

# Applicant Support

## What does success look like?

ICANN70

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# Applicant Support Program

## Why and purpose?

ICANN Meeting in Nairobi, ICANN's Board recognized the importance of an inclusive New gTLD Program and issued a Resolution (#20) requesting ICANN stakeholders...

*"...to develop a sustainable approach to providing support to applicants requiring assistance in applying for and operating new gTLDs."*

- High Application fee in gTLD 1<sup>st</sup> round – USD 185,000
- Applicants from underserved regions and communities
- Assist applicants who need support to apply for and to operate a new gTLD
- Financial and non financial support

# JAS WG FINAL REPORT

- When should support be provided?
- Who should be approved to receive support (Support-Approved Candidate or SAC)?
- How should a candidate for support (Support Candidate or SC) be evaluated?
- What support specifically should be offered?
- How should the overall support process work?
- How should the support process relate to the gTLD Applicant Guidebook (AG) process?

# Applicant Support Program

## Was it successful?

- Applicant Support Program unsuccessful
- Tough criteria the Joint SO/AC WG on New gTLD Applicant Support (**JAS**) imposed
- No issue of funding
- Secured funding to support 14 applicants
- Only 3 applications for support were received,
- One awarded and none got supported.

# SubPro WG Initial Report – Jul 18

Applicant support should continue to be open to applicants regardless of their location so long as they meet the other criteria. Financial support should go beyond the application fee, such as including application writing fees, related attorney fees, and ICANN registry-level fees.

ICANN should consider whether additional funding is required for the next round opening of the Applicant Support Program.

# ALAC Statement to the SubPro PDP report – Jan 2021

- ASP requires continuous evaluation, refinement and improvement.
- Program goals and judging its success
- Details → Implementation ; objectives → policy
- Insufficiency of fresh policy guidance
- Lack of guidance to address a risk of gaming, assessment of wilful gaming and penalties to deter the gaming
- Not compel ICANN to secure a larger ASP fund
- Assurances for community participation in or input to the dedicated IRT is essential
- Request for ALAC priority membership in the Dedicated IRT

# Applicant Support

## How to make it successful?

- Avoid failures of the 2012 round
- Setup program goals, continuous evaluation, refinement and improvement
- Fresh policy guidance
- ICANN to secure larger ASP fund
- Want many applications as far as 25
- Diversity in applications
- Applications from LDC and developing countries
- Want majority of applicants awarded and strings delegated
- Yes to Geographic balance...but Underserved regions and communities are more important
- Financial support and guarantee inclusion
- Community participation and input

# Applicant Support

## How to make it successful?

We need:

- To secure sources of funding that permit the support of at least 25 applicants.
- To find other sources for in kind support (legal, technical, etc.)
- To define criteria for eligibility that are not too tough to permit more applicants for support, but enough efficient to avoid gaming of the program.
- To make the necessary outreach for the new gTLD application round and the applicant support program all over the world on the same footing.
- To have more applications from underserved regions, more IDN applications as well as community applications