

# Assistance for New gTLD Candidates

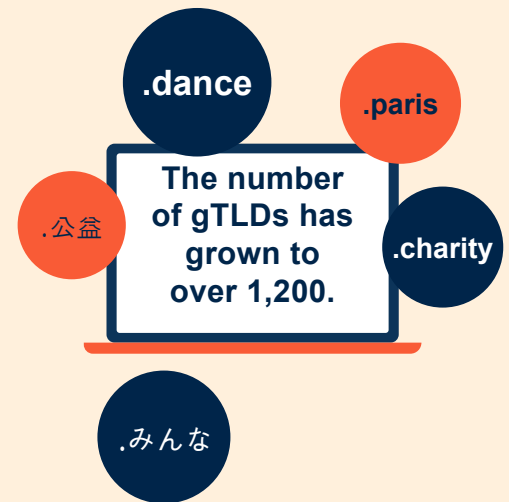
## Harness the Power of the Internet with a Generic Top-Level Domain

Over the last 50 years, the Internet has touched the lives of billions of people, driving economic growth and spurring digital transformation across the globe. A vast network of thousands of networks, the Internet connects us through our computers, phones, and other devices. Every device that's connected to this intricate web has an Internet Protocol address, a long series of numbers that the devices use to communicate with each other.

Thankfully, we do not have to memorize a series of numbers to access a website; instead, we type in letters – usually a name that's easy to remember. Top-level domains (TLDs) 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.

TLDs are like exclusive pieces of Internet property that can be used in meaningful ways. Whether building a brand, spotlighting a geographic region or language on the world stage, uniting a cause, or launching a business to offer domain names under a new registry, a new gTLD can be a powerful tool for commerce and communication.

And now, for the first time in more than a decade, organizations around the world have the opportunity to apply for a new gTLD through The New gTLD Program: Next Round.



## The Applicant Support Program

Applying for and managing a new gTLD is complex and expensive. The Applicant Support Program (ASP) is an initiative of the The New gTLD Program: Next Round that will make gTLD evaluation fees and processes more accessible to entities that may be interested in applying for a gTLD, but are unable because of financial and other resource constraints.

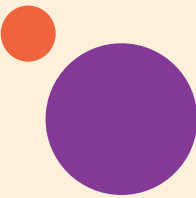
The ASP provides a range of financial and nonfinancial assistance to qualified entities – including access to volunteer professional services, training, and other resources, as well as reductions in gTLD evaluation fees. (See graphic below for more detail.)

The [ASP Handbook](#) is a comprehensive guide to the program. The handbook provides essential details about the process of applying and being evaluated for support, highlighting the assistance and services available to successful applicants.

## Eligibility for Support

To qualify for support, applicants must be able to demonstrate financial need, but also financial viability (e.g., their ability to pay for the unsupported costs and fees associated with applying to operate an Internet registry). ASP candidates also must be one following types of entities:

- » Nonprofits, non-governmental organizations, and charities
- » Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
- » Indigenous and tribal peoples' organizations
- » Micro and small businesses that are social enterprises or based in a less-developed economy



## Resources Available

Qualified ASP applicants will benefit from a range of support services including access to free professional services, reductions in gTLD evaluation fees; specialized training, and other development material. These resources provide information on various aspects of ICANN’s New gTLD Program, including detailed information about what is entailed in operating an Internet registry. ICANN is also working to identify qualified partners for organizations that may wish or need to outsource the technical operations of a gTLD.


If you would like to learn more about how your organization can benefit from a new gTLD and whether the ASP is an option for your organization, please contact [globalsupport@icann.org](mailto:globalsupport@icann.org). More information is available at <https://newgtdprogram.icann.org/>.

### Nonfinancial Support



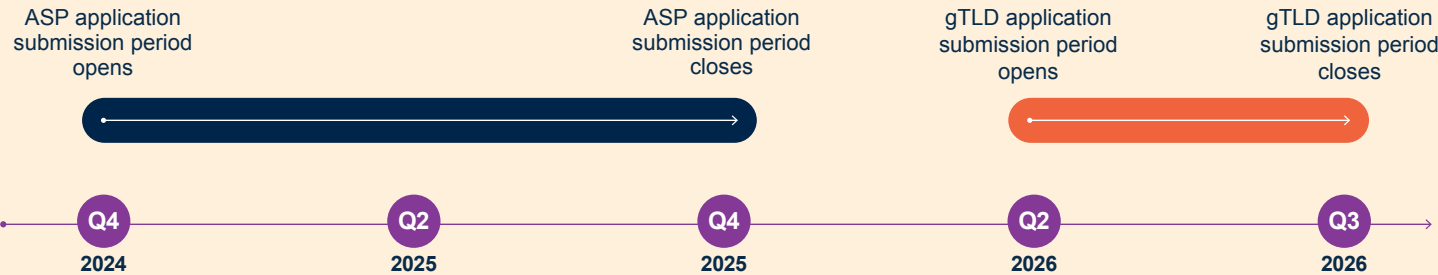
- » Training materials: applying for a gTLD; becoming a registry operator
- » Capacity Development/Mentorship Program
- » Access to Applicant Counselor
- » List of volunteer professional service providers

### Financial Support



- » Qualified ASP applicants will be eligible to receive a 75-85% reduction in evaluation fees
- » Bid credit applied to supported applicants participating in contention resolution procedures in the new gTLD program
- » Reduced/waived base registry operator fees

## ASP timeline within overall Next Round Program timeline



The ASP is scheduled to open on 19 November 2024 and is expected to accept applications for 12 months. The New gTLD application submission period is projected to open April 2026 for 12-15 weeks. Dates are subject to change.

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