

# **GNSO Guidance Process Task 6**

## ***Framework for Discussion***

**22 May 2023**



## Task 6

---

***Recommend a methodology for allocating financial support where there is inadequate funding for all qualified applicants.***

Implementation Guidance 17.10: The dedicated Implementation Review Team should consider how to allocate financial support in the case that available funding cannot provide fee reductions to all applicants that meet the scoring requirement threshold.

Rationale for IG 17.10: “The Working Group considered that in subsequent rounds it may be the case that there are not sufficient funds available to provide fee reductions to all applicants that meet threshold scoring requirements. The Working Group reviewed the 2012 approach to this issue as well as public comments received on the Working Group’s Initial Report, but did not come to an agreement on any specific recommendations in this regard. The Working Group believes that this topic should be considered further by the dedicated Implementation Review Team.”

# From the Operational Design Assessment (ODA)

---

“The ICANN Board would need to consider allocating dedicated funds to support the ASP. Should demand overwhelm available funds, ICANN org will explore the possibility of additional budget allocation and/or opportunities for ASP sponsorship with the goal of providing meaningful levels of support for all eligible ASP applicants. ICANN org intends to offer the following assistance to qualified applicants:

- Reduction of the base application fee.
- A curated list of pro bono and/or reduced cost providers to assist with the development of applications and related content, such as registry policies.
- Reduction or elimination of certain other fees such as Community Priority Evaluation.
- A bid credit or multiplier if the application undergoes an ICANN Auction of Last Resort.”

See: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/subpro-oda-12dec22-en.pdf>, page 202.

# Framing the Question

---

**Assumption:** Having more qualified applicants than available funding is a good thing! While welcomed, it is presumed however to be unlikely.

## **Assumptions About the Implementation:**

- That budget should allow for support at the 75-85% range for 10-15 applicants.
- That would indicate a budget of approx. \$2 million (per the ODA) to support fee reduction.
- The GGP's measurement for success is approximately 10 applicants.
- In respect of the GGP's task 6, the ODA proposes addressing in a different manner: if there is inadequate funding, seek additional funding rather than trying to divide in some manner.

# Discussion Questions

---

Is there support for what the ODA proposes (namely, seeking additional funding) if there are more qualified applicants than available budget?

Even if the GGP supports this idea, the provision of additional funding is not guaranteed and even if made available, it may still not be enough to fully support all qualified applicants (success!). In this instance, there are at least two approaches to divide limited funds:

- Fairness/equality of funding, while not hindering the efficiency of the process; or
- Prioritization of some sort
- Other?

Consider pros and cons of each...