

Masechaba Ndlovu: 066 380 7408



## Eligibility

- **Culture:**  
Projects funded by the Department where the first tranche payment was made and an MOA was signed will be reimbursed for the costs incurred.
- **Arts:**  
After a project or event was cancelled, relief will ONLY be available for:

Producers

Organisers

Project managers

Beneficiaries of the Department

# MCEP COVID-19 Programme - R300 million fund size



## Type of support

- MCEP funding can be standalone or blended with IDC.
- Limited to R30 million per applicant in total.
- Priced at a fixed rate of 2.5% per annum.
- Maximum term is 48 months, including moratorium.
- First drawdown must occur within one month from approval date.
- Raising and commitment fees are excluded.
- All other standard fees apply.



## Eligibility

- Companies that manufacture and provide essential supplies and have been in existence for more than one year.
- Valid contract/purchase order or letter of intent.
- Companies with BBBEE Level 4 status will be encouraged.



## How to apply

- Submit documents to [callcentre@idc.co.za](mailto:callcentre@idc.co.za)

# Employment tax incentive



## Type of support

- Tax subsidy of up to R500 per month for the next four months for private sector employees earning less than R6 500 pm.



## How to apply

- From 1 April 2020 to 31 July 2020, employers will be able to claim an additional employment tax incentive relief (ETI).
- ETI reimbursements will be processed monthly, as opposed to twice a year.
- Follow the normal process but monthly claims can be done.



## Eligibility

- A person with a valid South African ID, Asylum Seeker permit or an ID issued in terms of the Refugee Act.
- 18 to 29 years old (age limit does not apply if the employee renders services mainly inside a special economic zone [SEZ] to an employer who is operating inside the SEZ)
- Domestic workers
- Not a connected person to the employer, but was employed by the employer or an associated person to the employer on or after 1 October 2013 and is paid the minimum wage applicable to that employer or if a minimum wage doesn't apply, is paid the amount contemplated in the Minimum Wage Act and not more than R6 000 remuneration.

# Accelerated payment of employment tax incentive



## Type of support

- SARS aims to accelerate the payment of employment tax incentive reimbursements from twice a year to monthly, to get cash into the hands of compliant employers as soon as possible.



## Eligibility

- All tax-compliant business as registered with SARS



## How to apply

- As per current process done by business, but can be done monthly.
- Please visit [www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za)



## Pay as you earn - SARS 20% delay



### Type of support

- Tax-compliant businesses with a turnover of less than R50 million will be allowed to delay 20% of their pay-as-you-earn liabilities over the next four months.



### Eligibility

- All tax-compliant business as registered with SARS



### How to apply

- For details, visit the SARS website:  
**[www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za)**

