

Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team ASP Sub-Track

Meeting #2

ASP Assumptions, Updates, and Discussion Questions

30 November 2023, 14:00-15:30 UTC



Agenda

1. Updated and Newly Added ASP Assumptions
2. Other Updates
3. Discussion Questions

Roles & Responsibilities

Process:

1. ASP team drafts ASP Handbook language taking into account the SubPro Final Report recommendations and applicable implementation guidance.
2. ASP team circulates draft ASP Handbook language to ASP IRT Sub-Track Members.
3. The ASP IRT Sub-Track reviews the ASP Handbook language (first reading). This step may take place over several calls.
 - a. The role of the ASP IRT Sub-Track review is to ensure that the draft ASP Handbook language aligns with the SubPro Final Report recommendations; it is not a forum for opening or revisiting policy discussions.
 - b. The ASP IRT Sub-Track discusses the ASP Handbook language in detail, with the opportunity to ask questions, comment on documents and provide feedback on calls and on-list.
 - c. ASP team incorporates input as appropriate.

Roles & Responsibilities

4. ASP team circulates the updated ASP Handbook language to the ASP IRT Sub-Track (second reading) for awareness/confirmation that feedback was properly incorporated.
5. Once the draft ASP Handbook language is finalized following input from the ASP IRT Sub-Track, the ASP team presents the final draft ASP Handbook language to the full IRT.
 - a. The role of the full IRT meeting is to inform the broader group. For expediency's sake, issues that were discussed in the ASP IRT Sub-Track will not be revisited by the full IRT.

Updated and Newly Added Assumptions

Agenda Item #1

Updated Assumptions (since ODA)

P-183

- Original Assumption: Applicants seeking support that do not qualify for support will retain the option to pay the full application fee. Applicants will qualify for support, or not, based upon the community-established criteria and evaluation.
- Updated Assumption: Applicants seeking ASP support that do not qualify for support will retain the option to apply to the gTLD Program and pay the applicable application fee. Applicants will qualify for support, or not, based upon the community-established criteria and evaluation.

Updated Assumptions (since ODA)

P-184

- Original Assumption: Fee reduction will be available to eligible applicants. The Applicant Guidebook will contain a list of enforceable eligibility criteria for the Applicant Support Program.
- Updated Assumption: Application percentage fee reductions will be available to qualified ASP applicants to the extent that funding is available. The Applicant Support Program Handbook will contain a list of eligibility criteria for the Applicant Support Program.

Updated Assumptions (since ODA)

P-185

- Original Assumption: ICANN org will publish the base funding amount available prior to launching the Applicant Support Program.
- Updated Assumption: ICANN org will include the percentage fee reduction qualified supported applicants can expect to receive in the Applicant Support Program Handbook.

Updated Assumptions (since ODA)

P-477

- Original Assumption: The Applicant Support Program will open to receive applications for support 18 months prior to the application window for New gTLDs.
- Updated Assumption: The Applicant Support Program application submission period will begin 18 months prior to the New gTLD Program application submission period.

New Assumptions (since ODA)

- P-513: ICANN org plays a facilitative role in sharing pro bono service provider contact information with qualified supported applicants and will not engage in "match-making" between pro bono service providers and supported applicants. Supported applicants and pro bono service providers must negotiate their own working relationship.

New Assumptions (since ODA)

- P-515: To be eligible for support, ASP applicants must pass background screening, legal compliance (trade sanctions), and cybersquatting history check, in addition to meeting the evaluation criteria: financial need, financial stability [formerly financial capability], and Affirmation 1.3 goals [formerly public interest].
- P-517: The SARP will evaluate applications on a pass/fail basis; applications for support will not be ranked or prioritized.

New Assumptions (since ODA)

- P-519: In addition to ASP eligibility criteria, ICANN org will also ensure ASP applicants meet overarching New gTLD Program eligibility criteria, as found in section 1.2.1 of the New gTLD Program Applicant Guidebook.
- P-520: The SARP will issue Clarifying Questions to ASP applicants, via ICANN org, if ASP application responses are unclear or more information is needed to make a determination in a specific evaluation area.

Other Updates

Agenda Item #2

Other Updates

- Upcoming ASP IRT Meetings
- Recent [GNSO Small Team Plus Meeting \(27 Nov\) & ICANN org presentation](#)
- [GNSO Guidance Process for Applicant Support](#)
- Surveys sent to 2012 providers/seekers of pro bono services

Discussion Questions

Agenda Item #3

Discussion Questions

1. How do we balance:
 - a. the goal of making the ASP more accessible to a broader set of diverse applicants with
 - b. the accompanying risk that many more applicants qualify than available resources can meaningfully support?
[Note: ICANN org also requested similar guidance from the GNSO Guidance Process for ASP]

2. Does the IRT have any questions or initial comments on the ASP timeline or the thinking behind it?
 - a. As indicated in the Next Round [Implementation Plan](#) (p. 59), ICANN org plans to open the ASP application submission period 18 months prior to the gTLD application submission period (rationale noted in [ODA](#), p. 72). While intended to provide greater certainty to applicants seeking support, it also raises issues of fairness in terms of what is reasonable to request from an ASP applicant many months in advance of any other gTLD applicant. Depending on the information required to apply for the ASP, it may present questions about maintaining ASP applicants' business confidentiality over that 18 month ASP application submission period.