

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Applicant Readiness Pathway

January 2026



Readiness Pathways are comprised of a combination of self-directed resources, core learning events and resources, and contacts for coaching, support, and to resolve questions which remain.



SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Can be used on-demand at the option of the learner. Supplemental to core learning.



CORE LEARNING

Highly recommended learning resources which build requisite knowledge and skills needed to perform a role.



SUPPORT RESOURCES

Contacts for the general public and applicants when questions come up or guidance is needed.

Applicant Readiness Pathway

New to ICANN

- ✓ Accessing ICANN resources
- ✓ ICANN and the DNS Industry
- ✓ The requirements of operating a Registry

Preparing to apply for a gTLD

- ✓ Fundamentals of the 2026 Round
- ✓ The Applicant Journey - from prep to delegation
- ✓ Successfully preparing a gTLD application

Applying for a new gTLD

- ✓ Navigating the TLD Application Management System (TAMS)
- ✓ Participating in each stage of the applicant lifecycle

Understanding other application services

- ✓ Submitting a change request or application inquiry
- ✓ Responding to a clarifying question
- ✓ Understanding eligibility and extended evaluation requests

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 1

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New to ICANN and the New gTLD Program

START
HERE

Accessing ICANN Resources

Learn how to set up your ICANN Account to access ICANN Learn Courses.

- ❑ [ICANN Account Help \(Setup\)](#)

Becoming a Registry Operator

Understanding the requirements of becoming a Registry operator.

- ❑ [608 RO Fundamentals - Module 1](#)

ICANN and the DNS Industry

Understanding ICANN and its role in the Domain Name System industry.

- ❑ [102.1 Intro to ICANN](#)
- ❑ [204 History of ICANN](#)
- ❑ [103 ICANN Public Meetings for Newcomers](#)
- ❑ [134.1 Get to Know ICANN for Business](#)
- ❑ [602 DNS Fundamentals](#)



PHASE 2

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Preparing to apply for a new gTLD

CONTINUE
THE
JOURNEY

Fundamentals of the 2026 Round

Build knowledge of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round.

- ❑ [2026 Round Program Website](#)
- ❑ [Applicant Guidebook \(AGB\)](#)
- ❑ [2026 Round Resources](#)
- ❑ [2026 Round FAQs](#)
- ❑ Introduction to the 2026 Round [webinar recording](#) and [presentation](#)

The Applicant Journey

Understand the application and evaluation processes along the journey, from preparing to apply to delegation.

- ❑ 2026 Applicant Journey Overview [webinar recording](#) and [presentation](#)
- ❑ Applicant Journeys by Application Type ([ICANN85](#))

Preparing a gTLD Application

Review of the application steps and requirements .

- ❑ Application Submission Overview webinar ([ICANN85](#))

Applying for a new gTLD

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

TLD Application Management System (TAMS)

Enabling easier navigation of the TAMS for a smooth application process.

- ❑ TAMS System Overview ([ICANN85](#))
- ❑ TAMS System Guide
- ❑ TAMS FAQs

Stages of the Applicant Lifecycle

Understanding and participating in each stage of the journey.

- ❑ [Topic Overviews](#) on: TLD Application Types, Community Input, Replacement Strings
- ❑ Pre-Evaluation Overview webinar
- ❑ String Evaluation webinar
- ❑ Community Input webinar
- ❑ Contention Overview webinar
- ❑ Applicant and Application Evaluations Overview webinar



Under Construction



Understanding other application services

TOWARD OUR
DESTINATION

Change Requests, Inquiries, Clarifying Questions, Extended Evaluation, and more

Gain fundamental knowledge of additional application processes and services.

- Topic Overviews: Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Early Warnings and Consensus Advice
- General Services Overview webinar
- TAMS Change Request Demo video





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