

# GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) for Applicant Support Guidance Recommendation Final Report

GNSO Council Meeting

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21 December 2023



# Agenda

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- **Work Plan and Timeline**
- **Summary of Tasks**
- **Public Comment Summary**
- **Summary of Final Guidance Recommendations**
  - **Tasks 3, 4, and 5**
  - **Task 6**
- **Key Changes Following Public Comment Review**
- **Discussion**

# Work Plan & Timeline

Meetings	Tasks
05 and 19 December 2022	Work Plan & Timeline development – <b><i>Submit to GNSO Council by 09 January</i></b> ; Finalize Tasks 1 & 2
09 & 23 January 2023	Begin Tasks 3, 4, & 5 (metrics)
13 & 27 February 2023	Continue Tasks 3, 4, & 5 (metrics)
13 and 27 March 2023, including ICANN76	Finalize Tasks 3, 4, and 5; begin Task 6 (funding)
April-June 2023, including ICANN77 (Tuesday, 13 June at 1530-1700 EDT)	Finalize Task 6, begin Draft Report development
July-September 2023	Publish Draft Report/public comment; public comment review – Public Comment 31 July-11 September (40 days)
October-December 2023, including ICANN78	Public comment review/develop Final Report – <b><i>Guidance Recommendations agreed to by <u>Full Consensus</u></i></b>
<b><i>11 December 2023</i></b>	<b><i>Delivered Final Report to GNSO Council</i></b>

# Summary of Tasks

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**Task 1:** Review in detail: 2011 Final Report of the Joint Applicant Support Working Group and 2012 Implementation of the Applicant Support program

**Task 2:** Request input from GGP representative group to identify subject matter experts.

**Tasks 3, 4, & 5:** Analyze and prioritize metrics, identify indicators of success, and determine impacts on the Applicant Support Program life cycle.

**Task 6:** Recommend a methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.

# Public Comment Summary

- **10 submissions received during Public Comment period on the Initial Report:**
  - Commenters: Gabriel Karsan, Juliana Harsianti, Com Laude, RySG, BC, NCUC, ALAC, NCSG, GAC, and ICANN org.
- **9 out of 9** preliminary recommendations received comments.
- **Majority of comments *did not raise*:**
  - Significant concerns; or
  - Issues that the GGP working group had not previously considered.
- Working group reviewed, analyzed, and addressed comments as noted in the rationale and public comment summary.
- **Only 2 of 9 guidance recommendations were changed** as a result of the public comment review. (*Preamble text only was added prior to guidance recommendations 7-9.*)
- Working group members were expected to coordinate their participation with their representative groups.
- **All guidance recommendations were agreed to by Full Consensus.**

## Summary of Final Guidance Recommendations – Tasks 3, 4, & 5

- 1: Increase awareness of the Applicant Support Program.
- 2: Communicate availability of pro bono and ICANN-provided information and services.
- 3: Ensure Applicant Support Program has the necessary resources.
- 4: Provide timely and accessible application materials and the application process.
- 5: Ensure a certain percent of all successfully delegated gTLD applications are from supported applicants.
- 6: Investigate extent to which supported applicants that were awarded a gTLD are still in business as a registry operator after three years.

## Summary of Preliminary Guidance Recommendations – Task 6

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7: If inadequate funding, allocate fee reduction equally across all qualified applicants.

8: Designate a minimum level of support and develop a plan if funding drops below that level.

9: Communicate the results of the evaluation process and allow applicants to know about their range of support allocation as early as possible.

# Key Changes Following Public Comment Review

## Guidance Recommendation 1 – Implementation Guidance:

Target potential applicants from the not-for-profit sector, social enterprises and/or community organizations from under-served and developing regions and countries. **Added:** *“This should not exclude any entities from outreach efforts, such as private sector entities from underserved and developing regions and countries, recognizing the goal is to get as many qualifying applicants as possible.”*

## Guidance Recommendation 5 – Indicators of Success:

No fewer than 10, or 0.5 percent (.005), of all successfully delegated gTLD applications were from supported applicants. **Added:** *“This should be considered a floor, not a ceiling, and ICANN should strive to exceed this minimum.”*

## Guidance Recommendations 7, 8, and 9 – Preamble text only (no change to recommendations)

*“As noted above, the GGP working group emphasizes that ICANN org’s Next Round implementation team should take into consideration potential dependencies among all the recommendations. In particular, with respect to Guidance Recommendations 7, 8, and 9 relating to recommending a methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants, the working group clarifies that these recommendations are to be interpreted as interdependent and that the objectives therein are to be balanced as a key aspect of the program’s success.”*



# Discussion