

Fees and Payments

This section describes the fees to be paid by the applicant, including payment instructions.

1. gTLD Evaluation Fee

The gTLD evaluation fee is set so that ICANN can recover all applicable costs associated with the new gTLD program. This will ensure that the program is fully funded and revenue neutral, and will not be subsidized by contributions from other ICANN funding sources, including gTLD registry operator and registrar fees and contributions from ccTLDs and Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). ICANN org has estimated that Next Round evaluations, contracting and delegation processes will continue through approximately 30 June 2030¹ by which time all applications submitted are expected to have proceeded through these stages of the application journey [see Section x]. The gTLD evaluation fee covers all required evaluations and, where applicable, Extended Evaluation during that timeframe.

ICANN recognizes that there may be exceptional cases that would require extending these services for a limited number of applications beyond the June 2030 timeframe.

The gTLD evaluation fee is [USD 227,000] for all applicants, except for qualified Applicant Support Program applicants and variant applications that meet the criteria below. The fee is due upon receipt of the invoice, and no later than 7 calendar days after the close of the application window. If the applicant has not paid the gTLD evaluation fee at the latest 7 calendar days following the close of the application submission period, the application will normally not be processed any further and will be considered terminated. In the unlikely scenario of a supported gTLD applicant still awaiting results of the ASP evaluation, the applicant may need to submit a gTLD application without payment. The supported gTLD application would be put on hold until the appropriate gTLD evaluation payment has been received.

1.1. gTLD Evaluation Fee for Applications with Variant TLDs

1.1.1. For New Applicants

The gTLD evaluation fee covers one application for a primary gTLD and up to four (4) variant string gTLDs. If an applicant wants to apply for more than four (4) variant strings under one primary gTLD, the applicant must pay the [USD \$227,000] evaluation fee for each additional

¹ Based on 2,000 applications received

allocatable variant beyond the fourth variant. Additional fees for conditional evaluations may apply (see below).

1.1.2. For Existing gTLD Registry Operators from the 2012 Round

In this next round, a gTLD registry operator from the 2012 round may apply for up to four (4) variant gTLDs of its existing IDN gTLD with their application fee waived as a one-time exception. If applying for more than four (4) variant gTLDs, they will pay the full gTLD evaluation fee for each additional allocatable variant beyond the fourth variant. Additional fees for conditional evaluations may apply (see below).

1.2. gTLD Evaluation Fee for qualified Applicant Support Program (ASP) applicants

Qualified ASP applicants will receive a 75-85% reduction of the gTLD evaluation fee. Therefore, the discounted gTLD evaluation fee to be paid by a qualified ASP applicant will range between USD \$34,500 and USD \$56,750 (including the USD \$2,500 deposit submitted to confirm ASP financial viability). The exact number is dependent on the final number of qualified ASP applicants. ICANN will inform qualified ASP applicants of the final discounted gTLD evaluation fee before the closing of the gTLD application submission period. As indicated in [Section 1.1.1], the discount on the gTLD evaluation fee includes up to four variant strings. Supported applicants that apply for more than four variants will need to pay the USD \$227,000 evaluation fee for each additional variant beyond the fourth variant.

2. Conditional Evaluations

In addition to the required evaluations that are covered by the gTLD evaluation fee, there are a number of conditional evaluations that an applicant may elect or are required to undergo to obtain a specific status or exemption. In some cases, an application may not proceed in the program if the applicant does not pay the fee for the conditional evaluation. The fees to applicants for these conditional evaluations are also set to recover the costs associated with conducting these evaluations, which may be carried out or supported by third-party vendors. This will ensure that the program is fully funded and revenue neutral, and will not be subsidized by contributions from other ICANN funding sources, including gTLD registry operator and registrar fees and contributions from ccTLDs and Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). Selection of some of these conditional evaluations such as Name Collision High Risk String Mitigation Plan review will only be available later in the evaluation process. For further details about what

each of these evaluations entails, please see the relevant sections that have been indicated in the table below.

Applicants will be notified by ICANN when fees for conditional evaluations are due. This may be shortly after the close of the application window or at the time the evaluations take place.

For evaluations marked with one asterisk (*), qualified ASP applicants will receive the same % reduction as they received on the gTLD evaluation fee. Before granting this reduction, ICANN will request that the ASP applicant verify continued eligibility to receive further financial support (see also [ASP Terms & Conditions](#)).

Name Collision High Risk String Mitigation Plan Evaluation has been marked with two asterisks (**) and must be performed for each string that has been identified as a high risk string in a variant set. As a result, the conditional fee must be paid for each string in the set that has been identified as a high risk string.

Conditional Evaluation	Fees
Brand Eligibility Evaluation (Specification 13) [see section X]	TBC
Code of Conduct Exemption Evaluation (Specification 9) [see section X]	TBC
Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) * [see section X]	TBC
Community Registration policies Evaluation (Specification 12) * [see section X]	TBC

Geographic Names Evaluation* [see section X]	TBC
Name Collision High Risk String Mitigation Plan Evaluation ** [see section X]	TBC
Re-evaluations as a result of Application Change Requests * (if applicable, for example, background screening) [see section X]	Costs depend on what needs to be re-evaluated. Applicant will be informed following the submission of the Application Change Request on which additional costs, if any, may be applicable.
RVC Evaluation* (Specification 11) [see section X]	TBC

3. Refunds

3.1. gTLD Evaluation Fee Refunds

In certain circumstances, applicants are permitted to request ICANN to refund a portion of the fees paid to ICANN as part of the new gTLD application process, as set out below. The amount of the refund will depend on the point in the process at which the withdrawal is requested or the application status changes to “Terminated”.

3.1.1. Applicant Withdrawal

An applicant may withdraw an application at any time prior to its execution of the registry agreement with ICANN. Applicants who elect to withdraw their application are permitted to request a refund of a portion of the fees paid to ICANN, as set forth below. Applicants who withdraw their applications and wish to request a refund must submit the request to ICANN within 90 days of submitting the withdrawal request.

3.1.2. ‘Terminated’ Applications

ICANN will also notify an applicant if an application will not proceed further and has been assigned the ‘terminated’ status [see application status descriptions]. Upon this notification by ICANN, an applicant may request a refund consistent with the refund windows and % of the

gTLD evaluation fee paid eligible as a refund as outlined below. To be eligible for a refund, the applicant must request a refund within 90 days of being notified that the application has been assigned the 'terminated' status. Applicants who do not request a refund within this 90-day window will be considered to have forfeited their ability to request a refund.

3.1.3. Refund Windows

There will be three refund windows during the next round application process:

1. The period between receipt of applicant gTLD evaluation fee and ten days after String Confirmation Day (65% of the gTLD evaluation fee paid eligible as a refund);
2. The period from eleven days after String Confirmation Day until the start of the Application and Applicant Evaluation (35% of the gTLD evaluation fee paid eligible as a refund);
3. The period from the initiation of an Application and Applicant Evaluation up to the applicant entering into a Registry Agreement with ICANN (20% of the gTLD evaluation fee paid eligible as a refund).

For further details on these windows and which evaluations and processes take place in these windows, please see [\[include link to gTLD applicant journey\]](#).

Fees for conditional evaluations that have been paid but for which the evaluation has not started yet may also be refunded if an application is in "Withdrawn", "Will not proceed" or "Terminated" status.

3.1.4. Refund as a result of material changes

Any applications that are withdrawn as the result of material changes to the Applicant Guidebook or program processes as defined here [\[link to section that explains material changes and process\]](#) will be eligible for a refund. As part of its decision on any material change to the AGB or program processes, the ICANN Board will confirm applicant eligibility as well as the percentage of the gTLD evaluation fee paid that is eligible as a refund. An applicant that withdraws its application as the result of such material change will need to attest and provide supporting information to demonstrate that the change 1) changed the status of their application, or (2) changed the outcome of an evaluation of their application, or (3) had a non-trivial monetary or operational impact on the applicant, or (4) had a non-trivial impact on the timeline of their application processing and evaluation.

3.1.5. Refunds for strings that have been determined to be at high risk of name collision

Applicants that decide to withdraw their application within 14 days after their string has been determined to be at high risk of collision and who do not submit a Name Collision High Risk String Mitigation Plan for evaluation will be able to request a refund of 65% of the gTLD evaluation fee paid that is eligible as a refund. Any applications for strings that have been determined to be at high risk of name collision in a previous round and/or were not approved as a result of such determination will not be eligible for this refund (.home, .corp, .mail).

3.1.6. Refund When String Eliminated Per IDN ccTLD Application Process

In a case where a gTLD applicant had obtained the support or non-objection of the relevant government or public authority, but the gTLD application is eventually eliminated due to similarity with a string requested in the IDN ccTLD application process, a full refund of the evaluation fee will be made to the gTLD applicant if the gTLD application was submitted prior to the publication of the successfully evaluated ccTLD.

3.2. Application Volume Refund

ICANN applied a conservative approach in relation to the recovery of the costs incurred to implement the program before receiving a single application. To ensure that implementation efforts are recovered, the portion of the gTLD evaluation fee pertaining to estimated implementation expenses was derived under the scenario that 1,000 applications are received. ICANN will notify applicants if payment has been received from more than 1,000 applications and implementation costs have been recovered, so that applicants may request the application volume refund within 90 days of being notified. Applicants who do not request an application volume refund within this 90-day window will be considered to have forfeited their ability to do so. The amount of the application volume refund will be determined based on the volume of applications received and the amount of excess over the costs incurred to implement the program (currently estimated at USD \$70M).

4. Fees Required in Some Cases

Applicants may be required to pay additional fees in certain cases where specialized process steps are applicable. Further details can be found in the respective sections that cover these specialized processes. Those possible additional fees include:

- Objections, dispute resolution and appeals fees - see section [Objections, Dispute Resolution and Appeals Costs]
- Auctions - see section [x]
- Brand TLD String Change Request documentation verification - see section [String Contention Procedures - Brand TLD String Change Request Requirements]

5. Fees during Registry Operations

There are other fees a successful applicant will need to pay as a registry operator. These are outlined in [Section X] of the Registry Agreement and include the registry fixed fee and registry-level transaction fees.

6. Payment Methods

Payments to ICANN should be submitted by wire transfer. Instructions for making a payment by wire transfer will be available in TAMS.²

Payments to Dispute Resolution Service Providers should be submitted in accordance with the provider's rules [see section X].

² Payment must be made via wire transfer, ACH, International Swift payment, or other method approved by ICANN for this service. Checks, cash and credit card payments are not accepted.