

ICANN GRANT PROGRAM

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About

The ICANN Grant Program

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Vision



As the independent, trusted, multistakeholder steward of the Internet's unique identifiers, ICANN is dedicated to serving its mission and acting in the global public interest.

The ICANN Grant Program offers an opportunity for ICANN to maximize its impact by supporting creativity and innovation that furthers our vision of a single, open, and globally interoperable Internet.

Grant Program Objectives

The types of efforts that ICANN will encourage and fund through the Grant Program includes those that support ICANN's mission by:



Benefitting the development, distribution, evolution of the structures that support the Internet's unique identifier systems



Providing capacity development and infrastructure support in communities that need them most



Advancing work related to open access, future-oriented developments, innovation, and open standards for the Internet community



Addressing diversity, participation, and inclusion across regions and all stakeholder communities

Key Elements

The ICANN Grant Program will operate in cycles until all funding is used

Each cycle, an allocated portion of available proceeds will be made available for grants

During this first cycle, up to \$10 million will be made available for grants to successful applicants

Awards of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 will be available

\$50,000

\$500,000

Cycle 3, 4, 5...

Cycle 2

Cycle 1

Up to \$10m

For future cycles, these amounts and the total amount allocated for the next cycles may differ

Funding & Selection

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02

What can be funded?

**Projects aligned with ICANN's mission
and the objectives of the Grant Program**

What can be funded?

Theme 1: The Internet's unique identifier systems

Work Areas



Supporting standards development in relation to the Internet's unique identifier systems.



Supporting long term usability and sustainability of the Domain Name System.



Strengthening the security and stability of the Internet's unique identifier systems.



Enhancing Universal Acceptance to ensure truly multilingual and digitally inclusive systems.



Promoting innovative projects that expand the use of the Internet's unique identifier systems.



Improving the performance of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

What can be funded?

Theme 2: A unified Internet

Work Areas



Advancing work related to open access to the Internet.



Enhancing Internet interoperability to cope with unexpected contingencies, including those that may exclude certain communities from the global DNS.



Enhancing the resiliency and sustainability of the Internet at the local, national, or global level.

What can be funded?

Overarching themes to be considered by applicants in the design of their projects:



Diversity, participation, and inclusion of underserved populations; and



Impact and outcome that can be sustained through capacity development.

Ineligible activities

✗ Any projects that duplicate activities already funded by ICANN.

✗ Any activity that may lead to private financial benefit of individuals beyond incidental items such as payment of reasonable employment salaries.

✗ 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 unlawful activity according to the country where the applicant is based and/or where the project is developed.

How will applications be selected?



Admissibility Checks

to determine application meets administrative requirements such as application completeness, etc.



Eligibility Checks

to determine if applicant and the application meet the eligibility requirements to qualify for consideration.



Independent Application Assessment Panel Review

to assess applications based on criteria.

Evaluation criteria

The Independent Application Assessment Panel will assess projects against the following criteria:



Alignment of project objectives and activities with ICANN's mission and ICANN Grant Program objectives.



Presentation of a clear challenge and strategies to solve it. Key performance indicators to monitor progress, and expected results.



Comprehensive work plan and adequate planning for the all expected activities.

Evaluation criteria

The Independent Application Assessment Panel will assess projects against the following criteria:



Consideration of potential risks with implementing the project (organizational, political, economic, environmental, etc) and strategies to mitigate any risk.



Allowable, reasonable, clearly described costs that are aligned with the project activities.



Skills and experience of project leadership and any consortium partners or subcontractors (if applicable).

Next Steps

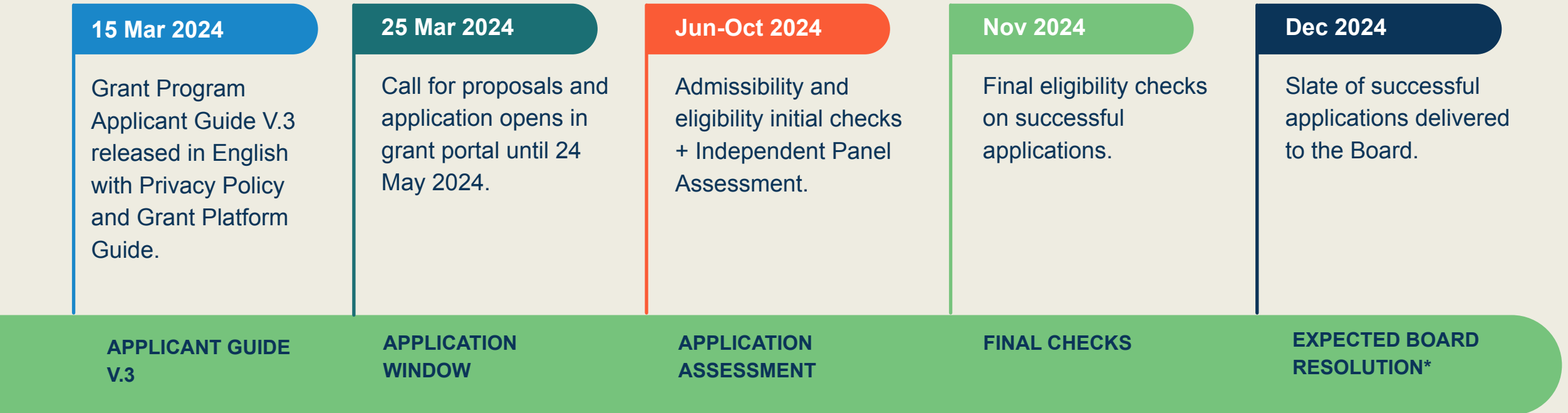
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Application Window

Opening
25 March 2024

Closing
24 May 2024

Forthcoming Key Dates



*Subject to dependency on Recommendation 7 language refinement and Fundamental Bylaws amendment process.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Is my organization/activity eligible?

Generally, we are unable to make a determination on eligibility for potential applicants or proposed activities prior to submission of an application and subsequent administrative review.

? Who will be included in the independent panel?

Panel composition is expected to include a diverse collective of subject matter experts aligned to the themes and work areas of the Program. Panel members will be recruited by an external vendor. The vendor will manage the assessment process to be completed independently from ICANN.

Can I meet with someone to discuss my proposal?

While available to answer questions, ICANN org staff are unable to provide direct feedback or opinions on proposed activities.

Recommendation 7 Path Forward

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CCWG-AP Recommendation 7



“Existing ICANN accountability mechanisms such as IRP or other appeal mechanisms cannot be used to challenge a decision from the Independent Project Applications Evaluation Panel to approve or not approve an application. Applicants not selected should receive further details about where information can be found about the next round of applications as well as any educational materials that may be available to assist applicants. The CCWG recognizes that there will need to be an amendment to the Fundamental Bylaws to eliminate the opportunity to use the Request for Reconsideration and Independent Review Panel to challenge grant decisions.”

CCWG-AP Recommendation 7 objectives



Preserving the auction proceeds for funding projects.

No IRPs or Reconsideration Requests can be brought by any person/entity to challenge a decision on an individual application within the Grant Program.

Recommendation 7 Implementation



Rec 7 Language Refinement

to remove “from the Independent Project Applications Evaluation Panel” as ICANN will make certain decisions on application admissibility and eligibility.



Fundamental Bylaws Amendment process
to define and enable within the ICANN Bylaws limiting access to ICANN’s accountability mechanisms by the community.



Completion of these actions
by Q4 calendar quarter 2024 before any Board decision on the first slate of successful applications.

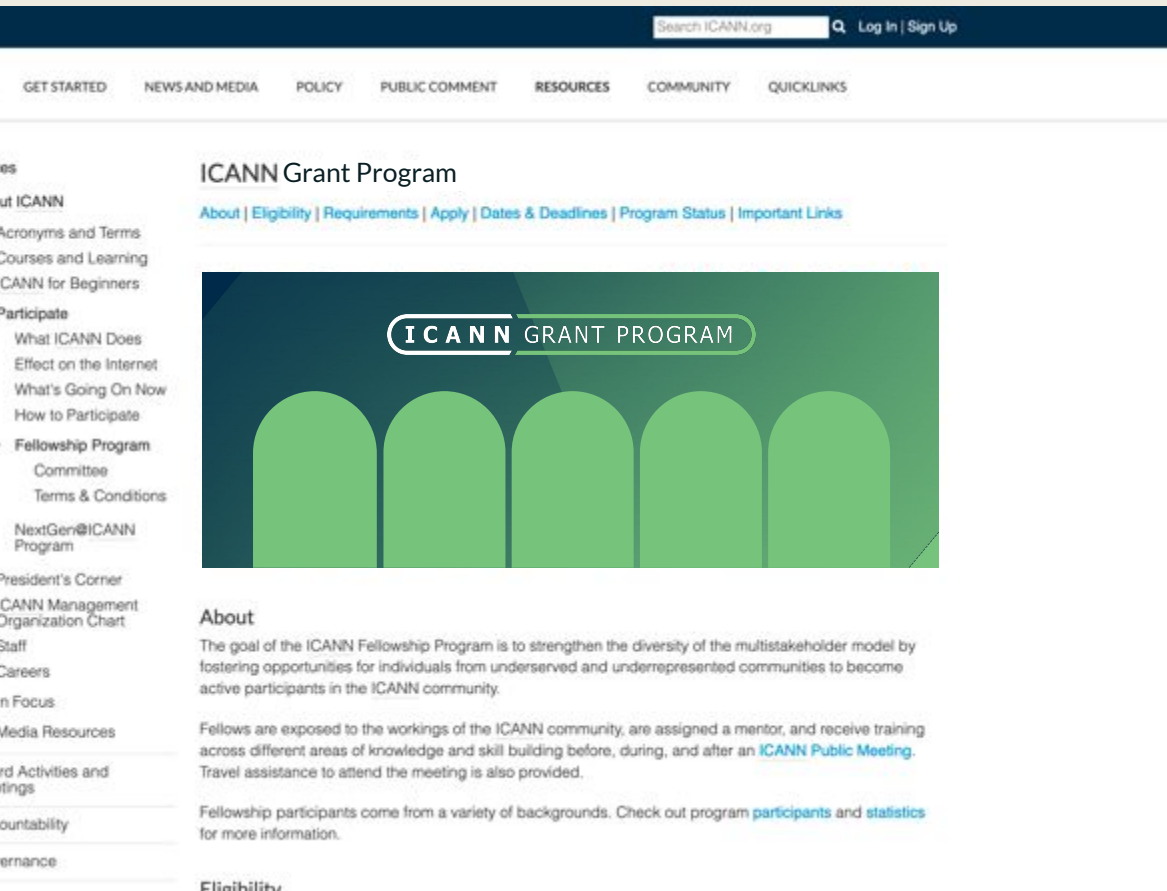
Recommendation 7 Next Steps

- ✓ Socialization of the revised path with the community.
- ✓ Letter to the CCWG-AP Chartering Organization asking their support to the Recommendation by 17 May 2024.
- ✓ Adoption of the revised Recommendation 7 by ICANN80.

Q&A and Info

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Where can I stay up-to-date?



Visit the ICANN Grant Program webpage at: <https://icann.org/grant-program>

I have questions, who can I contact?



For any comments, questions, or feedback regarding the Grant Program, please contact grantprogram@icann.org or the ICANN Helpdesk at <https://www.icann.org/en/help>

ICANN GRANT PROGRAM

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