NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Applicant
Readiness Pathway

January 2026

ICANN

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.

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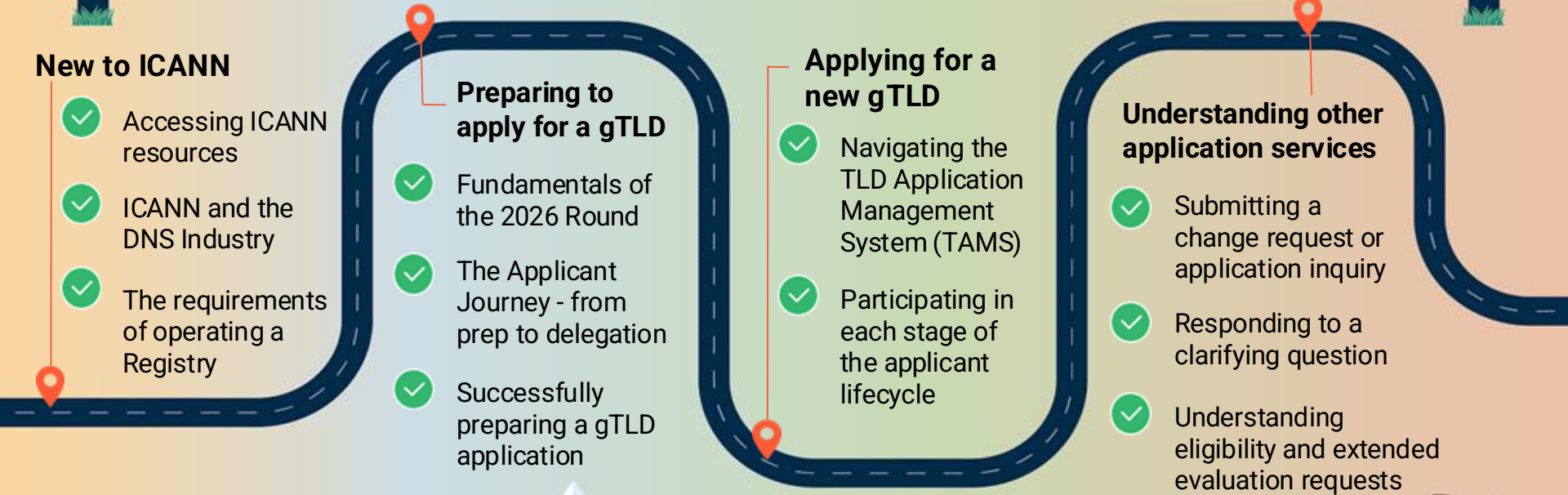
Applicant Readiness Pathway



PHASE 1

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

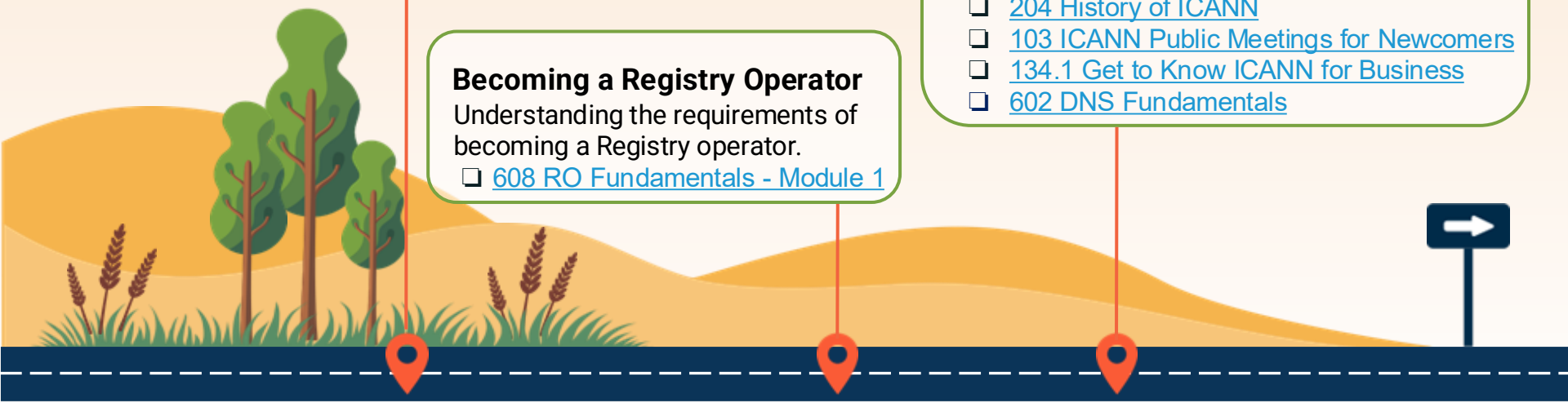
New to ICANN and the New gTLD Program

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

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

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)

PHASE 3

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

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

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PHASE 4

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

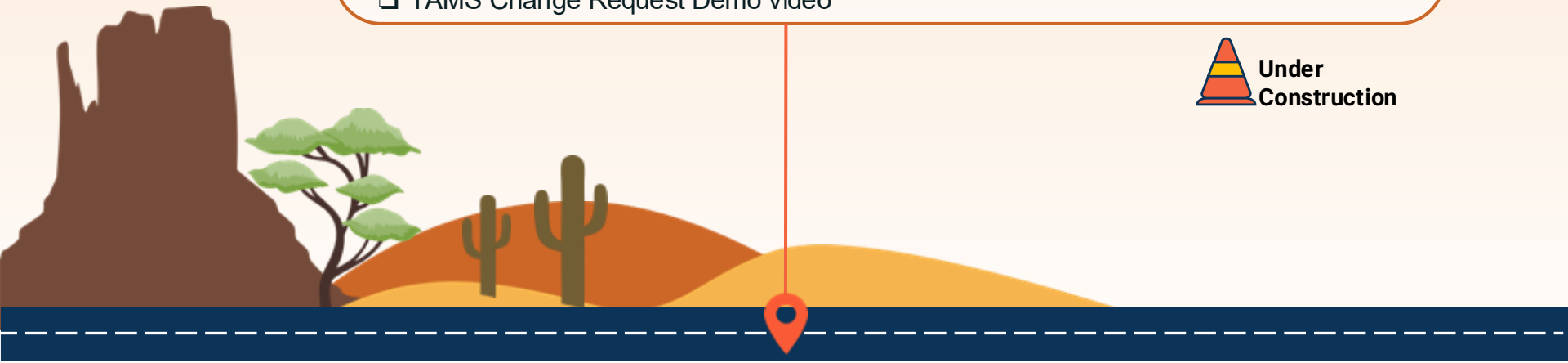
Understanding other application services

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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