

**NEW gTLD PROGRAM:** **APPLICANT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

**ASP**

# A More Inclusive Internet: The New gTLD Applicant Support Program

**Bringing Opportunity to Communities,  
Organizations, and Regions Around the  
World**



# Agenda

01 Overview of the  
New gTLD Program:  
Next Round

02 Harnessing the  
Power of the  
Internet with a gTLD

03 Becoming a Registry  
Operator

04 Assistance through the  
Applicant Support  
Program

05 Events and Resources

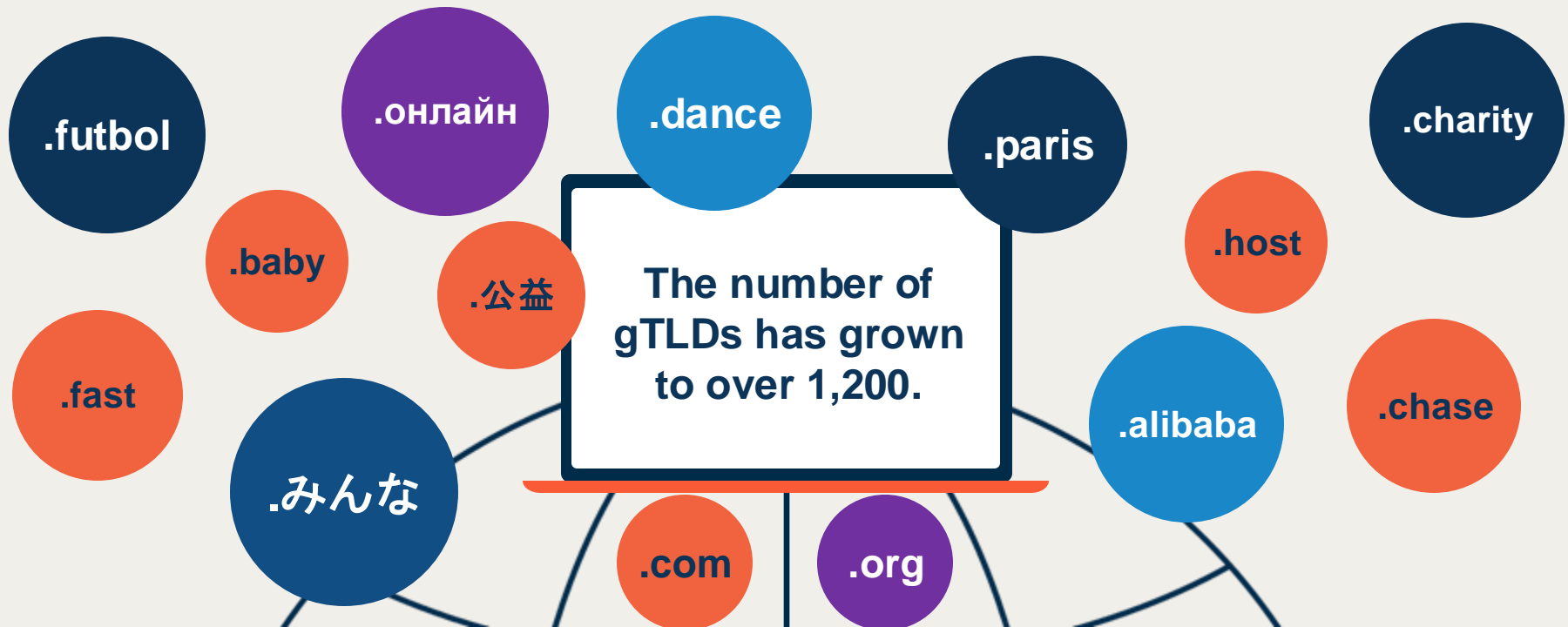
01

# Overview of the New gTLD Program: Next Round

# The New gTLD Program

The **New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program** is a community-driven initiative to enable the continued expansion of the Domain Name System.

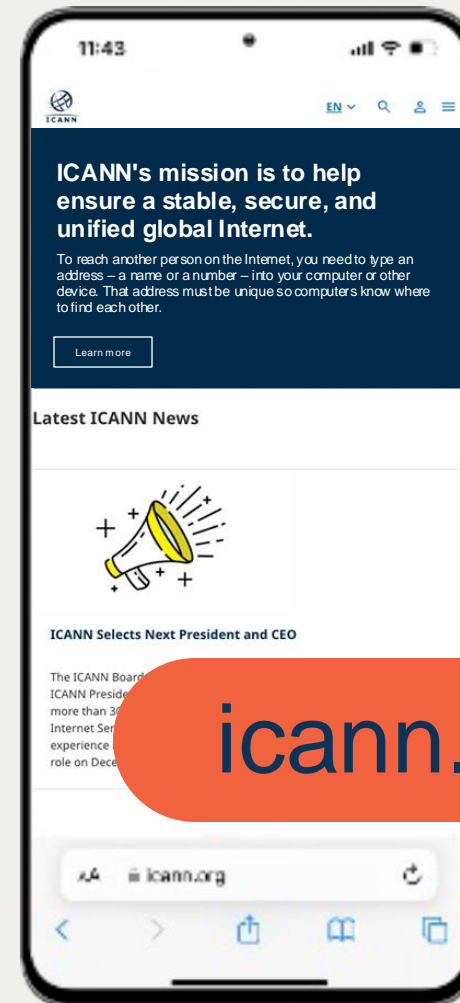
Beginning in 2026, businesses, communities, governments, and other organizations can apply for new gTLDs tailored to fit their needs.



# What is a gTLD?

Top-level domains form the last part of a domain name, appearing after the dot. For example, in the domain name **icann.org**, the characters 'org' identify the TLD.

Through the 2012 New gTLD Program, more than 1,200 new unique names like **.trade** and **.vegas** were added to the Internet.



02

# **Harnessing the Power of the Internet with a gTLD**

# New Domain Names, New Uses

▶ Serve diverse cultural, geographic, language, and professional communities.

▶ Provide communities and organizations opportunity to create their own space online.

▶ Build trust in and awareness of a brand.

▶ Manage and secure your online presence.

## EXAMPLES:

Industry-specific:

**.photography**

**.rugby**

**.bank**

Creative tools:

**playlist.new**

**doc.new**

Location-based:

**.durban**

**.nyc**

Script-based:

**.网址**

**.شبكة**

Brands:

**.google**

**.apple**

Online identity:

**.blog**

# gTLD Opportunities

Connect and serve new groups:



Businesses and  
brands



Communities and  
cultures



Geographies  
(e.g., cities and  
regions)



Governments – local and  
national - and IGOs



Targeted  
customers or  
members



Users of  
diverse  
scripts



# Benefits of Operating a gTLD



03

# Becoming a Registry Operator

# Becoming a Registry Operator



Applying for a gTLD means you are applying to operate a piece of the Internet (a registry).



A registry supports all the domains registered under a particular gTLD.

## A Registry Operator:

- ▶ Sets the requirements for the gTLD.
- ▶ Determines which second-level domains (the characters to the left of the dot) can be registered, and by whom.

# Financial and Technical Considerations

New gTLD Program: Next Round  
expected evaluation fee: **US  
\$227,000**

- + Standard operational fees included in the Registry Agreement signed with ICANN
- + Ongoing financial and technical obligations

\*Fees subject to change

\*\*Exceptions may apply for eligible applicants



Applying for a new gTLD requires significant financial and technical resources.



All new gTLD applicants must be able to demonstrate the operational, technical, and financial capacities necessary to operate a registry and comply with contractual requirements.

# Responsibilities of Registry Operators



## Registry operators:

- Maintain master database of all domain names registered in the TLD.
- Generate the "zone file" that allows computers to route Internet traffic to and from TLDs anywhere in the world.



## Responsibilities include:

- Manage requirements detailed in the Registry Agreement and ICANN policies.
- Convert domain names into IP addresses to enable routing of Internet traffic.
- Operate the technical aspects of the TLD.

# 04

## **Assistance for New gTLD Applicants**

# Criteria for Applicant Support

To be eligible for assistance through the Applicant Support Program, applicants must demonstrate:

- ✓ General business due diligence
- ✓ Public responsibility due diligence
- ✓ Financial need
- ✓ Financial viability
- ✓ Eligible entity status

# Applicant Support Program

Applying for a gTLD is expensive and may be out of reach for many. The Applicant Support Program makes applying for a new gTLD more accessible to entities that are unable to because of financial and other resource constraints.

**Candidates must be one of these types of entities:**



Nonprofit,  
nongovernmental,  
and charitable  
organizations



Intergovernmental  
organizations



Indigenous/tribal  
peoples'  
organizations



Micro and small  
businesses that  
are social  
enterprises or  
that operate in a  
less-developed  
economy



# Applicant Support Portfolio

The Applicant Support Program provides a range of financial and nonfinancial assistance to qualified, eligible entities.



## Financial Support

- ▶ A 75-85% reduction in applicable gTLD evaluation fees
- ▶ Bid credit
- ▶ Reduced/waived base registry operator fees



## Nonfinancial Support

- ▶ Training materials: applying for a gTLD, becoming a Registry Operator
- ▶ Capacity Development/ Mentorship Program
- ▶ Access to an Applicant Counselor
- ▶ List of volunteer professional service providers

# Evaluating Support Applicants

## PHASE 1

### General business due diligence, including:

- ▶ Legal compliance check.
- ▶ Confirming that all required documentation has been submitted.
- ▶ Confirming the applicant meets eligibility criteria for New gTLD Program: Next Round.
- ▶ Background screening and cybersquatting history check.



**Applicants that do not pass the general business due-diligence pre-screening will not be considered for Phase 2 evaluation.**

# Evaluating Support Applicants

## PHASE 2

Evaluations conducted by third-party vendor managing a Support Applicant Review Panel:

### ▶ Public responsibility due diligence:

- Applicant does not trade in, produce, or promote an industry/string contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order.
- Applicant is not affiliated.

### ▶ Financial need:

- Applicant could not afford to apply to the New gTLD Program without financial hardship.

### ▶ Financial viability:

- Applicant demonstrates plan to cover remaining discounted portion of the base gTLD application fee and submits required deposit.



**An approved entity that passes both phases may qualify for support.**

# What Happens Next?

1

**All new gTLD applicants** – supported or not – are required to submit a completed application for a new gTLD.

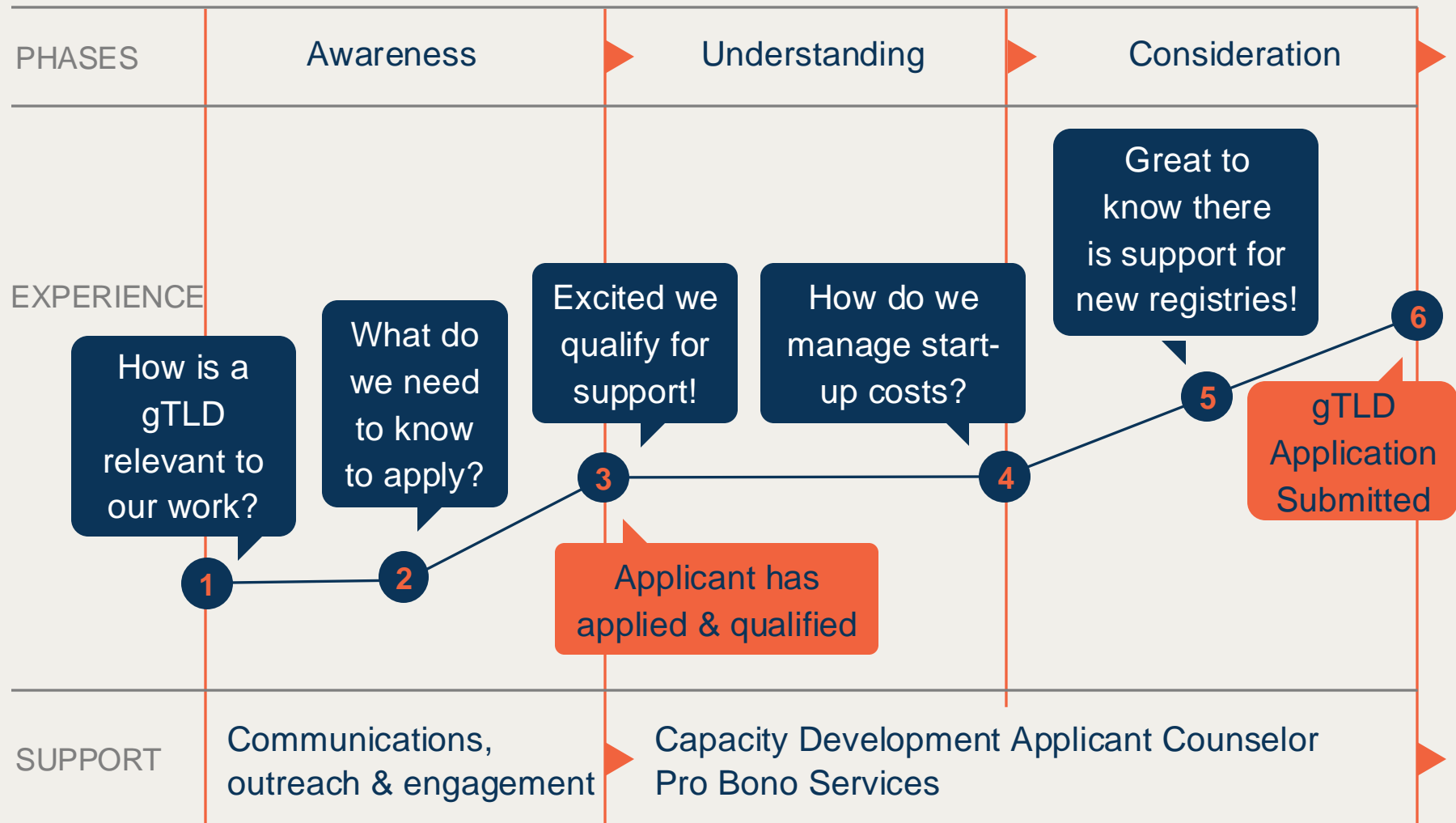
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**Requires demonstration** of technical, operational, and financial capabilities needed to operate a gTLD.

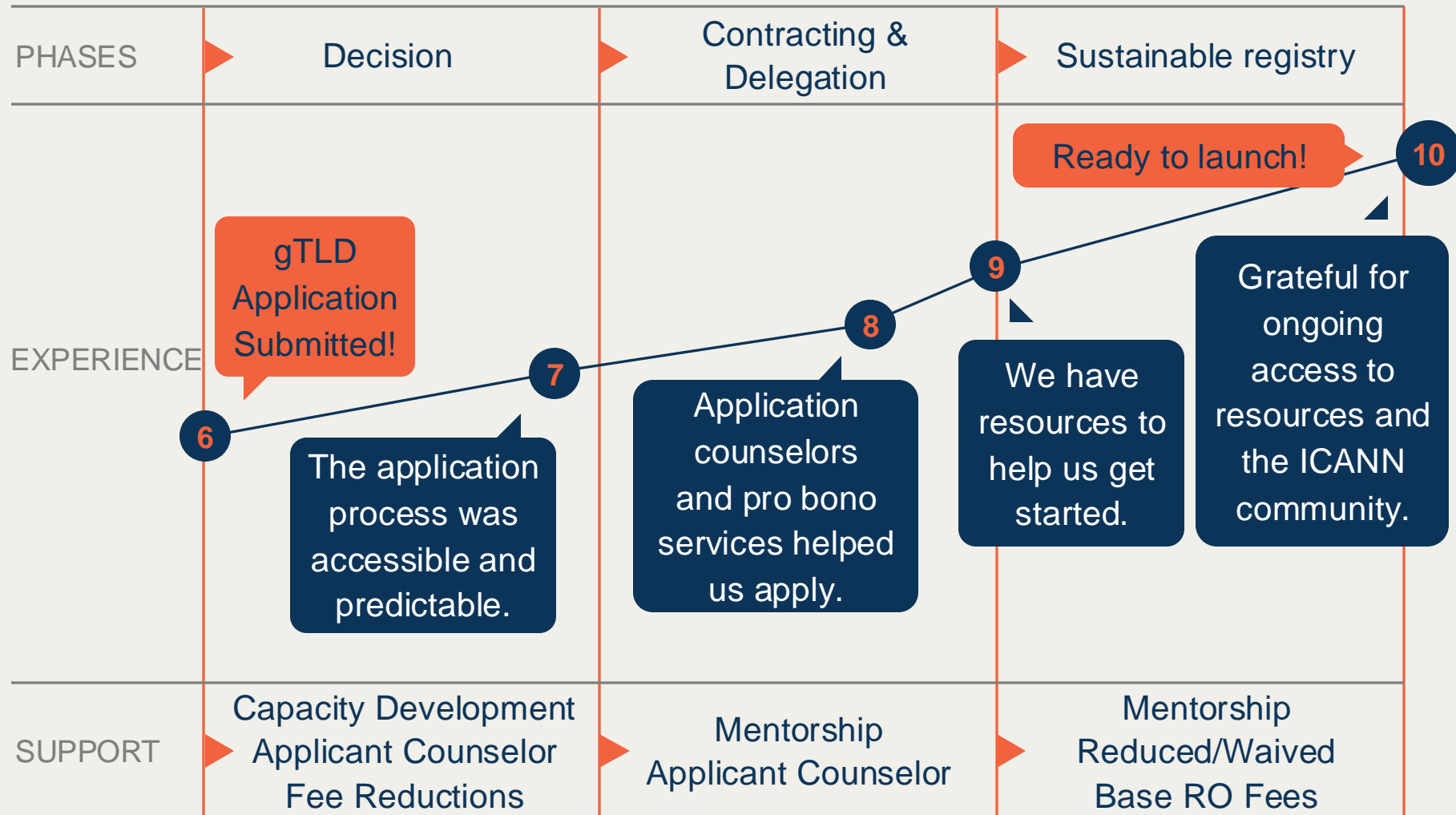
3

**There are also measures** in place to deter abuse of the program, outlined in the Applicant Support Program Handbook.

# A Supported Applicant's Journey



# A Supported Applicant's Journey



# Key Dates

NOV 2024



**Applicant  
Support Program  
Application  
Submission**

Application  
submission period  
for ASP (**19 Nov 2024  
- 19 Nov 2025**)

DEC 2025



**Applicant  
Guidebook**

The Applicant Guidebook is a  
critical resource for the  
program and is estimated to be  
available in **December 2025**

APRIL 2026



**gTLD Application  
Submission**

Application  
submission period for  
new gTLDs expected  
to open in **April 2026**

Q3 2026

Dates subject to change

# 06

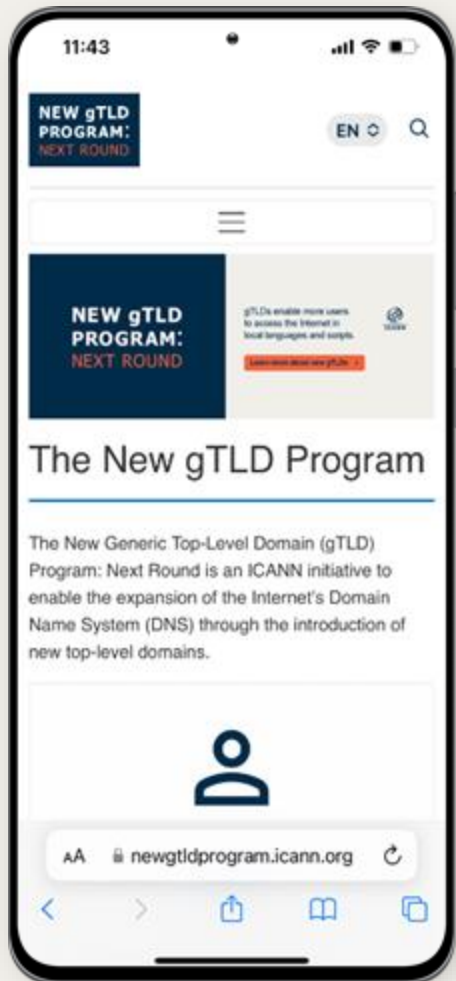
## Events and Resources



# Upcoming Events

Stay up to date on all ICANN and Next Round events through the [ICANN Engagement Calendar](#).





## Stay Informed.

Join the **Mailing List**:  
[nextroundinfo@icann.org](mailto:nextroundinfo@icann.org)

**General inquiries**:  
[globalsupport@icann.org](mailto:globalsupport@icann.org)

**Updates and news**:  
<https://newgtldprogram.icann.org>



## Helpful Resources for Support Applicants

- ▶ [Applicant Support Program Website](#)
- ▶ [Applicant Support Program Handbook](#)
- ▶ [Applicant Support Program IRT Sub-Track Wiki Page](#)
- ▶ [Background information on the Applicant Support Program](#)
- ▶ [Use Cases of gTLDs](#)
- ▶ [ICANN Learn Courses](#)

# Become a Next Round gTLD Program Champion



Convene and communicate in your own networks



Fully self-directed and voluntary



Utilize materials and resources developed by ICANN

Self-service Champions Toolkit to be published on [newgtldprogram.icann.org](https://newgtldprogram.icann.org) under “resources”.

## Toolkit (in six languages) to include:

- ▶ Fact Sheets
- ▶ Presentations
- ▶ Options for available remote speakers



Q&A

The graphic features two overlapping speech bubbles. The front bubble is dark blue and contains the text 'Q&A' in white. The back bubble is purple and is partially obscured by the blue one. At the bottom of the slide, there is a partial view of a large orange circle.

**NEW gTLD PROGRAM:** APPLICANT SUPPORT PROGRAM

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# Thank You!

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