ICANN Grant Program First Interim Reporting Period Summary

Report for the First Interim Progress Reporting Period

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ICANN

ICANN GRANT PROGRAM

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ICANN Grant Program First Interim Reporting Period Summary

1. Background

The ICANN Grant Program is a global initiative open to eligible nonprofit organizations seeking funding for projects that support ICANN's mission and align with the program's objectives.

Grants in the First Cycle of the Program will run from 2025 through 2027. Throughout the lifecycle of the grants, grantees provide ICANN with interim and final reports. These reporting periods are outlined in each grantee's Grant Agreement, generally at six-month intervals. Reporting requirements are communicated prior to execution of the Grant Agreement.

Through grantee interim reporting, the Grant Program team verifies each grantee's progress toward established milestones, reviews financial expenditures, reviews any implementation challenges disclosed by the grantee and identifies any other potential issues, and determines the grantee's eligibility for subsequent payment. This structured review process enables the team to hold grantees accountable to the commitments in their Grant Agreements. It also allows the team to maintain visibility on the use of auction proceeds.

The first interim reporting period for this cycle of the ICANN Grant Program ran from October 2025 to February 2026. During this period, 23 approved reports were received. A total of $2,549,808 was disbursed, representing approximately 25% of the total cycle's funding to date.

Details regarding reporting questions, review procedures, processing timelines, and grant status are provided below.

2. Interim Report Review Process

All interim reports are reviewed to confirm that the grantees are meeting the agreed-upon expectations and that funded projects remain on track. For more technical projects, the Grant Program Department coordinates with ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer to have subject-matter experts review the reports to ensure technical accuracy and alignment with project objectives. Approval of the report is required to trigger the next installment of funds.

Each report undergoes a structured review conducted by the Grant Program Department that is documented within the grant management system. This process includes:

- An initial completeness review
- A financial review of reported expenditures
- An evaluation of progress toward milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Identification of compliance considerations
- Requests for clarification or additional documentation, as needed

Grantees are required to address any follow-up questions or requested updates before the report can be approved. Once all reporting requirements have been addressed satisfactorily, the report is approved and the next installment of funds is paid in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

3. Interim Report Details

The Grantee Interim Report includes four key sections: narrative responses, KPI and financial reporting as well as organizational updates.

In the narrative section, grantees are asked to describe the progress and impact of the project to date. This allows the grantee to provide narrative detail in addition to the required quantitative data. The narrative questions for interim reports are as follows:

- How would you describe the success of the project so far?
- What challenges or obstacles have you encountered and how did you address them?
- How have you engaged with the target audience or beneficiaries of the project and how has their feedback been incorporated?
- How would you describe any unexpected outcomes or lessons learned so far?
- Have there been any significant changes to the project during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.
- What communication activities have you developed about your project?
- Have you raised any additional funding for the project? If yes, please describe.
- Any other item you like to report?

The KPI section requires grantees to report on progress toward the specific indicators outlined in their Grant Agreement, including explanations for any deviations from planned targets. KPIs align with the goals and outcomes outlined in each grantee's initial application. In their interim report, grantees are expected to describe their progress toward those goals and indicate the percentage completed.

The financial reporting section includes a budget template that must be completed. Grantees are required to itemize expenses incurred during the reporting period and provide explanations for any deviations from the approved budget. This allows the Program to verify alignment between expenditures and approved cost categories.

Finally, grantees must disclose any relevant organizational updates that occurred during the reporting period. This may include changes to project leadership, Board leadership, banking information, key personnel, or other material operational changes that could affect project implementation. Any changes reported undergo additional due diligence and screening for compliance, conflicts of interest, and risk.

4. Grant Awards

Grants were awarded up to $500,000 and with a duration of up to 24 months. Interim reports were scheduled generally at six-month intervals depending on the duration of the project. Full summaries for the project funded in the First Cycle are available on the ICANN Grant Program webpage.

Details of each grant are provided below.

Grantee	Project Duration (mos)	Project Start Date (mo/yr)	Project End Date (mo/yr)	First Interim Report Date (mo/yr)	Total funding amount (USD)	Award distributions to date (USD)	Percentage of award distributed to date (%)
Global Network Initiative, Inc.	12	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	Nov 2025	$500,000	$450,000	90%
IETF Administration LLC	13	May 2025	Jun 2026	Dec 2025	$455,487	$409,938	90%
Stichting The Green Web Foundation	16	Jun 2025	Oct 2026	Dec 2025	$495,000	$297,000	60%
Ajman University	16	Jun 2025	Nov 2026	Nov 2025	$410,300	$246,180	60%
Digital Natives Academy Charitable Trust	17	May 2025	Sept 2026	Nov 2025	$350,000	$210,000	60%
Kenya Network Information Centre (KeNIC)	17	May 2025	Oct 2026	Nov 2025	$500,000	$300,000	60%
Internet Systems Consortium, Inc	20	May 2025	Dec 2026	Oct 2025	$495,000	$247,500	50%
Fundació privada puntCAT	23	May 2025	Apr 2027	Nov 2025	$346,655	$155,995	45%
African Telecommunications Union (ATU)	24	Jun 2025	Jun 2027	Dec 2025	$398,040	$199,559	50%

Grantee	Project Duration (mos)	Project Start Date (mo/yr)	Project End Date (mo/yr)	First Interim Report Date (mo/yr)	Total funding amount (USD)	Award distributions to date (USD)	Percentage of award distributed to date (%)
University of St Andrews	24	May 2025	May 2027	Dec 2025	$496,318	$223,343	45%
Scientific Cyber Security Association	24	May 2025	May 2027	Nov 2025	$138,860	$62,487	45%
Stichting Trifecta Tech Foundation	24	May 2025	Apr 2027	Nov 2025	$437,121	$196,705	45%
Asociación A Favor De Lo Mejor, A.C.	24	May 2025	May 2027	Nov 2025	$500,000	$225,000	45%
University of Twente	24	Jul 2025	Jul 2027	Jan 2026	$500,000	$225,000	45%
Seva Sahayog Foundation	24	May 2025	May 2027	Nov 2025	$387,487	$174,369	45%
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	24	Jun 2025	Jun 2027	Dec 2025	$333,653	$150,144	45%
Internet Security Research Group	24	May 2025	May 2027	Nov 2025	$375,000	$168,750	45%
Carnegie Mellon University	24	Jul 2025	Jul 2027	Feb 2026	$450,389	$202,675	45%
Ruhr-Universität Bochum	24	Jun 2025	Jun 2027	Dec 2025	$499,912	$224,961	45%
University of Cape Town (Cybersecurity Capacity Centre for Southern Africa - C3SA)	24	Jul 2025	Jul 2027	Jan 2026	$499,237	$224,657	45%
deSEC e.V.	24	Apr 2025	Apr 2027	Nov 2025	$399,912	$179,960	45%
Universidad Católica del Norte	24	May 2025	May 2027	Nov 2025	$500,000	$225,000	45%
Kenya Education Network Registered Trustees	24	May 2025	May 2027	Nov 2025	$500,000	$225,000	45%
TOTAL					**$9,968,373**	**$5,224,223**	**52%**

5. Grant Program Assessment of Progress to Date

As highlighted in a recent blog update, the completion of the first interim reporting period marks an important milestone for the program and reflects ICANN's commitment to accountability, learning, and effective collaboration across functions within the ICANN organization.

Early reporting shows encouraging progress. Grantees are demonstrating strong operational capacity and readiness to implement projects aligned with program objectives. This progress highlights both the strength of the program's design and the ability of grantee partners to translate proposals into meaningful activities and outcomes.

Engagement during the reporting period has been strong, with grantees consistently submitting comprehensive reports on time. This reflects a clear understanding of program expectations and reinforces the collaborative relationship between ICANN and its grantee partners.

While many projects are still in early stages, initial performance data is encouraging and aligns with program expectations. Internal review and approval of reports, along with subsequent disbursements, further demonstrate confidence in grantee implementation and continued progress across funded projects.

As the program moves into its next phase, ICANN remains committed to supporting grantees, capturing lessons learned, and engaging the broader community. The progress achieved so far provides a strong foundation for the work ahead.

i. First Interim Reporting Period Progress Indicators

Indicator	Measure
First interim progress reports submitted	23
First interim progress reports accepted	23
Average progress reported against key performance indicators	28%
Second payment disbursed	$2,549,808
Total funding of $10M disbursed	$5,224,223