

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: APPLICANT SUPPORT PROGRAM

ASP

A More Inclusive Internet: The New gTLD Applicant Support Program

**Bringing Opportunity to Communities,
Organizations, and Regions Around the
World**



Agenda

01 Overview of the New gTLD Program: Next Round

02 Harnessing the Power of the Internet with a gTLD

03 Becoming a Registry Operator

04 Assistance through the Applicant Support Program

05 Events and Resources

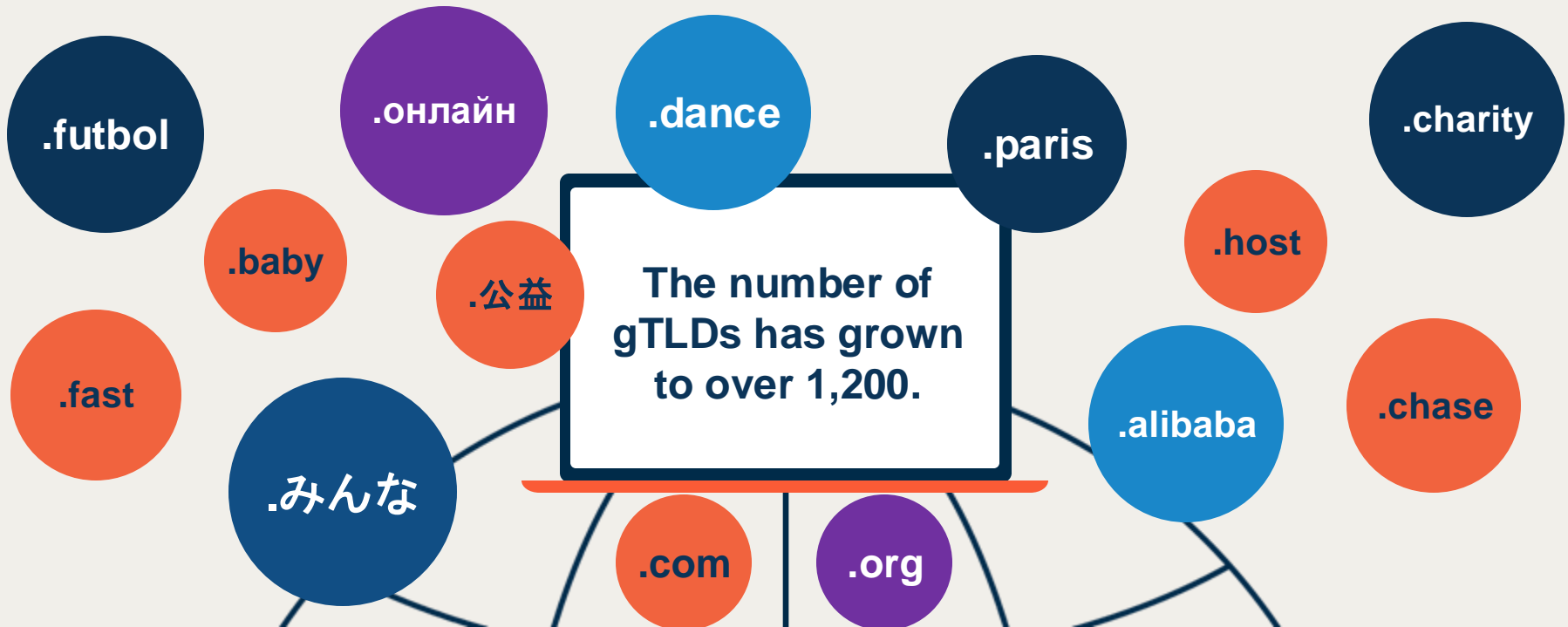
01

Overview of the New gTLD Program: Next Round

The New gTLD Program

The **New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program** is a community-driven initiative to enable the continued expansion of the Domain Name System.

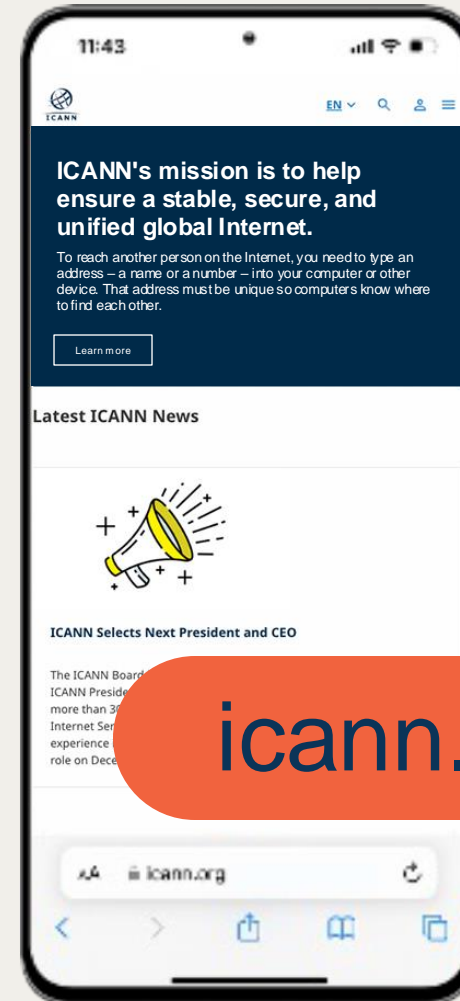
Beginning in 2026, businesses, communities, governments, and other organizations can apply for new gTLDs tailored to fit their needs.



What is a gTLD?

Top-level domains form the last part of a domain name, appearing after the dot. For example, in the domain name **icann.org**, the characters 'org' identify the TLD.

Through the 2012 New gTLD Program, more than 1,200 new unique names like **.trade** and **.vegas** were added to the Internet.



02

Harnessing the Power of the Internet with a gTLD

New Domain Names, New Uses

▶ Serve diverse cultural, geographic, language, and professional communities.

▶ Provide communities and organizations opportunity to create their own space online.

▶ Build trust in and awareness of a brand.

▶ Manage and secure your online presence.

EXAMPLES:

Industry-specific:

.photography

.rugby

.bank

Creative tools:

playlist.new

doc.new

Location-based:

.durban

.nyc

Script-based:

.网址

.شبكة

Brands:

.google

.apple

Online identity:

.blog

gTLD Opportunities

Connect and serve new groups:



Businesses and
brands



Communities and
cultures



Geographies
(e.g., cities and
regions)



Governments – local and
national - and IGOs



Targeted
customers or
members



Users of
diverse
scripts

Benefits of Operating a gTLD



03

Becoming a Registry Operator

Becoming a Registry Operator



Applying for a gTLD means you are applying to operate a piece of the Internet (a registry).



A registry supports all the domains registered under a particular gTLD.

A Registry Operator:

- ▶ Sets the requirements for the gTLD.
- ▶ Determines which second-level domains (the characters to the left of the dot) can be registered, and by whom.

Financial and Technical Considerations

New gTLD Program: Next Round
expected evaluation fee: **US
\$227,000**

- + Standard operational fees included in the Registry Agreement signed with ICANN
- + Ongoing financial and technical obligations

*Fees subject to change

**Exceptions may apply for eligible applicants



Applying for a new gTLD requires significant financial and technical resources.



All new gTLD applicants must be able to demonstrate the operational, technical, and financial capacities necessary to operate a registry and comply with contractual requirements.

Responsibilities of Registry Operators



Registry operators:

- Maintain master database of all domain names registered in the TLD.
- Generate the "zone file" that allows computers to route Internet traffic to and from TLDs anywhere in the world.



Responsibilities include:

- Manage requirements detailed in the Registry Agreement and ICANN policies.
- Convert domain names into IP addresses to enable routing of Internet traffic.
- Operate the technical aspects of the TLD.

04

Assistance for New gTLD Applicants

Criteria for Applicant Support

To be eligible for assistance through the Applicant Support Program, applicants must demonstrate:

- ✓ General business due diligence
- ✓ Public responsibility due diligence
- ✓ Financial need
- ✓ Financial viability
- ✓ Eligible entity status

Applicant Support Program

Applying for a gTLD is expensive and may be out of reach for many. The Applicant Support Program makes applying for a new gTLD more accessible to entities that are unable to because of financial and other resource constraints.

Candidates must be one of these types of entities:



Nonprofit,
nongovernmental,
and charitable
organizations



Intergovernmental
organizations



Indigenous/tribal
peoples'
organizations



Micro and small
businesses that
are social
enterprises or
that operate in a
less-developed
economy

Applicant Support Portfolio

The Applicant Support Program provides a range of financial and nonfinancial assistance to qualified, eligible entities.



Financial Support

- ▶ A 75-85% reduction in applicable gTLD evaluation fees
- ▶ Bid credit
- ▶ Reduced/waived base registry operator fees



Nonfinancial Support

- ▶ Training materials: applying for a gTLD, becoming a Registry Operator
- ▶ Capacity Development/Mentorship Program
- ▶ Access to an Applicant Counselor
- ▶ List of volunteer professional service providers

Evaluating Support Applicants

PHASE 1

General business due diligence, including:

- ▶ Legal compliance check.
- ▶ Confirming that all required documentation has been submitted.
- ▶ Confirming the applicant meets eligibility criteria for New gTLD Program: Next Round.
- ▶ Background screening and cybersquatting history check.



Applicants that do not pass the general business due-diligence pre-screening will not be considered for Phase 2 evaluation.

Evaluating Support Applicants

PHASE 2

Evaluations conducted by third-party vendor managing a Support Applicant Review Panel:

▶ Public responsibility due diligence:

- Applicant does not trade in, produce, or promote an industry/string contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order.
- Applicant is not affiliated.

▶ Financial need:

- Applicant could not afford to apply to the New gTLD Program without financial hardship.

▶ Financial viability:

- Applicant demonstrates plan to cover remaining discounted portion of the base gTLD application fee and submits required deposit.



An approved entity that passes both phases may qualify for support.

What Happens Next?

1

All new gTLD applicants – supported or not – are required to submit a completed application for a new gTLD.

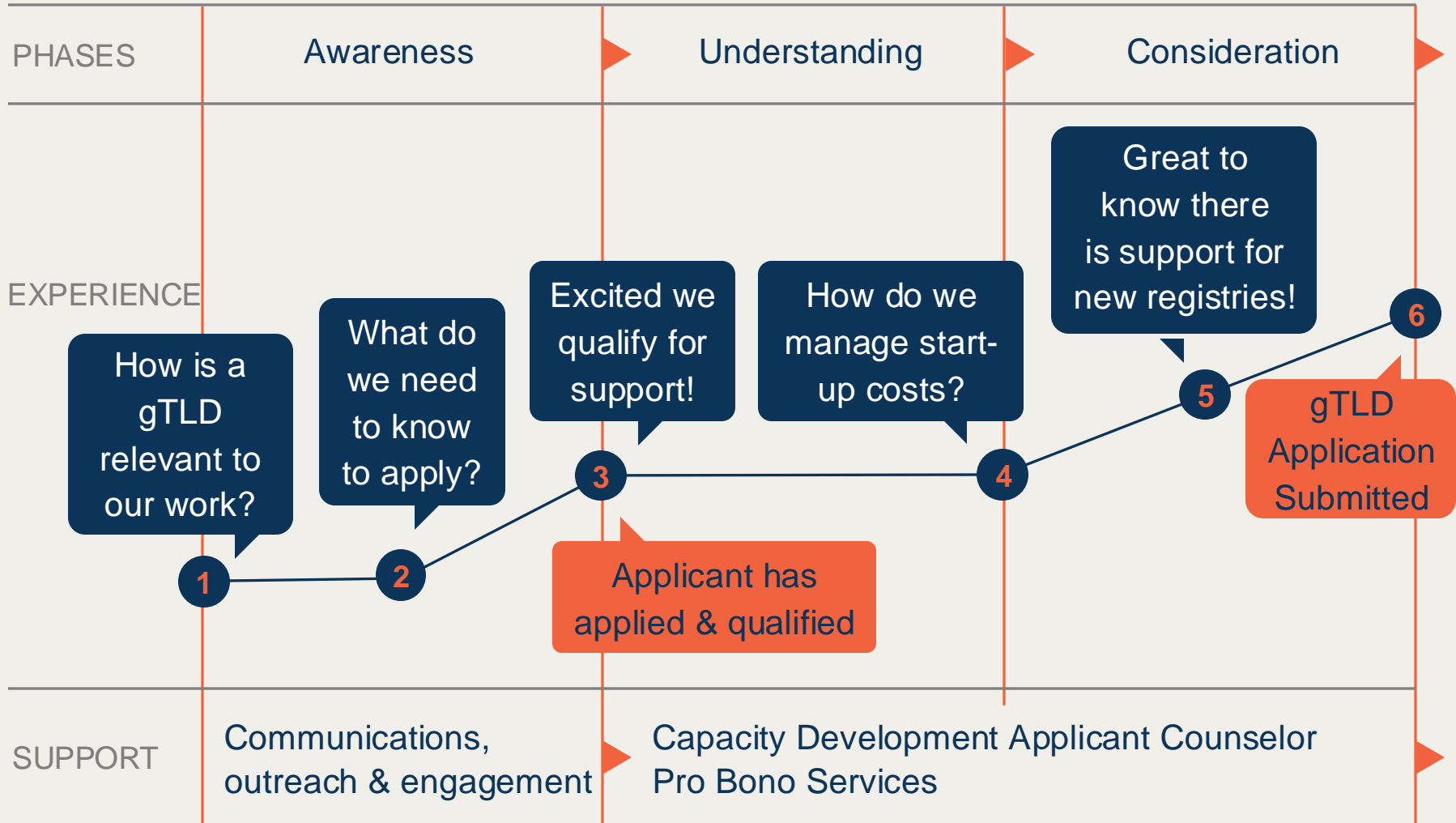
2

Requires demonstration of technical, operational, and financial capabilities needed to operate a gTLD.

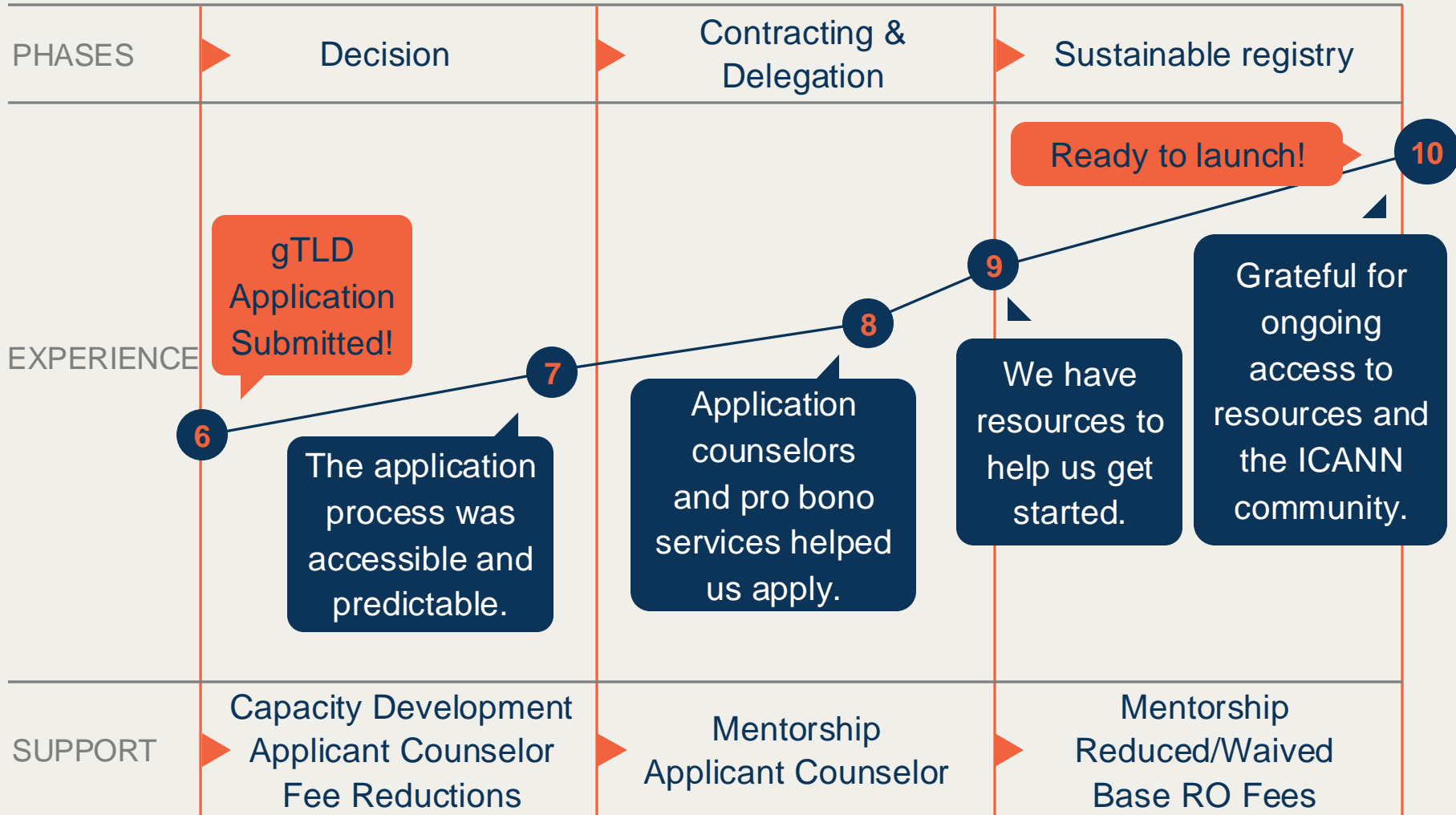
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There are also measures in place to deter abuse of the program, outlined in the Applicant Support Program Handbook.

A Supported Applicant's Journey



A Supported Applicant's Journey



Key Dates

NOV 2024

DEC 2025

APRIL 2026

Q3 2026



Applicant Support Program Application Submission

Application submission period for ASP (**19 Nov 2024 - 19 Nov 2025**)



Applicant Guidebook

The Applicant Guidebook is a critical resource for the program and is estimated to be available in **December 2025**



gTLD Application Submission

Application submission period for new gTLDs expected to open in **April 2026**

Dates subject to change

06

Events and Resources

Upcoming Events

Stay up to date on all ICANN and Next Round events through the [ICANN Engagement Calendar](#).





Stay Informed.

Join the **Mailing List**:
nextroundinfo@icann.org

General inquiries:
globalsupport@icann.org

Updates and news:
<https://newgtdprogram.icann.org>



Helpful Resources for Support Applicants

- ▶ [Applicant Support Program Website](#)
- ▶ [Applicant Support Program Handbook](#)
- ▶ [Applicant Support Program IRT Sub-Track Wiki Page](#)
- ▶ [Background information on the Applicant Support Program](#)
- ▶ [Use Cases of gTLDs](#)
- ▶ [ICANN Learn Courses](#)

Become a Next Round gTLD Program Champion



Convene and communicate in your own networks



Fully self-directed and voluntary



Utilize materials and resources developed by ICANN

Self-service Champions Toolkit to be published on newgtldprogram.icann.org under “resources”.

Toolkit (in six languages) to include:

- ▶ Fact Sheets
- ▶ Presentations
- ▶ Options for available remote speakers



Q&A

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