What does this all mean for my organization?
Land trusts that are applying or renewing will be evaluated against the 2018 Requirements Manual for their application. The core requirements remain the same and the updates do not result in significant changes to accreditation. See the “What Does This Mean for My Land Trust” page for more information specific to applicants for 2018 and beyond.

What are the next steps for my land trust now that the 2018 Requirements Manual has been released?
1. Read the 2018 Requirements Manual Introduction
2. Read the Requirements and familiarize yourself with new requirements that begin in 2019 and beyond
3. Look at the new Documents
   - If you have it, check that it meets the requirements
   - If you don’t have it, plan to have it in place by 2019

Is there a list of accreditation requirements that were added and removed?
Yes, please see "An In-Depth Look at Changes to the Requirements."

I am looking at the new indicator elements now and am wondering how we need to change our bylaw, policies, and/or procedures to meet these new indicator elements?
Because the core content remains the same, the updates will not result in significant changes to your foundational documents. For new indicator elements (such as those related to finances, insurance, etc.) the accreditation requirements can be found in the 2018 Requirements Manual. These new requirements will be phased in over time and will generally apply to land trusts’ work going forward from the point of phase-in. The Alliance also developed explanatory information and sample materials around these new indicators. You can find sample documents, organized by subject area, click on Land Trust Standards and Practices in the Learning Center's catalog to start exploring.

When should we revise our policies and procedures?
We encourage you to become familiar with the updates to the Manual and accreditation requirements by the end of 2018, to identify any policy or procedure changes your land trust may need to make to ensure you meet all accreditation requirements when you apply or renew. To help you with this effort, new requirements have a “Starting in 2019” notation. Accredited land trusts are expected to begin meeting these requirements in 2019 (or as noted).

What do these changes mean in terms of cost for our organization?
We worked closely with the Alliance to eliminate some high-cost/low-risk indicators that will no longer be examined for the purposes of accreditation. We will continue to review the costs of the land trust accreditation program on an annual basis and are committed to keeping the fees affordable while ensuring the sustainability of the accreditation program. We firmly believe that investing in the strength and stability of your land trust through accreditation will save your organization substantial defense and enforcement expenses in the long run.

When will my land trust need to adopt the 2017 Standards or can I rely on our adoption of the 2004 Standards?
To be consistent with the Alliance’s request that all land trust members adopt the revised 2017 Standards by March 2018, the Commission will require all applicants in 2018 onward (for renewal and first-time accreditation) to demonstrate they have adopted the new standards.

Are first time applicants still required to complete an assessment?
Land trusts are no longer required to complete an assessment against all of the Standards.

What does this mean for Pathways to Accreditation?
Pathways to Accreditation’s most-used tool was the organizational assessment, yet its use declined to very low levels. Thus, Pathways was not incorporated into the Alliance’s new Learning Center. The Alliance is developing shorter,
simpler assessments, which will be hosted on the Learning Center.

**Why are you requesting documentation on the new indicators that we haven’t had much time to examine or come into compliance on?**

You are correct: Documents related to the new accreditation indicators are being requested in the 2018 transition application materials. Note that these documents will not be assessed on a "pass/fail" basis but more to help the Commission understand how many land trusts may have trouble meeting the new accreditation indicators. We appreciate your patience as we transition in new indicator elements and associated accreditation requirements.

**You are requesting documentation in the pre-application that used to be requested in the application; why?**

We are requesting the documentation earlier in the process to help us more effectively select projects for inclusion in the application, and to select supporting documentation around specific indicators (such as easement enforcement, amendments, and land management). This should have a neutral effect on the amount of documentation required overall.

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