



78 | ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior

- **Webpage:** <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/expected-standards-2016-06-28-en>
- **PDF:** <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/expected-standards-15sep16-en.pdf>

ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy

- **Webpage:** <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/community-anti-harassment-policy-2017-03-24-en>

ICANN Grant Program

ICANN78 Annual General Meeting

Presenters:

Giovanni Seppia, Shayna Robinson (Implementation Operations)

Thursday, 26 October 2023



Webinar Agenda

- Background on the ICANN Grant Program
- Making A Difference
- Grant Program Implementation Progress
- First Grant Cycle
- Q&A

Background on the ICANN Grant Program

Background on the ICANN Grant Program (1/2)

- In 2012, ICANN launched a program to introduce New Generic Top-Level Domains (the New gTLD Program).
- Over 1,200 New gTLDs were introduced to the domain name system and any established entity in the world could apply to form and operate a new gTLD Registry.
- In some cases, more than one eligible entity applied to operate the same or similar top-level domain; however, only one registry can operate each top-level domain.
- There were several methods to determine the ultimate registry for the new gTLDs. In cases where resolution between two or more entities could not be reached, there was a “last resort” auction run by ICANN’s authorized auction service provider.
- The proceeds generated from these auctions are referred to as the “New gTLD Auctions Proceeds” or “Auction Proceeds” for short. These proceeds were reserved and earmarked until a community proposal for their distribution was produced.

Background on the ICANN Grant Program (2/2)

- The ICANN community formed a Cross Community Working Group on Auction Proceeds (CCWG-AP) in January 2017 to develop a proposal for how these proceeds should be distributed.
- On 14 September 2020, the CCWG-AP submitted its [Final Report](#) of 12 recommendations and related guidance to the ICANN Board for review and consideration.
- The ICANN Board [adopted](#) the CCWG's recommendations in June 2022. The Board directed ICANN org to produce a Preliminary Design and Implementation Plan for the Grant Program within 120 days which was completed on 10 October 2022.
- Since then, work has been ongoing to design the program and to establish the resources needed for its implementation.
- Four community webinars have been held to date.

Making A Difference

Making A Difference

- The ICANN Grant Program represents a significant milestone in ICANN's ongoing efforts to nurture a robust and inclusive Internet ecosystem.
- By funding projects that encourage, facilitate, and support ICANN's mission and its vision of a single, open, and globally interoperable Internet, ICANN has the exceptional opportunity to:
 - Make a difference in the Internet ecosystem,
 - Positively impact people across the globe in furtherance of ICANN's mission.

Making A Difference

- The types of initiatives that the Grant Program will fund include those that support the ICANN mission by:
 - Benefiting the development, distribution, evolution, and projects that support the Internet's unique identifier systems.
 - Providing capacity development and underserved populations.
 - Advancing developments, innovation, and open standards for the benefit of the Internet community.
 - Contributing to diversity, participation, and inclusion across stakeholder communities and geographic regions.

Grant Program Implementation Progress

Implementation Progress Highlights Since the June Webinar

- The implementation team progressed design work on key elements of the program, including the areas of:
 - Selection processes
 - Fund disbursement and monitoring
 - Program literature
 - Application platform requirements
 - Communications and Engagement

- Community engagement
 - Regularly updated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) section on the dedicated ICANN Grant Program [wiki](#).
 - Formed a publicly archived mailing list of the group of former CCWG-AP members.
 - Reached out directly to the Chairs of each organization that was a Chartering Organization of the CCWG-AP (in this case, all seven SO/ACs).

Operational Readiness Update

Grant Program Department Recruitment:

- The program will be managed by a dedicated ICANN department whose staffing is complete.

External Expertise and Support:

- Aspects of the program will benefit from external vendors with a proven track record of expertise in the grant-making field to (i) support some eligibility checks, (ii) establish and manage the Independent Application Assessment Panel, and (iii) provide the management platform for the applications and grants.
- ICANN conducted a Request for Information (RFI) in April and May 2023 and the results provided confidence that the market can offer these services. A Request for Proposals (RFP) ran from 5 June till 7 July 2023. ICANN is in the final phase of selecting the vendor(s).

Update on Recommendation 7

- On Board agenda this afternoon.
- Anticipated new approach to Recommendation 7:

Using the applicant Terms and Conditions to bar applicants in the Grant Program from using ICANN's accountability mechanisms on individual application decisions.

Removing the prior dependency on amendment of the Fundamental Bylaws.

Reviewing the effectiveness of this approach after the first grant cycle in order to assess impact on ICANN accountability to applicants.

First Grant Cycle

Key Elements & Timeline

First Cycle Key Elements

- For the first cycle, USD 10 million will be the overall amount available for distribution.
- Grant awards will range between USD 50,000 up to USD 500,000. These award thresholds will be reassessed for future cycles.
- 3 applications maximum per applicant.
- Maximum duration of projects is 24 months.
- Disbursement of grant in installments with first installment after the signature of the grant agreement and following installments after the submission and approval of regular grantee reports.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be entities that are charitable in nature:
 - U.S. 501(c)(3)
 - Non-U.S. equivalent of 501(c)(3)
 - an equivalency determination must be made by a qualified tax practitioner
- Meet all applicable U.S. trade laws and regulations and must not be the subject of any U.S. sanctions
- Meet all applicable standards for reputation and background checks

Activities Eligibility

- Activities must be consistent with and within ICANN's mission "*to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems*" as described in Section 1.1 of ICANN Bylaws.

- Non-eligible activities include (non-exhaustive list):
 - Any political or lobbying activity, including activities to influence legislation and/or the outcome of any specific public election, or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive
 - Any activity that may lead to private benefit of individuals
 - Any unlawful activity according to the country where the applicant is based and/or where the project is developed
 - Any activity already supported with funding from ICANN.

Work in Progress

- Specific themes and work areas from program objectives.
- Assessment criteria and rubric used by independent panelists to assess applications based on:
 - Clarity and relevance,
 - Quality and effectiveness,
 - Soundness and feasibility,
 - Appropriate resources,
 - Competency and expertise of the applicant.
- Eligible and ineligible expenses that can be included in the project budget.

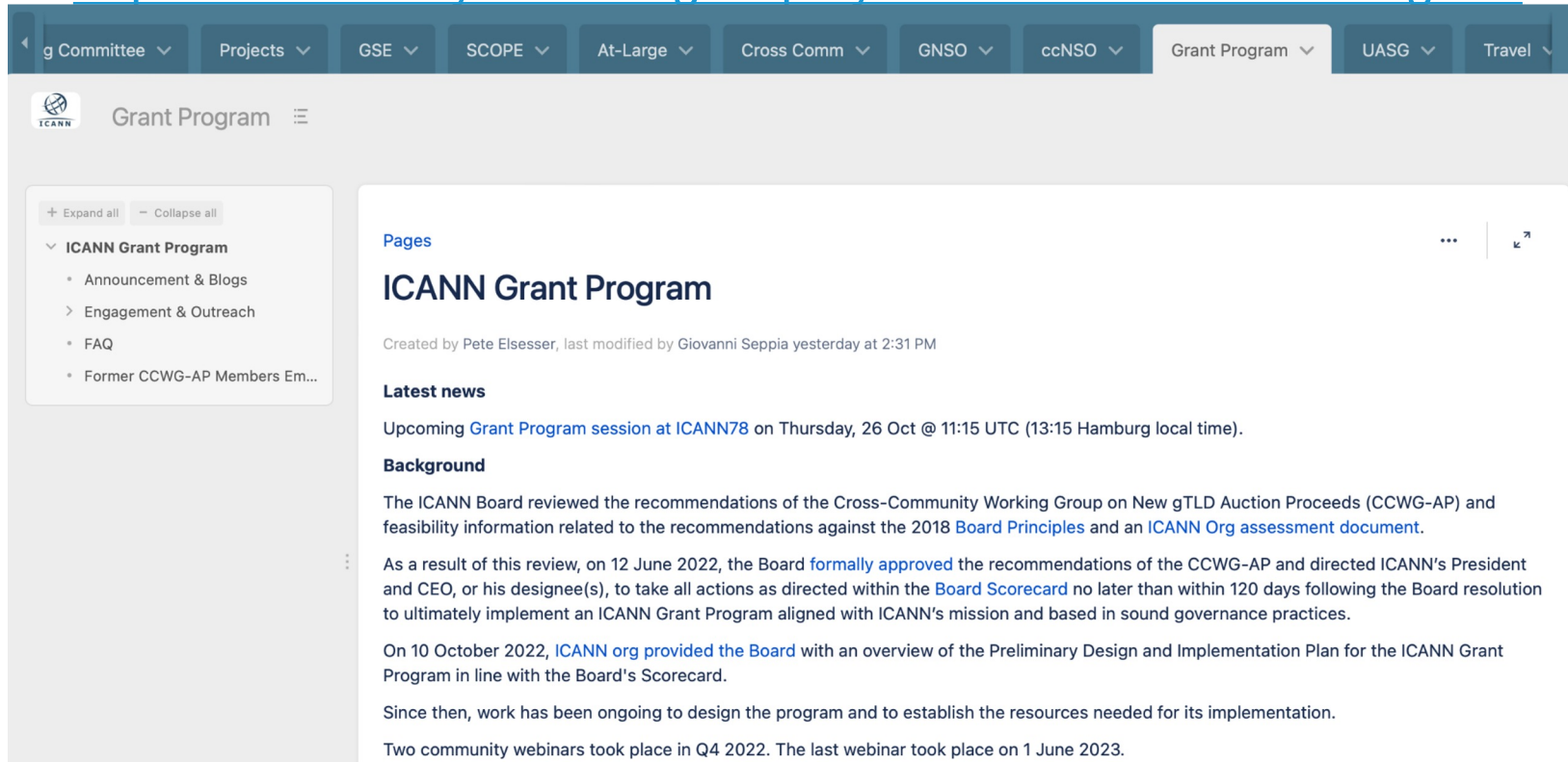
Timeline for the First Cycle Launch

- First cycle of the ICANN Grant Program open for applications in late **Q1 of 2024**.
- Call for applications open for **60 calendar days**.
 - Applicant guide in EN published three months prior to the call. Publication in other languages will follow.
 - Awareness campaign to start at the time the applicant guide is published.
- Evaluation of the applications (admissibility – eligibility – panel assessment) is expected to last **five months**.
- Grant agreement negotiations with selected applicants will start after the Board approves the proposed slate of successful applications.

For More Updates, Stay Tuned at:

To learn more about this program and its implementation progress,
visit the dedicated wiki space:

<https://community.icann.org/display/GP/ICANN+Grant+Program>



The screenshot shows the ICANN Grant Program wiki page. At the top is a navigation bar with tabs for 'g Committee', 'Projects', 'GSE', 'SCOPE', 'At-Large', 'Cross Comm', 'GNSO', 'ccNSO', 'Grant Program' (selected), 'UASG', and 'Travel'. Below the navigation bar is the page header 'Grant Program' with the ICANN logo. On the left is a sidebar with a toggle for 'Expand all' and 'Collapse all'. Under 'ICANN Grant Program', there are links for 'Announcement & Blogs', 'Engagement & Outreach', 'FAQ', and 'Former CCWG-AP Members Em...'. The main content area has a 'Pages' section with the title 'ICANN Grant Program'. Below the title, it says 'Created by Pete Elsesser, last modified by Giovanni Seppia yesterday at 2:31 PM'. The 'Latest news' section mentions an upcoming 'Grant Program session at ICANN78' on Thursday, 26 Oct @ 11:15 UTC (13:15 Hamburg local time). The 'Background' section describes the ICANN Board's review of the Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds (CCWG-AP) and feasibility information related to the recommendations against the 2018 Board Principles and an ICANN Org assessment document. It states that as a result of this review, on 12 June 2022, the Board formally approved the recommendations of the CCWG-AP and directed ICANN's President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions as directed within the Board Scorecard no later than within 120 days following the Board resolution to ultimately implement an ICANN Grant Program aligned with ICANN's mission and based in sound governance practices. It also mentions that on 10 October 2022, ICANN org provided the Board with an overview of the Preliminary Design and Implementation Plan for the ICANN Grant Program in line with the Board's Scorecard. Finally, it states that since then, work has been ongoing to design the program and to establish the resources needed for its implementation, and that two community webinars took place in Q4 2022, with the last webinar on 1 June 2023.

Q&A