

GNSO Guidance Process: Applicant Support

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

At ICANN76, the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) working group will hold a working session to seek to finish consideration of Tasks 3–5 relating to the identification and prioritization of metrics, including indicators of success, and begin discussions of Task 6 relating to financing the program when qualified applicants exceed allocated funds.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

A GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) is underway to provide additional guidance to support eventual implementation efforts relating to the Applicant Support Program as recommended in the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Report.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

During its meeting on 25 August 2022, the GNSO Council [approved](#) the GGP Initiation Request to perform work on Applicant Support. The working group was subsequently formed and began its work in November 2022. The working group has developed a [work plan and timeline](#), which has been confirmed by the GNSO Council. It has completed Task 1, which required reviewing historical Applicant Support and Task 2, which resulted in the working group asking community leaders to suggest subject matter experts (SME), if their appointed members are not already their SMEs. The working group is focused on Tasks 3, 4, and 5, which relate to data, metrics, and measures of success.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Once the working group completes Tasks 3, 4, and 5, it will turn its attention to that last item in its remit, Task 6. This requires the group to recommend a methodology for allocating financial support when there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.

Per its work plan, once the working group completes its tasks, it is responsible for producing a GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report. The Draft GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report will be posted for Public Comment after which the working group will review and take into consideration the Public Comments received. It will update the Draft GNSO Guidance Recommendation(s) Report if there are any recommendations that require modification to address comments received. Subsequently, the working group will produce a Final Report for consideration by the GNSO Council. If approved by the Council, the recommendations will be submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The working group is comprised of members and observers. The invited groups have appointed their members and alternates but interested parties can participate as observers. They can sign up and receive invitations for the working group meetings and will be able attend meetings in real-time, though they will only be able to listen to the conversation. Anyone interested in participating as an observer should contact the GNSO Secretariat at gnso-secs@icann.org.

MORE INFORMATION

- [GGP workspace](#)
- [GGP Initiation Request](#)

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