Have you heard about the updates to the *Requirements Manual*?

*From Melissa Kalvestrand, Associate Director of Reviews*

April and May bring showers, flowers, and the latest edition of the accreditation *Requirements Manual*. I often get asked why the Commission publishes an updated manual every year. While a year does go by quickly, a lot of changes can happen in that period of time. Rather than wait years to make infrequent but sweeping updates, we instead annually review and update the manual. Annual updates mean that land trusts are not put at risk with outdated requirements. We want you to have the most up-to-date information when applying for and preparing for accreditation or renewal of accreditation.

When considering changes, we look at comments from the land trust community, new information from the Land Trust Alliance, and trends in accreditation applications. In the past year the Land Trust Alliance released two new resources for the land trust community: an Advisory on Syndicated Transactions and the Legal Defense Reserves Calculator. We carefully reviewed both of these and found that the Requirements Manual needed to reflect this new information. In order to align the requirements with those new Alliance materials, only three major updates in the 2016 edition were made.

Public comments received earlier this year showed support for these changes; thanks for your input! Check out our website for more information. Please email us your feedback and ideas on the requirements; your comments will help inform future editions of the manual.

[Join our May 19 webinar to learn more.](#)