You've done the hard work, and now it is time to receive the recognition! Through the voluntary land trust accreditation program your land trust will grow stronger and can have external verification that it is meeting national quality standards.

Read more about registering to apply for first-time accreditation*

**Please note:** For 2021 there are approximately 20 first-time application slots available; the lottery will open on July 30 at 9 a.m. EST. The lottery will remain open until August 31 at 5 p.m. EST. The Commission will announce the results by the end of September 2020. Pre-application due March 2, 2021 and application due May 25, 2021.

Preparing and applying for first-time accreditation requires a significant commitment of time from the board. Staff (if applicable) will also be involved. Each land trust should consider when it would be most appropriate for their organization to apply for accreditation and balance accreditation with their other program activities. In many cases this may mean incorporating accreditation into a long-term strategic plan and/or planning to apply after more immediate organizational or program needs are met.

Land trusts should apply only when they are confident they are able to complete the entire application and assemble all documents. It should be noted that substantially incomplete applications will be returned and the fees forfeited. Organizations should expect that it will take several months of internal review and discussion before the application is complete and ready to submit. Applicants should plan accordingly.

To get started, visit the links below.

- **Requirements Manual**
- **Where to Go for Help**
- “Are You Ready” checklist
- PowerPoints from Rally 2018 sessions:
  - **A02. Countdown to 2020: Tips and Pointers for Land Trusts Preparing for First-Time Accreditation**

Thinking about registering? [Visit our Registration page](#) to learn more about when and how to register.

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