



## 2024 Land Trust Accreditation Fees

### FOR FIRST-TIME AND FIRST AND SECOND RENEWAL

Accreditation fees are structured to provide land trusts of all sizes the opportunity to participate in the accreditation program, a program that builds strong land trusts, fosters public trust in land conservation and helps ensure the permanence of land conservation. Your investment in accreditation strengthens the land trust movement, keeps your land trust on the leading edge and pays you back by helping you raise more money, attract more volunteers and qualify for valuable discounts and benefits.

There is a registration fee and an application fee. The fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

- The \$850 registration fee is due at registration.
- The application fee (the base fee plus any additional fees, as described below) is invoiced after the pre-application is submitted and is due on the application due date.

## 2024 Application Fee Schedule

### 2024 Application Base Fee for Five-Year Term<sup>(2)(3)</sup>

<i>Applicant Total Annual Expenses<sup>(1)</sup></i>	<i>For Non-Members</i>	<i>Discounted Fee For Land Trust Alliance Members</i>
\$0 - \$25,000	\$3,125	\$1,250
\$25,001 - \$50,000	\$5,525	\$2,210
\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$7,850	\$3,140
\$100,001 - \$250,000	\$12,825	\$5,130
\$250,001 - \$500,000	\$18,775	\$7,510
\$500,001 - \$750,000	\$23,075	\$9,230
\$750,001 - \$1.0M	\$28,150	\$11,260
\$1,000,001 - \$2.5M	\$32,225	\$12,890
\$2,500,001 - \$5.0M	\$35,550	\$14,220
\$5,000,001 - \$10M	\$39,650	\$15,860
\$10,000,001 - \$25M	\$50,475	\$20,190
\$25,000,001 - \$50M	\$67,300	\$26,920
\$50,000,001 - \$100M	\$95,250	\$37,700
\$100,000,001 - \$200M	\$134,575	\$53,830
\$200,000,001 - \$350M	\$195,175	\$78,070
\$350,000,001 - \$500M	\$252,375	\$100,950
>\$500,000,001	\$336,175	\$134,470

(1) Applicant's total expenses as reported on the "Total Expenses" line from page 1 of the most recent Form 990 or Form 990-EZ submitted at the time of pre-application.

(2) Exclusive of the \$850 registration fee and does not include any additional fees for related entities; see below for more information.

(3) Quasi-governmental organizations that do not file a Form 990 should contact the Commission for a fee determination.

## Additional Fees for Related Entities

If an organization operates with multiple corporations (such as a supporting organization, related corporation, LLC, etc.), additional application materials are required. For more information, see *Requirements for Land Trusts with Multiple Corporate Structures or Corporate Combinations*. In addition to the base fee for the primary organization, there is a multiple corporation fee for each related entity.

- Basic Level (for each related entity): \$500, not to exceed \$2,500
- Intermediate Level (for each related entity): the higher of \$2,500 or a 25% discount on the base application fee that applies to the related entity

Please contact the Commission at [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org) for more information.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are the fees lower for Land Trust Alliance members?

The Commission, while an independent program of the Alliance, relies on the Alliance's programs and services.

- The Alliance creates and maintains *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and supporting materials and provides educational support and training. The Standards and the supporting materials are the cornerstone of accreditation and the accreditation requirements.
- While accreditation fees and an endowment raised by the Alliance cover the Commission's direct operating costs, the Alliance financially supports the Commission by providing shared resources, such as technology, human resources and financial management for operations. Membership fees contribute to these shared resource costs.
- The Commission also relies on volunteer commissioners who collectively donate about 3,000 hours each year reviewing applications to keep costs affordable for applicants.

The 2024 accreditation fee schedule, jointly approved by the Alliance and Commission, reflects that Alliance members receive, as a member benefit, a discount on the accreditation application fees. Land trusts who are not members of the Alliance will pay fees that reflect the full cost of providing the accreditation program and the services provided by the Alliance. The non-member fee above that paid by members will be transferred to the Alliance to reimburse it for accreditation services and general operational support.

### What happens if our land trust decides to not renew its Alliance membership?

The Alliance-member fee discount approach became effective in 2022.

- If the land trust applied for accreditation or renewal before 2022, it will pay the non-member fee at the time of its next application.
- If the land trust applies in 2022 or later, the land trust will pay an additional fee pro-rated to the number of years the land trust was not a member. The additional fee will need to be paid at next application or it can be paid in installments.

### What are the advantages for an accredited land trust to be an Alliance member?

The Alliance provides its members access to critical background information on the accreditation indicator elements and sample policies and procedures. Attending conferences and trainings and reading publications will help ensure the land trust is up to date with essential best practices and legal requirements as part of achieving and maintaining the excellence represented by the accreditation seal.

Do you have questions about Alliance membership?  
Call 202-347-7475 or email [membership@lta.org](mailto:membership@lta.org)

### What additional costs should our land trust plan and budget for?

Some applicants get paid help to organize and scan documents; other land trusts need to secure high-speed internet for more efficient uploads to the online application. First-time and renewal materials are submitted electronically; there are no application printing/copying/shipping costs.

### How can we budget and plan for our land trust's accreditation fee in future years?

Accreditation fees are posted annually. An annual inflation rate of 3% should be used for planning purposes when applying or renewing sometime beyond the current fee schedule. Land trusts preparing for third renewal (fourth application) should budget for a seven-year-term fee pro-rated to the corresponding five-year-term fee.

### What if my organization's total expenses include programs unrelated to its land conservation work?

Accreditation fees are based on an applicant's "Total Expenses" as reported on the Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N submitted by the applicant as part of its pre-application. Some organizations have diverse missions and land conservation may be only one of many programs. However, because the entire organization is being accredited, accreditation fees are based on the organization's total annual expenses – not just the programs related directly to land conservation.

You may contact the Commission to request a possible fee adjustment if a) the organization's "Total Expenses" includes the purchase of fee properties or conservation easements, b) your organization had amount(s) reported on Schedule I (Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals), or c) accounting adjustments such as write-offs and depreciation of land. These are evaluated and approved on a case-by-case basis at the Commission's discretion.

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For more information please visit:

[landtrustaccreditation.org/renewal/timeline-and-costs](https://landtrustaccreditation.org/renewal/timeline-and-costs)

Have additional questions?

Contact the Commission at [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org)  
or call our office at 518-587-3143