



Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors  
August 09, 2024

Subject: Input on Applicant Support Program Use of Auction Proceeds

Dear Tripti,

The Applicant Support Program for the New gTLD Program is an important pathway to engage nonprofits, IGOs and other mission and community-driven entities into the gTLD space. Public Interest Registry, as a mission driven nonprofit organization itself, welcomes a robust Applicant Support Program (ASP). We applaud and support the Board's proposal to use auction proceeds from the 2012 New gTLD Round to help fund the ASP in the upcoming round. With appropriate guardrails and due diligence, the ICANN community has the opportunity to increase the diversity of domain name users globally and to include a broader range of voices into its multistakeholder process.

The 2012 Auction Proceeds funds were set aside to be used in a manner that directly supports ICANN's Mission and Core Values. Yet these funds have remained stagnant for a significant period of time. The funding of the Applicant Support Program is a purpose-driven use of the Auction Proceeds and aligns with ICANN's Core Values, particularly towards "supporting broad, informed participation reflecting the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision-making to ensure that the bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development process." The ICANN multistakeholder model would be strengthened through the potential onboarding of new gTLD registries that serve additional communities, and work towards imparting positive societal change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Nevett', is written over a light blue circular watermark that contains the letters 'pir'.

Jon Nevett  
CEO  
Public Interest Registry