In these unprecedented times, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission understands that COVID-19 has brought changes to land trusts and the communities they serve. With the call to practice stay-at-home measures, the Commission immediately instituted extensions for organizations in the application process or with applications pending this spring.

We understand that land trusts are made up of people and that the extra time was important when facing such a major and sudden change. This action by the Commission was the first-step in a multi-tiered strategy to support and help meet the continuing needs of accredited land trusts and those pursuing accreditation for the first time.

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The Commission has spent time actively listening to land trusts from across the country to understand the actual impacts of COVID-19 they face. This feedback is helping the Commission implement customizable solutions that respond to the needs of the land trust community. From these listening sessions, we have found common themes and questions relating to the accreditation requirements. This document is a collection of guidance in response to those questions.

We also understand that there may be more questions and concerns in the weeks and months ahead. The Commission welcomes questions from the land trust community and will update this guide periodically to reflect any new information. Even in this time of uncertainty, the Commission is working hard to respond to accreditation questions and be responsive to the needs of the land trust community. We continue to be inspired by the land trust community and its unwavering commitment to conservation excellence.

For questions, please contact: Lisa McCarthy, Imccarthy@landtrustaccreditation.org

Disclaimer: The Land Trust Accreditation Commission designed this material to provide information about the subject matter covered, with the understanding that the Commission is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, tax or other professional counsel. If a land trust or individual requires legal advice or other expert assistance, they should seek the services of competent professionals. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is solely responsible for the content of this document.

