



PRESIDENTIAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
INTERVENTION

Building skills, networks and communities with the National Youth Service

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FACTSHEET 4



National
Youth
Service

LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND



THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



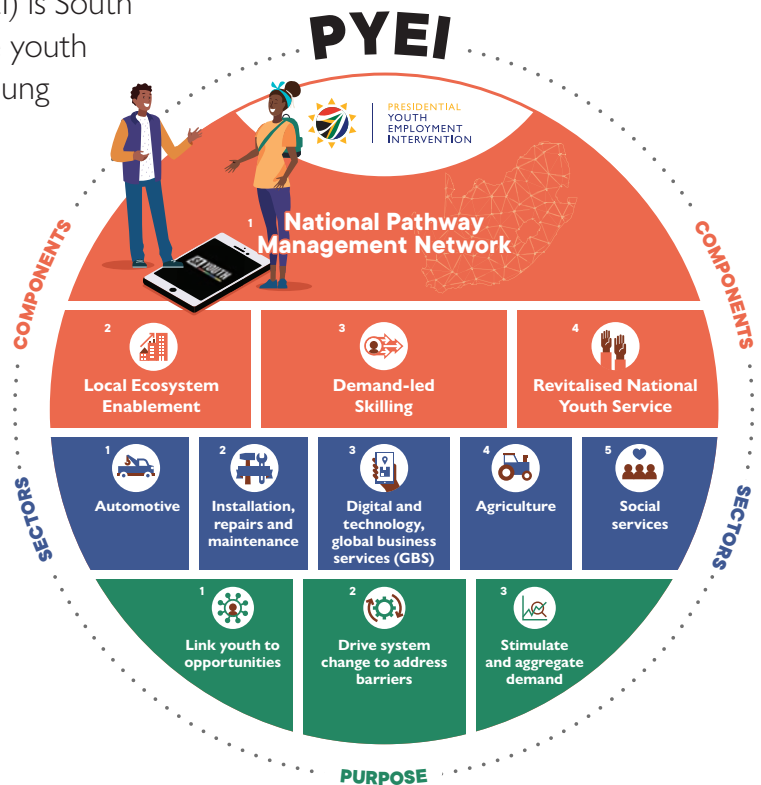
About the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention

The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) is South Africa's most comprehensive effort yet to address the youth unemployment crisis. Its goal is to transition more young people from learning to earning.

The intervention brings together the strengths of numerous government institutions and social partners to deliver more opportunities for young people. It seeks to coordinate, accelerate and enhance existing programmes and unblocks pathways to employment, learning and youth enterprise.

A central component of the PYEI is the establishment of a National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) that guides young people towards opportunities. Other components include a focus on Demand-led Skilling; Local Ecosystem Enablement to facilitate self-employment and enterprise; and a Revitalised National Youth Service (NYS).

Activities focus on growth areas with earning potential for young people. These are: digital, technology and global business services; agriculture; installation repairs and maintenance; social services; and the automotive sector. A Project Management Office (PMO) in the Presidency coordinates the PYEI. Government departments with key roles in employment creation and youth development implement the intervention.



3 key facts about the revitalised National Youth Service

1

The National Youth Service (NYS) provides young people with opportunities to experience work realities and grow confident in their technical and soft skills. Fields include social services, sports, arts and culture, community revitalisation, food security and public services. The NYS is a stepping stone for young people towards further training, employment or entrepreneurship. It also contributes to nation-building and social cohesion.

2

The revitalised NYS emphasizes the broad development of young people. It strengthens participants' sense of agency and enables young people to make contributions to the communities in which they are serving. Many service opportunities focus on activities that benefit children and other young people in the community.

3

The NYS is led by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities through the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). Non-profit organisations that are firmly anchored in communities implement NYS activities. In its first year, the revitalised NYS provided 47 234 opportunities for young people to serve and gain valuable experience. **All opportunities can be found on the national Pathway Management Network, for instance through mobile site SAYouth.mobi.**

Why the **PYEI** supports community service



Young people are among those most affected by the high unemployment level in South Africa. In the first quarter of 2023, **44.7% of young people between 15 and 34 years were not in employment, education and training**. This rate is even higher in many townships, informal settlements, villages and inner-city areas.

Many young people struggle to find entry points into the labour market. Community service can be a stepping stone for those who are not yet ready or are waiting to access opportunities for further learning, entrepreneurship or work. It is also an option for young people who want to contribute to their communities and make a difference in the lives of others.

In the process, youth service can provide insights into different fields of work, grow basic skills, and build self-confidence. Research has shown that young people who are active in their communities are far more likely to succeed in finding employment and generating income for themselves.

The PYEI supports young people with guidance and information on pathways towards training, employment and income. The opportunities that are created through the revitalised National Youth Service expand the options young people have in moving from learning to earning.



What is the revitalised National Youth Service?

The NYS mobilises young people to become active citizens of a democratic society while **earning an income and increasing their employability**.

Youth service has been part of previous efforts to provide work and learning opportunities for young people in South Africa. Equally, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) has long been involved in promoting volunteerism that encourages young people to contribute to their communities, and in the process, gain valuable skills and experience.

Drawing on both the successes and challenges of previous programmes, the PYEI has designed a revitalised NYS to complement its efforts in supporting more young to find sustainable ways to earn an income. As part of the PYEI, the NYS received unprecedented backing and resources and greatly expands its reach.

The NYS enhances existing public employment programmes. For example, it will complement the Community Works Programme by focusing on the needs of both communities and young people. While the NYS services still support service delivery efforts and improve the lives of marginalised communities, it prioritises activities that benefit young people in general. All service opportunities also incorporate principles of youth development. This includes regular dialogue with NYS participants on the barriers they face in progressing towards skilled work. Taking up just 16 hours per week, the NYS leaves participants with enough time to receive support to explore opportunities for further learning, employment or entrepreneurship during their term of service. This can help young people to build on their NYS experience and transition into follow-on activities.










All participants receive stipends that are in line with minimum wage requirements, providing young people - potentially for the first time in their lives - with the experience of earning their own money. In combination, these approaches ensure that the revitalised NYS creates greater benefits for its participants, as well as for other young people in the communities in which they are serving.

Key activities and delivery

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) leads the implementation of the NYS through the NYDA. A key instrument for the delivery of the programme is the Presidential Youth Employment Fund (PYEF) through which funding from the Presidential Employment Stimulus is channelled to organisations that provide service opportunities for young people. **At this stage, the focus is on non-profit organisations with the capacity to offer service opportunities at scale and strong existing linkages to the communities they serve.**

To provide opportunities that deliver benefits both for participating youth and for young people in the communities they are serving, the PYEI has identified the following priority areas for service:

-  **Surveys and digital mapping** with a focus on data that is relevant to improving service delivery for young people.
-  **Early childhood development** with activities such as playgroups, storytelling and reading.
-  **Sports, recreation, arts and entertainment**, especially in support of activities that are available to young people in communities served.
-  **Support for campaigns that increase ante-natal health** of mothers and prevent physical stunting.
-  **Learner support programmes** that provide services such as teaching or after-school and homework support to school children.
-  **Food security and child nutrition**, for instance through food gardening or preparation and delivery of food to vulnerable community members.
-  **Social support and care services**, including those with special relevance for young people, such as activities addressing substance abuse or gender-based violence.
-  **Community works and greening programmes** with a focus on revitalising, maintaining or creating community green spaces and public facilities.

Opportunities are open to all young people that are interested in delivering quality services, are aged between 18 and 35, and are willing to serve for 16 hours per week over a period of 6 months.

All NYS opportunities are advertised through the NPMN. The NPMN can be accessed free of charge via many different channels and platforms. These include NYDA offices, Labour Centres of the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), as well as the zero-rated mobile internet platform SAYouth.mobi. The NPMN also provides young people with a gateway to a multitude of other opportunities, career guidance and counselling.

In the first year of the revitalised NYS (2022/2023), **47 000 young people will have the chance to take part in community service activities.** This will be progressively scaled up over the following years, making this the largest drive to offer young people service opportunities in South Africa's democratic history.



Getting involved

HERE IS HOW TO ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES AND INFORMATION ON THE REVITALISED NYS:



As a young person, register on [SAYouth.mobi](https://sayouth.mobi), access [Employment Services of South Africa \(ESSA\)](#), the [National Youth Development Agency \(NYDA\) Enterprise Resource Planning \(ERP\) system](#) or check out the [Kheta career advice portal](#). You can also [download the mPowa app](#). Here, you can build your profile and access opportunities in your vicinity for youth service, further learning or work. If you cannot access SAYouth.mobi, look for a [DEL Labour Centre](#) or [NYDA Youth Office](#) near you. You can also call the toll-free hotline at 0800 72 72 72.



As a service organisation, visit the website of [The Jobs Fund](#) to learn more about the requirements to apply as a partner of the NYS and upcoming funding rounds.



Further links

- ▶ **NYDA - National Youth Services Programme**
www.nyda.gov.za
- ▶ **DWYPD - The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities**
www.dwypd.gov.za
- ▶ **PYEI at the State of the Nation Website**
www.stateofthenation.gov.za/pyei
- ▶ **PYEI @ The Jobs Fund**
www.jobsfund.org.za/pyei.aspx

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