DRAFT - NEW gTLD PROGRAM - STRING CONTENTION

**Application/Admin Check**
- Applicant begins application process.
- Applicant elects whether to designate application as community-based.
- Applicant submits application in TLD Application System (TAS).
- ICANN publishes list of all complete applications.

**Initial Evaluation (IE)**
- ICANN runs algorithm for all applied-for gTLDs against all other applied-for gTLDs.
- String Similarity Panel performs analysis, using algorithm results, to group similar and identical strings into contention sets.
- ICANN communicates the results of the String Similarity review, including contention sets.

**IE + EE + Dispute Res**
- IE, Extended Evaluation (EE), and Dispute Resolution continue. Some applications may not pass certain elements of the review process, which may alter the contention sets.

**String Contention**
- Is the applied-for gTLD in a contention set? Yes → Have one or more community-based applicant(s) elected community priority? Yes → Community priority evaluation. Does one clear winner emerge? Yes → Applicants with contesting strings participate in auction. One or more parties proceed to subsequent stage. No → Applicants are encouraged to self-resolve string contention anytime prior to the contention resolution process.

- No → Applicant enters Transition to Delegation phase.

**Transition to Delegation**
- Applicant enters Delegation phase.