

2026 Round Applicant Journey

For all audiences

January 2026



Readiness Content Disclaimer

The authoritative source for all information about New gTLD Program: 2026 Round rules, evaluations, restrictions, processes, and systems is the English version of the [New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook](#). All New gTLD Program: 2026 Round readiness and training content is supplementary to the Applicant Guidebook, and has been developed to provide a high-level summary of key topic areas of interest to prospective applicants and the broader ICANN community. In case of discrepancy, the Applicant Guidebook prevails.

01

Welcome / Introduction

Agenda

01

Welcome / Introduction

- ✓ Agenda and webinar objectives

02

Stages of the Applicant Journey

- ✓ Overview of the gTLD application lifecycle and the key steps applicants must complete to move forward successfully

03

Resources and Next Steps

- ✓ Overview of the key resources, learning pathways, and support available to help applicants prepare for the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

Webinar Objectives

After completing this webinar, you should:

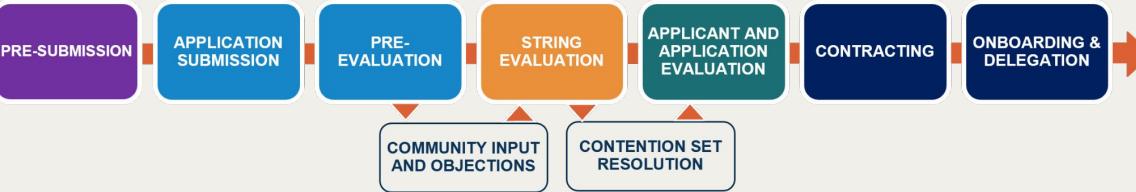
- Know what is required to apply for a new generic top-level domain (gTLD) in the 2026 Round.
- Have a clear overview of the stages and sequence of the application process.
- Understand the purpose and outcomes of the activities and evaluations at each stage.
- Recognize common concepts and terms related to the applicant journey.



02

Stages of the Applicant Journey

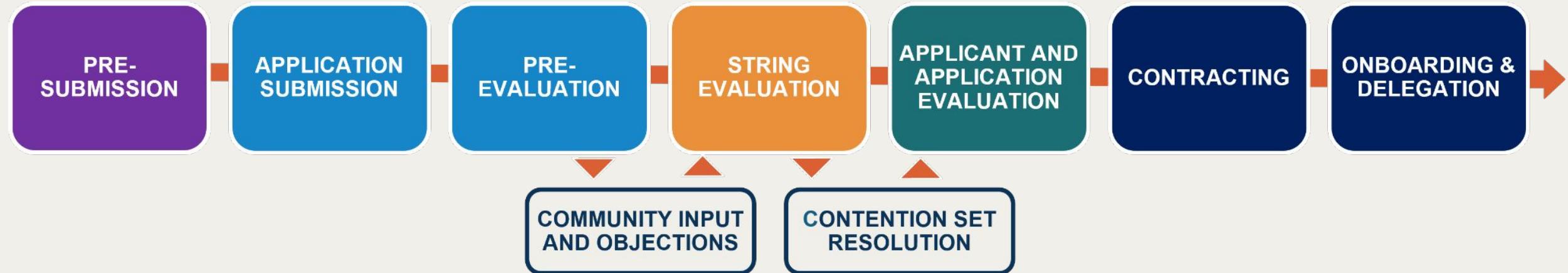
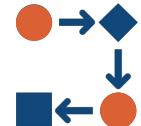
Overview of the gTLD application lifecycle and the key steps applicants must complete to move forward successfully.



Applicant Journey Stages

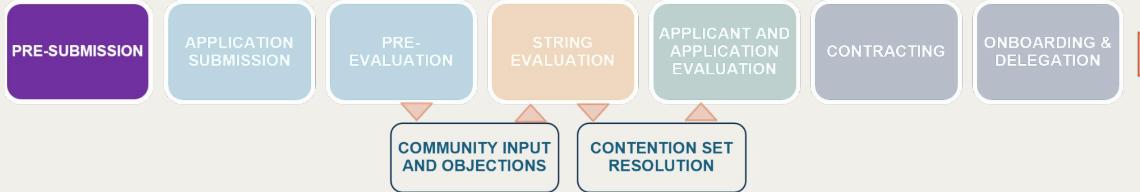
WHY SUCH A ROBUST PROCESS?

To ensure the Internet remains secure, stable, and resilient as the Domain Name System (DNS) expands, while fostering innovation, competition, and consumer trust.



Pre-Submission

What applicants need to know before applying, from required expertise and documents to costs, risks, and system readiness.



Requirements of a gTLD Application

► Compliance Obligations and Legal Readiness

Applicants must be a formed legal entity and agree to the program's Terms and Conditions.



► Cost Burden and Fee Requirements

Applicants must pay the USD 227,000 gTLD Evaluation Fee (plus any conditional evaluation fees) within strict deadlines.



► Evaluations

Eligible applications will undergo:

- String evaluation.
- Application and applicant evaluations, including financial and operational evaluation.
- Background screening.
- Any additional conditional evaluations that may be required.



COMMUNITY INPUT AND OBJECTIONS

CONTENTION SET RESOLUTION

Challenges Applicants May Face

Complexity and Timeline

The process includes multi-stage evaluation processes. Extensive documentation and evaluation occur over a multi-year timeline.



Contention

If two or more parties apply for the same string or confusingly similar string, ICANN forms contention sets and resolves them through community priority evaluation or an auction.



Objections and Appeals

Filed by parties with standing. Objections can delay the process, push an application into contention, require modifications, or even prevent the application from moving forward. They can also result in significant financial fees.



Technical Readiness and Infrastructure

Applicants must coordinate with and select an approved Registry Service Provider (See RSP Evaluation Program) that is approved to support the Registry Services that an applicant intends to offer.





Expertise Required

Assembling a multidisciplinary team is essential to address legal, technical, financial, and operational requirements.

Legal

IP law, domain name law, contract law (Registry Agreement), dispute resolution, regulatory compliance.

Technical

DNS operations, registry technical requirements, name collision mitigation, cybersecurity, infrastructure architecture.

Financial

Financial planning and projections, budget development, cost analysis, sustainability modeling.

Operational

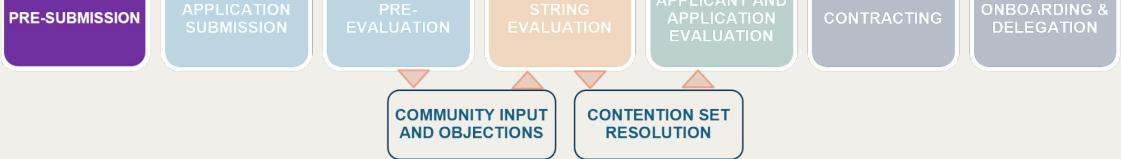
Registry operations management, RSP selection, abuse handling procedures, customer support, business continuity.

Strategic

TLD strategy and positioning, market analysis, .brand management (.Brand TLDs), community engagement, competitive analysis.

Policy & Governance

ICANN policies, Internet governance, multi-stakeholder processes, public interest commitments, rights protection mechanisms.



Zoom Poll



Zoom Poll

Launch poll after this slide

Which area do you expect will be the most challenging?

- a) Compliance Obligations & Legal Readiness
- b) Cost Burden & Fee Requirements
- c) Evaluations
- d) Complexity & Timeline
- e) Contention
- f) Objections and Appeals
- g) Technical Readiness & Infrastructure
- h) Not sure yet



Information and Documents

Applications are comprised of three main sections:

SECTION 1 & 2 Organization and Financial Info

Core organizational entity and financial details required for all applicants when submitting their first application.

Includes:

- System Users
- Organization stakeholders & officers
- Entity information and documentation
- Financial information and documentation

SECTION 3 gTLD Application Information

Specific details for each application, including string information and operational plans.

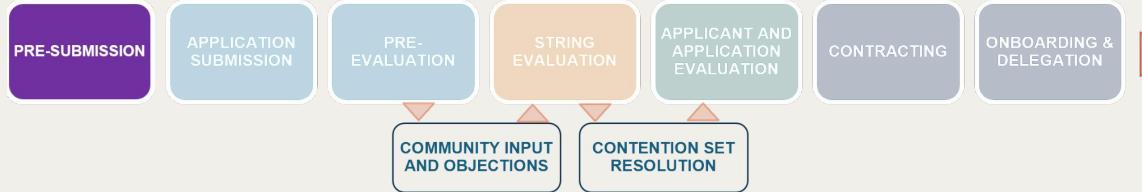
Includes:

- Applied-for string and optional replacement string and variants
- Registry Service Provider selection / information
- Supporting documentation

Required Elements

- Answers to questions listed in "Application Questions" section of the 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook.
- Supporting documents as specified in documentation requirements.
- System validation of all mandatory fields before submission allowed.

Review the **Application Questions Appendix** in the 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook for detailed information on required questions and documents.



Financial Costs

Total costs include evaluation fees, conditional evaluation fees, and other fees, plus operational funding.

gTLD Evaluation Fee (per application)

USD 227,000

Exceptions:

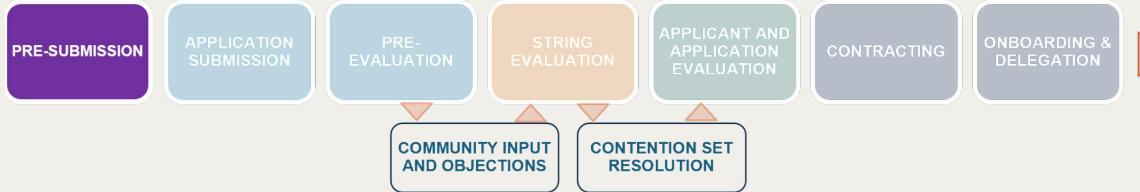
- Supported (ASP) applicants eligible for reduced fees.
- Variant-only gTLD applicants meeting specific criteria.

Other Costs

- **Conditional evaluations*** (.Brand designation, Geographic Names, Reserved Names, Registry Commitments)
- Objections and appeals (Dispute Resolution)
- Approved change request may require re-evaluation and fees.
- See section 3.3 Fees and Payments of the 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook for more information.

*Required only if specific conditions are met.

Financial Sustainability: Applicants must demonstrate long-term operational funding capacity through Financial and Operational Evaluation.



Selecting an RSP

The RSP selection process ensures that new gTLDs are launched on secure, stable, and reliable infrastructure, maintaining trust in the global DNS ecosystem.

- ▶ Applicants may choose pre-evaluated Registry Service Providers (RSPs) or seek ICANN approval to perform RSP functions themselves through the RSP Evaluation Program.
- ▶ During completion of an application, applicants may designate one or more evaluated RSPs. Each gTLD requires an RSP.
RSP selection should be completed prior to Application and Applicant Evaluation to avoid delays.
- ▶ While an applicant can submit its application without specifying the RSP, early selection is recommended to streamline application processing and avoid delays. RSP selection can be submitted via Application Change Request after application submission, but must be done prior to application evaluation in order to pass the evaluation.

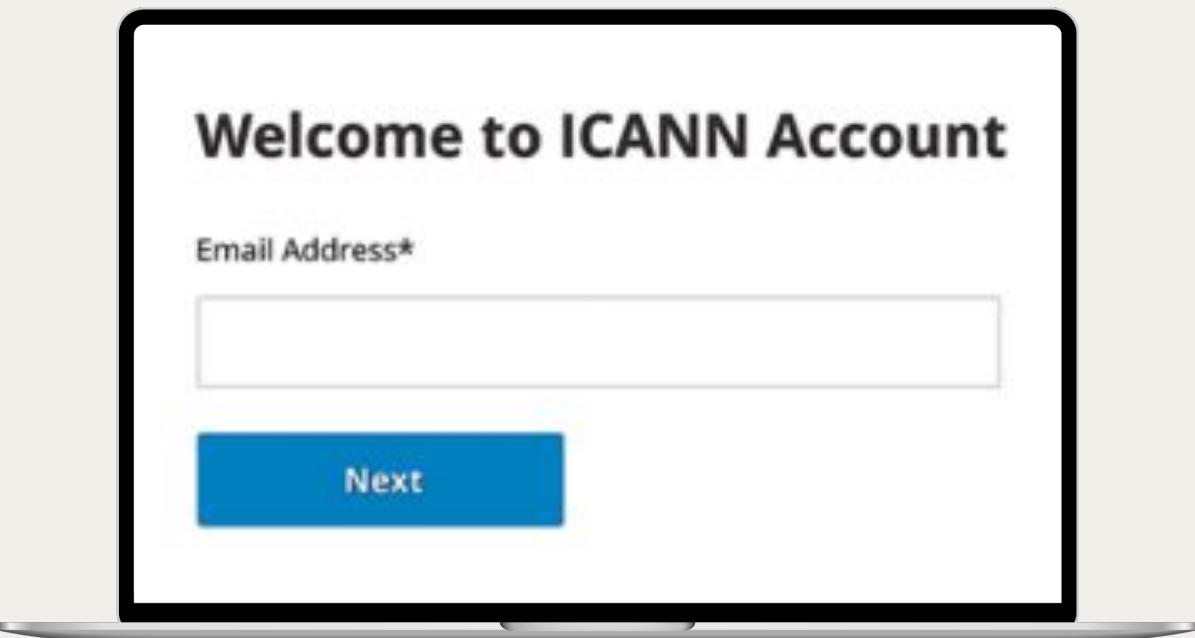


The RSP program and selection of pre-evaluated RSPs is new in 2026.

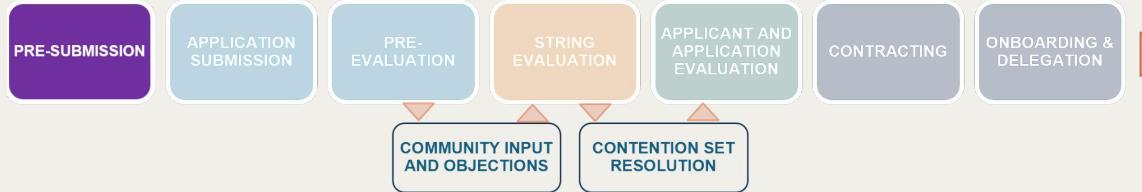


ICANN Account Creation

- ▶ All applicant system users must create an **ICANN Account** to access the **TLD Application Management System (TAMS)** and begin the application process.
- ▶ Applicants must designate **2 Primary TAMS users** who can complete and submit the application, and optionally up to **5 additional users** who can assist with drafting application content for the primary users to submit.
- ▶ **Secure login** via your ICANN Account with **multi-factor-authentication** is required to ensure application information is secure.



Create an account at: <https://account.icann.org/registeraccount>



TLD Application Management System (TAMS)

► **TAMS**

The secure online system used by applicants, ICANN, and evaluation panels to submit and manage new gTLD applications, monitor application progress, track payment information, communicate about a specific application, provide clarifications or request changes to your application content, and receive critical notifications related to applications.

► **Critical Notes**

- Application information must be submitted via the TLD Application Management System (TAMS).
- Applications cannot be modified after submission except through the Application Change Request process.

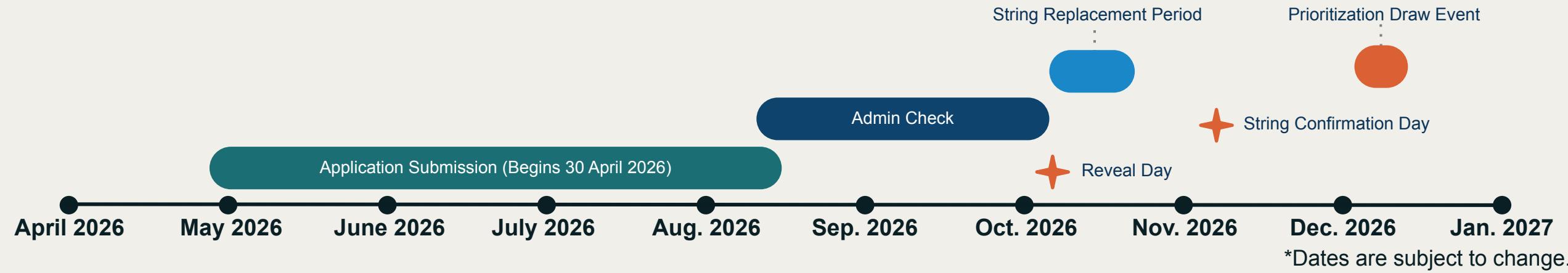
Coming Soon:

- System navigation webinars
- Applicant System Guide
- Micro-videos and/or simulations planned for some functionality

Application Submission and Pre-Evaluation

Overview of key submission requirements, timelines, validations, and early evaluation steps in the 2026 application process.

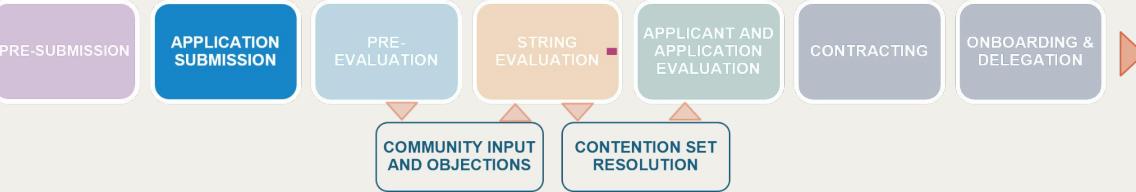
Application Submission and Pre-Evaluation Timeline*



*Dates are subject to change.

Date	Milestone
30 April 2026 – 12 Aug (15 weeks)	gTLD Application submission period opens for application info to be submitted via the TLD Application Management System (TAMS)
19 Aug 2026	Evaluation fee payment window closes – 7 days after application period
Aug – Oct. 2026	Admin Check
Projected Oct. 2026	Reveal Day
Projected Oct.2026	String Replacement Period - 14 days following Reveal day
Projected Nov. 2026	String Confirmation Day
Projected Dec. 2026	Prioritization Draw Event

Dates TBD until application volume is known



Concepts and Terms within Application Questions

Applicants benefit from familiarity with these terms to answer application questions completely and accurately.

Closed / Exclusive Generics

A TLD representing a string that is a generic name or term under which domains are registered and usable exclusively by the registry operator or its affiliates.

NEW

Replacement String

To potentially reduce the instances of contention, applicants are encouraged to designate a replacement string alongside their original choice of string. Applicants may designate only one replacement string per application. Applicant is able to submit a replacement string application that may contain different characteristics than its original choice of string.

Internationalized Domain Name (IDN)

Domain names represented by characters other than the ASCII characters (letters a-z, for generic top-level domains) such as Arabic or Chinese.

Allocatable Variant Top-Level Domain (TLD) String

A TLD string considered the “same” as the primary TLD and available for application along with the primary TLD, as determined by Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR). For example, a string in Traditional Chinese determined as an allocatable variant of a string in Simplified Chinese by RZ-LGR.

Application Question Flow

Applying Entity Questions

- Apply to all applications

Organization /
Applicant

- **Applicant Entity Info:** Set 1, Q1-48
- **Users:** Set 2, Q49-64
- **Payments:** Set 3, Q65-103
- **Applicant Background and Organization:** Set 4, Q104-115

Black Font = Required Question Set for all applicants

Orange Font = Optional Question Set for all applications

Purple Font = Conditional Question Set required for specific applications or applicants

Pink Font = Required Question Set for all applications

*Responses to Set 14 dictate the Financial profile questions an applicant will be required to answer

Application Question Flow

Applying Entity Questions

- Apply to all applications

Financial & Operational Questions

- Answer questions according to applying entity financial profile

Organization / Applicant

• **Applicant Entity Info:** Set 1, Q1-48

• **Users:** Set 2, Q49-64

• **Payments:** Set 3, Q65-103

• **Applicant Background and Organization:** Set 4, Q104-115

Financial Profile Type*

Financial Profile: Set 14, Q189-191

Government Profile

• Set 15, Q192-194

Operational Questions

• Set 19, Q220-221

Registry Operator Profile

• Set 16, Q195-201

Top 25 Financial Profile

• Set 17, Q202-207

Standard Financial Profile

• Set 18, Q208-219

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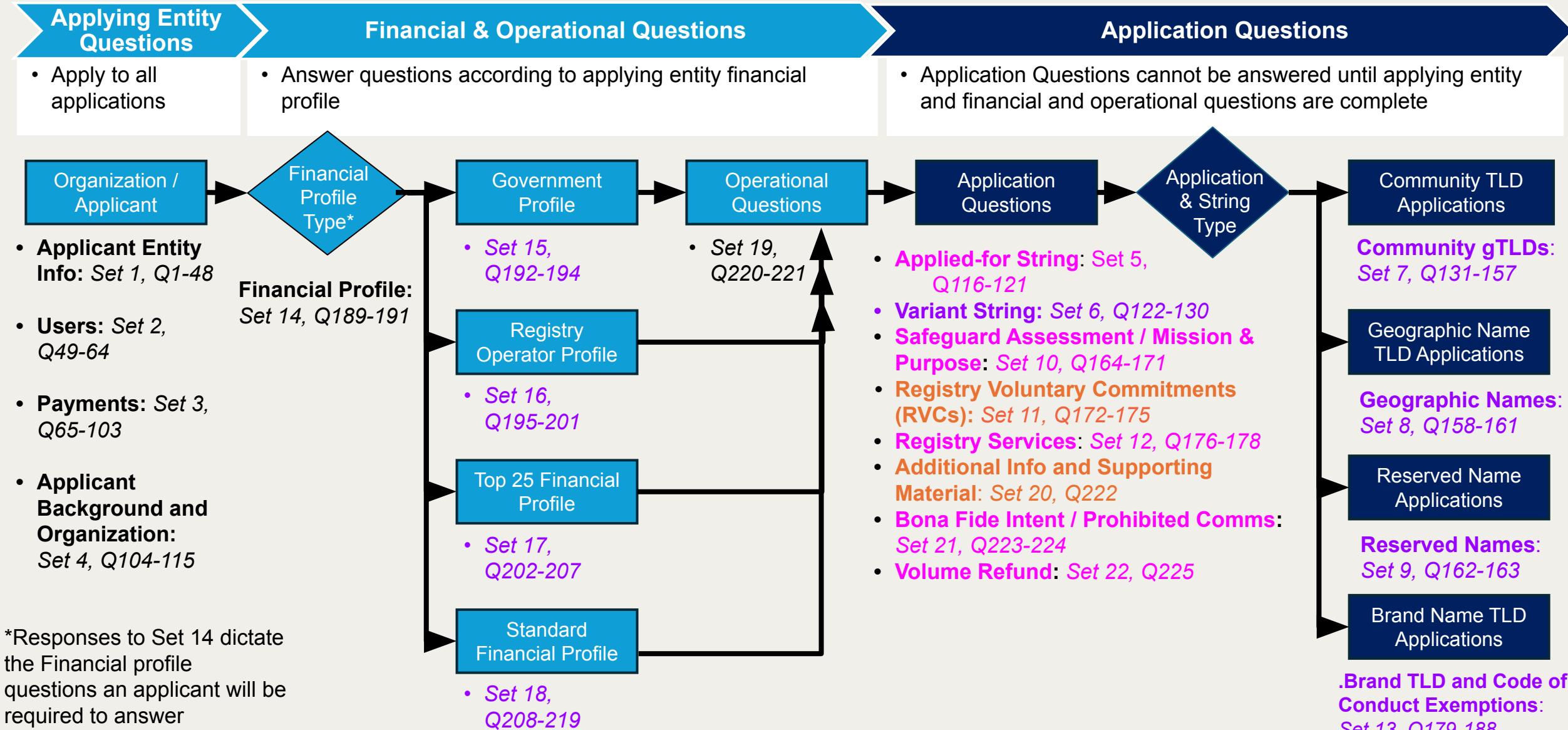
Application Question Flow

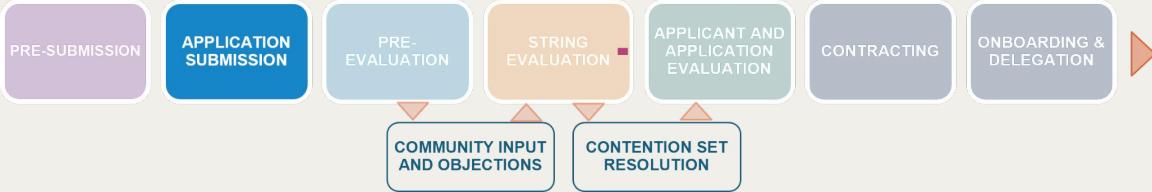
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Pre-Submission String Validations

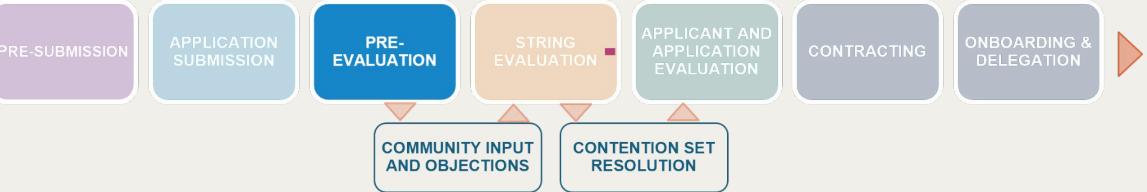
Automated validations occur in the TLD Application Management System (TAMS) to ensure applied-for-string and variant-strings are eligible to be applied for.

Validation	What It Checks
Blocked Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifies strings and variant strings on the Blocked Names list that cannot be applied for.
Reserved Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifies protected names and their variant strings, reserved for specific entities (e.g., IOC, RCRC, IGO/INGO), triggering an exception process prompting the applicant to upload additional documentation.
DNS Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess whether the applied-for string complies with DNS and other relevant standards, including compliance with the Root Zone Label Generation Rules and the technical requirements specified for gTLD strings.



String Validation Challenge

► If an applicant believes a string validation result was incorrect, they may file a **Pre-Submission String Validation Challenge** up to **14 days before the application window closes**. ICANN's Challenge Panel must respond within **5 days**.



Pre-Evaluation Steps

Step 1

Administrative Check

Purpose
ICANN verifies payment, then places identical applications in contention sets in preparation for Reveal Day.

Outcome
Applications passing check proceed to reveal day.

Step 2

Reveal Day

Purpose
Public application information is published.

Outcome
Applicants and public see applied-for strings and other public application information.

Step 3

Replacement Period

Purpose
Applicants may choose to replace their application with pre-submitted Replacement String application.

Outcome
Application avoids contention.

Step 4

String Confirmation Day

Purpose
Final applied-for strings and applications published. Initial list of contention sets updated.

Outcome
Community input period begins.

During String Evaluation

Prioritization Draw

Purpose
Optional random draw assigns Priority Number for application processing.

Outcome
Establishes processing order.

8 weeks

1 day

14 days

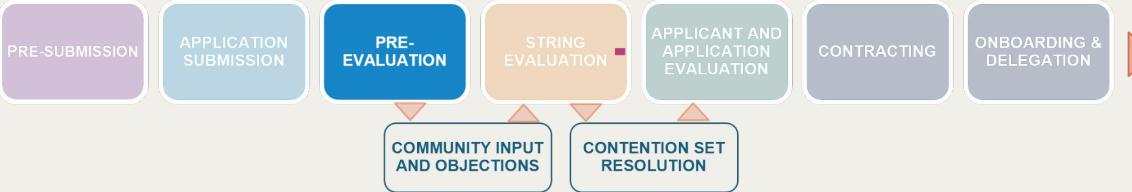
1 day

1 day

Pre-Evaluation phase will take longer than the events represented above to allow for ICANN processing time.

String Evaluation

Community Input, Objections, and Appeals



Zoom Poll



Zoom Poll

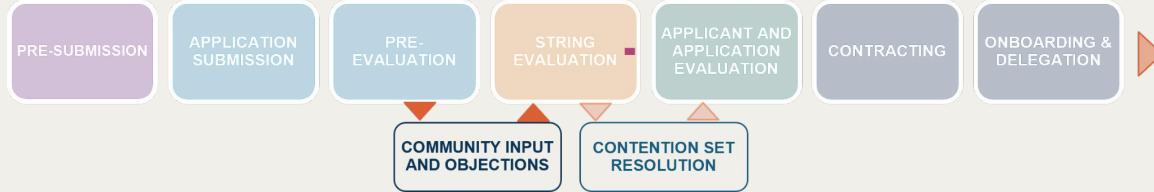
Launch poll after this slide

Which part of the Pre-Evaluation process do you think plays the biggest role in shaping the rest of your application journey?

- a) Reveal Day
- b) Replacement String Period
- c) String Confirmation Day
- d) Prioritization Draw
- e) Not sure yet

Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

Overview of the following processes: application comments, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Member Early Warnings, GAC Consensus Advice, Singular/Plural Notifications, and objections and appeals.



Concepts and Terms

Applicants benefit from familiarity with these terms related to Community Input, Objections, and Appeals.

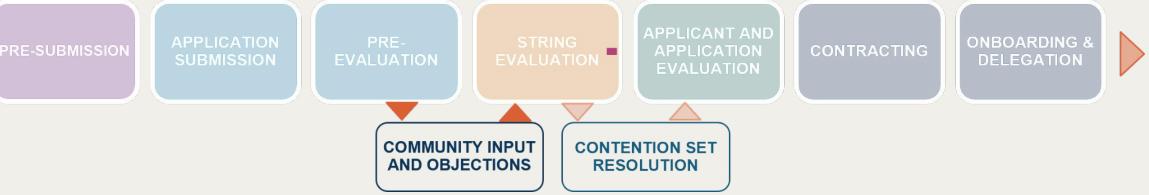
Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Provides advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to concerns of governments, particularly matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues.

Members of the GAC are comprised of national governments, multinational governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and public authorities.

Dispute Resolution Service Provider (DRSP)

An entity approved by ICANN to adjudicate objections and appeal proceedings.



Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

The ICANN community and interested members of the public have an opportunity to provide input on new gTLD applications after String Confirmation Day.

Application Comments	GAC Member Early Warning	GAC Consensus Advice	Singular / Plural Notifications	Objections
<p>Purpose Bring issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants and evaluators</p> <p>Who? Anyone</p> <p>Duration Opens on String Confirmation Day for duration of program. Comments within 104 days or 30 days of specific change requests available to evaluators</p> <p>Outcome No direct impact on applications but may be considered by evaluators</p>	<p>Purpose Early indication that an application is potentially problematic for one or more governments</p> <p>Who? GAC Members and Observers</p> <p>Duration 104 days</p> <p>Outcome No direct impact on application but signal that it could become subject of GAC Consensus Advice</p>	<p>Purpose Provide advice to ICANN Board, including related to applications which are sensitive or violate national law</p> <p>Who? GAC</p> <p>Duration Any time</p> <p>Outcome The Board makes a decision</p>	<p>Purpose Identifies if an applied-for string is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated TLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a Blocked Name</p> <p>Who? Anyone</p> <p>Duration 30 days</p> <p>Outcome Triggers Singular/plural Evaluation, may prevent application from proceeding</p>	<p>Purpose Object to application on grounds of 1) String Confusion 2) Legal Rights 3) Limited Public Interest or 4) Community</p> <p>Who? Parties with standing</p> <p>Duration 104 days</p> <p>Outcome Panel determination</p>

String Evaluation

Evaluation of each applied-for string for similarity, stability, safeguards, geographic rules, and name collision risk.

COMMUNITY INPUT
AND OBJECTIONSCONTENTION SET
RESOLUTION

Concepts and Terms

Applicants should be familiar with these terms related to String Evaluation.

Safeguard Public Interest Commitments (PICs)

An addition to a registry operator's Base Registry Agreement which is required to protect the interests of a specific group, including consumers, regulated sectors, industries requiring licensing or accreditation, government functions, or protecting against cyber bullying or harassment.

Temporary Delegation

Applied-for strings that are not identified as high-risk of name collision are temporarily delegated to DNS nameservers managed by ICANN to collect data about the volume and nature of DNS traffic for that string.

Name Collision

Refers to the situation in which a resource name that is intended to be resolved in one naming system is inadvertently resolved in a different naming system, potentially leading to unexpected behavior such as communication being disrupted or redirected from its intended recipient

COMMUNITY INPUT AND OBJECTIONS

CONTENTION SET RESOLUTION

Summary of String Evaluation

String Evaluation ensures that each applied-for string is technically sound, safe, and compliant with policy.

Geographic Names Identification	Singular/Plural Notification Eval.	String Similarity Evaluation	Safeguard Assessment	Name Collision Initial Assessment
Purpose Confirms whether applied-for strings are geographic names.	Purpose Determines if an applied-for string represents the singular or plural form of the same word in the same language as another applied-for or delegated TLD. The evaluation is conducted against materials submitted by the notifier.	Purpose Identifies if any applied-for string is visually similar to any existing TLDs or Blocked Names or with any other applied-for strings.	Purpose Determines if an applied-for string requires safeguard public interest commitments in their Registry Agreement to protect specific groups, industries, or governments.	Purpose Identifies applied-for strings at high risk of name collision.
Applies to? All applications	Applies to? Applications flagged with a singular/plural notification	Applies to? All applications	Applies to? All applications	Applies to? All applied-for strings
Outcome Three possibilities 1) Geographic Name Review, 2) no additional evaluation, 3) application shall not proceed	Outcome Three possibilities 1) No impact, 2) Contention 3) Application termination	Outcome Three possibilities 1) No impact 2) Contention 3) Application termination	Outcome Two possibilities 1) Assign safeguard public interest commitments to application, 2) No impact	Outcome Three possibilities 1) Proceed to temporary delegation 2) Applicant submits Mitigation Plan for Evaluation during Application Evaluation 3) Application does not proceed

Contention Set Resolution

Overview of how contention sets are resolved, including available resolution paths.



Contention Set Resolution Overview



What it is?

Two or more applied-for strings are either **identical** or found to be **confusingly similar**. i

Contention Sets are formed through:

- Application for identical strings
- Singular/Plural Notification
- String Similarity Evaluation
- String Confusion Objection



Types of Contention

Direct = two strings are identical or confusingly similar (bear and beer)

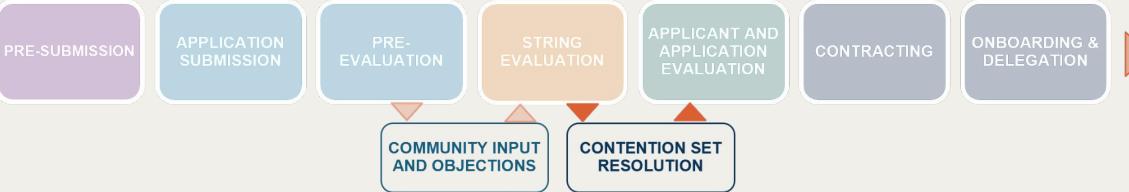
Indirect = a third string is confusingly similar to one but not both/all strings in an existing contention set (bear and beer are in direct contention; bear and pear are in direct contention, beer and pear are in indirect contention).



How is it resolved?

- **Community Priority Evaluation** (Community applications)
- **Auction**

Note: *.Brands can potentially avoid contention by initiating a .Brand String Change.*



Resolution Types

Types of Resolution:

- **.Brand String Change:** Allows .Brand applicants to change their applied-for string by adding a trademark-related term to avoid contention without creating new or expanded contention sets.
- **Community Priority Evaluation (CPE):** Allows a community-based applicant to prevail over others by demonstrating strong community support and adherence to defined eligibility criteria. However, If multiple Community Applications for the same string pass the CPE, they remain in contention.
- **Auction:** If neither option applies, an auction will be conducted where the **highest bidder wins** the right to proceed.

Auction Details:

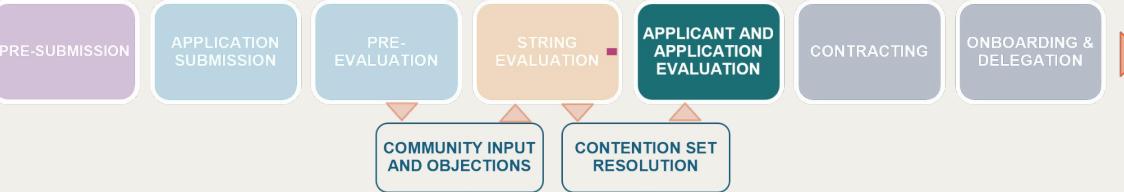
- Auctions are **ascending-clock style** and managed by an **external provider**.
- After the auction concludes, the **prevailing applicant pays the second-highest bid price**, and non-prevailing applicants may withdraw their application.



Note that applicants in contention are prohibited from discussing or negotiating settlement agreements or post-auction transfer arrangements with another applicant.

Applicant and Application Evaluation

Overview of how ICANN evaluates the applicant and the application to ensure operational, financial, and technical readiness.



Applicant Evaluations



Both evaluations are mandatory for all applicants



Background Screening

- ▶ In place to protect the public interest in the allocation of critical Internet resources by ensuring that only established corporations, organizations, or institutions in good standing are eligible to become a registry operator.
- ▶ ICANN reserves the right to deny an otherwise qualified application based on findings from the background screening process.
- ▶ Change Requests which alter organization or applicant information may trigger the need for an additional background screening.



Financial and Operational Evaluation

- ▶ Assesses whether an applicant has the financial capacity to fund the registry long-term, thereby ensuring DNS stability, and mitigating financial risks like revenue shortfalls or cost overruns, including for those managing multiple TLDs.



Types of Application Evaluations

Registry Service Provider Review verifies whether the applicant has selected one or more evaluated RSPs as part of its application. This is mandatory for all applications.

Geographic Names Review verifies supporting documentation for any application for an eligible Geographic Name.

Reserved Names Review determines whether the appropriate organization has applied for the reserved name and will verify the supporting documentation

.Brand TLD Eligibility Evaluation has the purpose to assess whether the applicant meets the criteria for a .Brand TLD designation

Variant String Evaluation assess the justification for each applied-for variant string operator's own use or for use by its affiliates

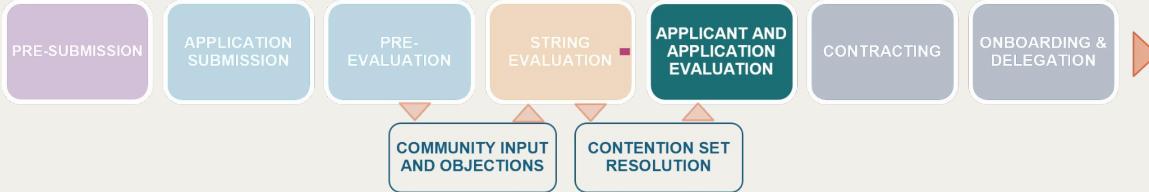
Name Collision High-Risk Mitigation Plan Evaluation reviews Plan for strings that were deemed to present a high risk of Name Collision

Registry Operator Code of Conduct Exemption Evaluation is for applicants proposing to register all domain names in the gTLD exclusively for the registry

Registry Commitments Evaluation assesses RVCs and/or Community Registration Policies proposed by the applicant for inclusion in the registry agreement.

Extended Evaluations and Challenges

Overview of Extended Evaluations and Challenges.



Extended Evaluation



Purpose

- Provides additional time and interaction to address outstanding concerns regarding a specific evaluation.



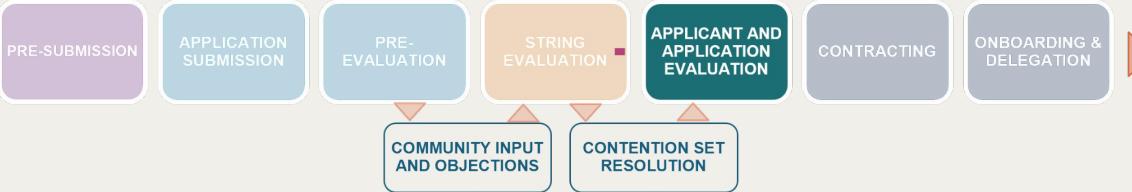
Process & Timing

- Applicants may request extended evaluation within 15 days of notification of their Application and Applicant Evaluation results.
- Extended evaluation is conducted by the same set of evaluators who initially conducted the relevant evaluation.
- Applicants respond within set time frame; duration varies by evaluation type.
- Where applicable, an evaluation panel may issue additional clarifying questions as part of extended evaluation



Evaluations Subject to Extended Evaluation

- Background Screening
- Financial and Operational Evaluation
- Registry Service Provider Review
- Geographic Names Review
- Reserved Names Review
- Variant String Evaluation



Evaluation Challenge



Purpose

- Allows applicants to challenge their own evaluation result based on claims of procedural, factual, or system error in the automatic validations run by TAMS that may have led to an incorrect evaluation outcome.



Process & Timing

- Applicants can provide documentary evidence.
- Applicants are not allowed to submit any new information that could constitute a material change.
- Evaluation challenges generally do not provide for clarifying questions.
- Evaluation challenges are subject to a “quick look” assessment.

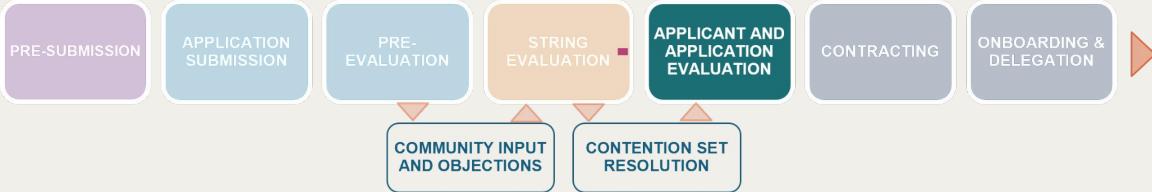


Evaluations Subject to Evaluation Challenge

- Pre-Submission String Validations
- String Similarity Evaluation
- Singular/Plural Notification Evaluation
- Community Priority Evaluation
- Name Collision High-Risk Mitigation Plan Evaluation

Clarifying Questions

Overview of Clarifying Questions



Clarifying Question Management (Evaluator Questions)

During evaluation, the evaluator may issue a clarifying question to an applicant to help it understand or verify information.



When do they occur

During each Application and Applicant Evaluation, as well as Community Priority Evaluation, the evaluation panel may issue clarifying questions when:

- Additional information is needed to complete their review;
- An applicant is at risk of failing; or
- Application comments may affect the evaluation.



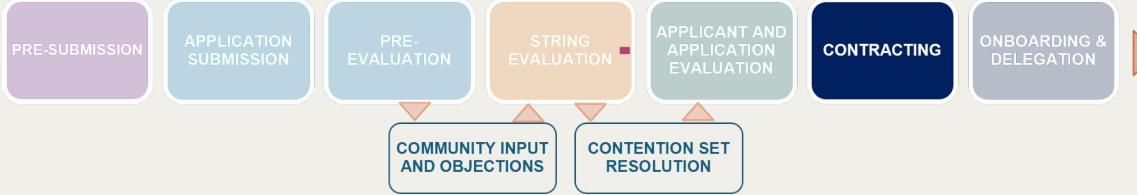
Response Requirements

To respond, applicants will have:

- 7 days for administrative questions
- 21 days for substantive questions

Contracting - 2026 Base Registry Agreement

Overview of Contracting



Contracting - 2026 Base Registry Agreement

Successful New gTLD Program 2026 Round applicants will be required to sign the ***2026 Base RA** to operate the TLD



Overview

- The Registry Agreement (RA) **defines the rights, obligations, and responsibilities for the RO to operate a TLD**.
- Must be executed within **90 days of ICANN's invitation to contract**.
- All registry operators **must delegate their TLD within one year** from the date of Registry Agreement execution.
- The latest draft of the 2026 Base RA can be found on the New gTLD Program: Next Round website

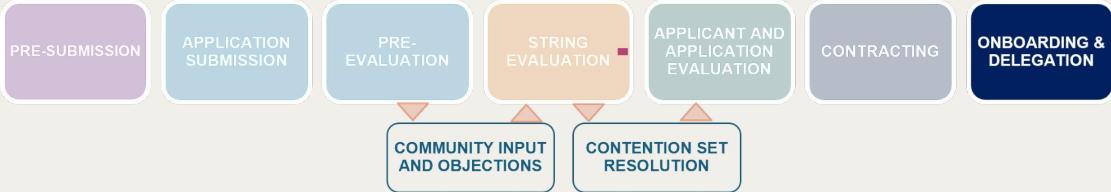


What does the 2026 Base gTLD Registry Agreement include?

- The **operational criteria** to ensure compliance with ICANN policies;
- The core **obligations** of the RO to operate a TLD, the core obligations of ICANN, the term and termination provisions, fees, amendment process, and special provisions;
- Specifications that clearly define the **responsibilities, technical and operational standards, and obligations** that registry operators must follow to ensure the stable and secure operation of TLDs within the Domain Name System (DNS).
- Of note: Specification 12 (Community TLDs), Specification 13 (.BRAND TLDs), Specification 14 (Variant TLDs)

Onboarding and Delegation

Overview of the onboarding and delegation process.



Onboarding and Delegation (Overview)

Component 1

Onboarding

What is it?

Registry operators must complete onboarding activities for ICANN's systems and processes, including: collection of registry contacts and technical information to setup registry processes required by the Registry Agreement.

Component 2

Pre-Delegation Testing (PDT)

What is it?

The purpose of the PDT is to verify that the registry operator has met its commitment to establish registry operations in accordance with the technical and operational criteria required in the 2026 Registry Agreement.

Each TLD will be required to complete PDT as a prerequisite to delegation into the root zone.

Component 3

Delegation to the Root Zone

What is it?

The process through which the TLD is delegated into the root zone, which considers working with IANA. The new gTLD becomes active in the DNS and is available for public use.

Other Components

Setup and testing of Trademark Database (TMDB) access and use

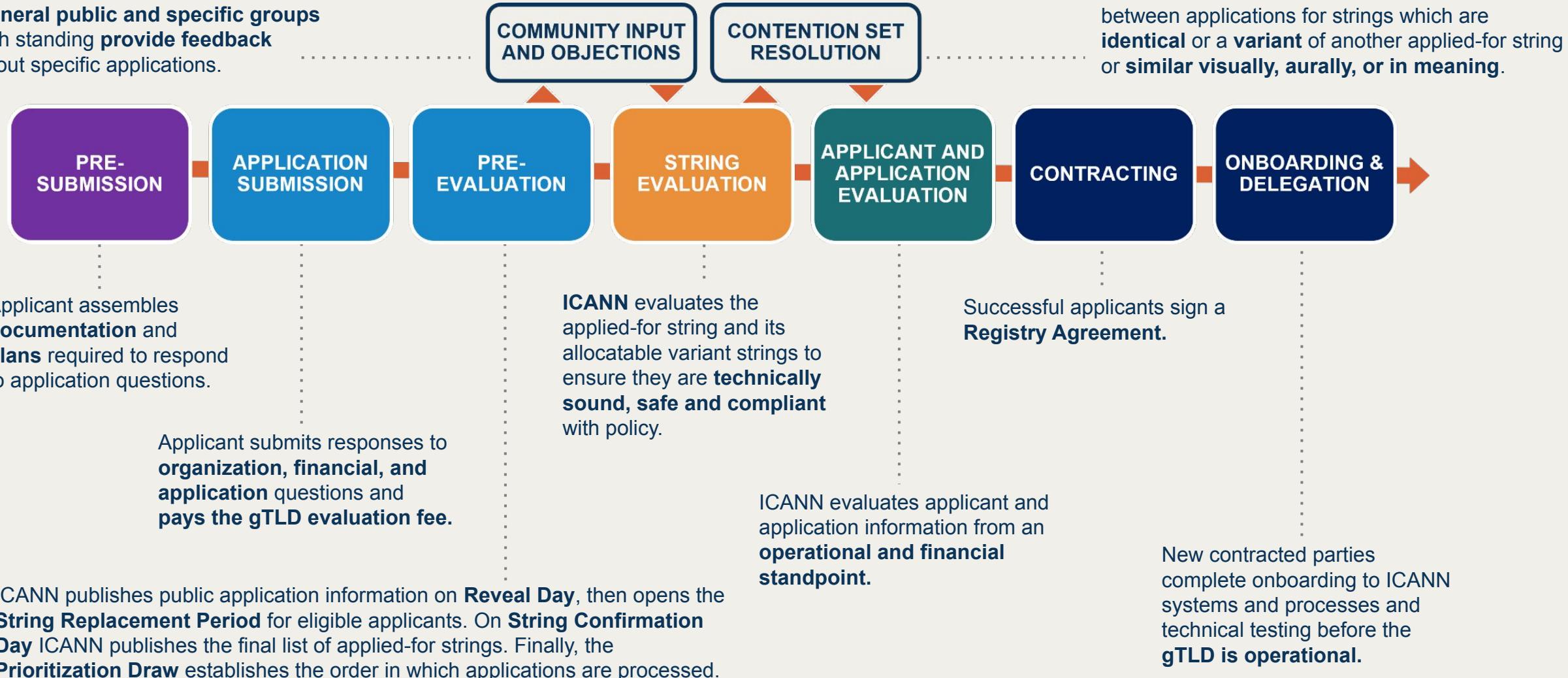
Establish Sunrise, Claims, and other Launch periods for TLD



ICANN provides detailed guidance and training to contracted parties throughout the process, via the GDD Accounts and Services Team.

Recap of the Applicant Journey

General public and specific groups with standing provide feedback about specific applications.



03

Resources and Next Steps

Key applicant resources and next steps to stay informed and prepared throughout the 2026 application process.

Key Applicant Resources

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook

- The authoritative document outlining the rules and procedures of the 2026 Round.

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Website

- Source of 2026 Round news, announcements, information, and resources.

ICANN Learn

- eLearning courses to build knowledge of ICANN and the DNS Industry.

Applicant Readiness Pathway

- Curated learning resources organized by phases and learning outcomes (coming soon)

2026 Round FAQs

- Frequently asked questions, organized by category.

ICANN Global Support

- Dedicated ICANN team available to answer inquiries and provide support throughout the application process. globalsupport@icann.org

New gTLD Program Webinars

- Register for future webinars, or access recordings of past events.

Question and Answer

Questions pre-submitted to the ICANN Global Support Team will be answered first, then Q&A questions from the audience will be answered.

Themes:

- Context / background
- Processes, procedures, roles, and responsibilities
- Support and resources



Submit further questions to: globalsupport@icann.org

Evaluation Survey

We kindly request you to take a few minutes to complete this brief feedback form.



<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6f887484b05942ae8206e6c68b9e6578>

Survey

gTLD

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