

Applicant Support Handbook

Public Comment

ICANN org is seeking input on several key topics in the Draft ASP Handbook

specifically on Section 5, which is about Applicant Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:

- 5.5.3: Indigenous/tribal people's organizations (Question 5: Section 5, pp. 22-23)
- 5.5.5: Micro or small sized business from a less-developed economy (Question 5: Section 5, pp. 25-27)

There are 7 discrete questions on a form to be responded to; Each with a choice of the following response options

| |
|---|
| Options |
| Yes |
| Yes, but with the following suggested clarification(s) |
| No, ASP handbook does not accurately reflect policy recommendations |

- 1. Do you believe that Section 1 (“Introduction”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?**

<add any extracted text to discuss

Highlighted points <add>



2. Do you believe that Section 2 (“Overview”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?

1. Section 2.1: we like that the list of support available is provided early in the Handbook, as far as current information allows
2. Section 2.2 Phase 1: Does failing Phase 1 also mean applicant can’t submit a gTLD application? Is the General Business Due Diligence under ASP replicated for the gTLD application evaluation process?
3. Section 2.2: Phase 2:
 - a. **Financial Need**: The applicant could not otherwise afford to apply to the New gTLD Program without financial hardship”
 - b. **Financial Stability**: The applicant *demonstrates* a stable financial standing and the *ability to pay the remaining base gTLD application fee without experiencing financial hardship*”

3. Do you believe that Section 3 (“Applicant Support Program Timeline”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?

- 1. Can the 12-16 weeks evaluation period be broken down further between Phase 1 and Phase 2?**
- 2. Paying USD 2,500 deposit to ICANN on gTLD application within 90 days of +ve result on ASP application to confirm applicant’s ability to received gTLD application and evaluation fee reductions**
 - Need to allow for **extension of time** to 90 days limit
 - Same mention of 90 day limit in Table 1
- 3. Highlight disclaimers as such and avoid using “though” which mutes important notices**
- 4. Explain more clearly in what scenario there will be extension.**
- 5. To ensure expected timeline for refund on base gTLD application fee is specified in AGB**
- 6. Prohibition against re-applying in Table 1 - clarify that **prohibition to re-apply is for current round of ASP application only****

4. Do you believe that Section 4 (“Reduction of New gTLD Program Application and Evaluation Fees”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?

Section 4 captures well, based on community feedback, qualified ASP applicants should expect:

1. To enjoy between **50%-85% reduction in gTLD base application fee**
2. To enjoy between **50%-85% reduction in other applicable evaluation fee**
3. To get the benefit of a **bid credit / multiplier** if participate in an ICANN Auction to resolve contention set

5. Do you believe that Section 5 (“Applicant Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?

5.1 General Business Due Diligence

1. **Legal Compliance Check:** to hyperlink sources of information - OFAC, Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Person (SDN List)
2. **Completeness Check:** to hyperlink “background screening” to more information
3. **Completeness Check:** appreciate that ICANN org will inform applicant of incomplete application and allow time to submit requested materials, however we propose that a **deadline be set but with possibility of extension of time to comply.**

5.2 Public Responsibility Due Diligence

4. Definition of “affiliation” from Registry Agreement:
To expand definition of “control” to include advisor, and taking of any monetary benefits or organizational privileges, such that it reads as,
“.....(ii) “control” (including the terms “controlled by” and “under common control with”) means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a person or entity, whether through the ownership of securities, as trustee or executor, by serving as an employee or a member of a board of directors or equivalent governing body, or advisor, by contract, by credit arrangement or the taking of any monetary benefits or organizational privileges or otherwise.”

Specific reference also to : 5.3 Financial need; 5.4 Financial stability; 5.5 Eligibility inclusive of and focused on:

5.5.3: Indigenous/tribal people's organizations (Question 5: Section 5, pp. 22-23)

5.5.5: Micro or small sized business from a less-developed economy (Question 5: Section 5, pp. 25-27)

6. Do you believe that Section 6 (“Applicant Support Program Application Process”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?

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Highlighted points <add>



7. Do you believe that Section 7 (“ASP Application Evaluation”) of the ASP Handbook accurately reflects the relevant policy recommendations on Applicant Support?

<add any extracted text to discuss

Highlighted points <add>

