LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES

FOCUS ON SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES

ALA American Library Association

PRE-APPLICATION WEBINAR

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WHY CONVERSATIONS?

WHY LIBRARIES?

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GRANT INFORMATION

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- All types of libraries – public, academic, community college, K-12, tribal
- Libraries serving small and/or rural communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- According to IMLS:
  - "small" = a population of 25,000 or less
  - "rural" = more than, or equal to, five miles from an urbanized area (of 25,000 or more)
- Must be a member of ALA or ARSL
- Questions about eligibility? Email PublicPrograms@ala.org

WHAT WILL YOUR LIBRARY RECEIVE?

- $3,000
- Professional development
- Online resources and project support

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Complete a 6-part asynchronous e-course on facilitation skills (est. course time: 4 hrs)
- Host at least one conversation with community members using skills from the e-course
- Share what you have learned

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

1. Complete a 6-part e-course on facilitation skills (est. course time: 4 hrs)

   - ❑ "Conversations in the Library: Getting Started"
   - ❑ "Laying the Groundwork: Planning a Conversation"
   - ❑ "Setting the Room: Navigating Logistics and Setting up a Conversation"
   - ❑ "In the Moment: Leading a Conversation and Managing Group Dynamics"
   - ❑ "The Follow-Up: Closing a Conversation and Preparing Next Steps"
   - ❑ "Going Virtual: Technology and Facilitation Approaches for Online Conversations"

CONVERSATIONS…ABOUT WHAT?

2. Host at least one conversation with community members using skills from the e-course

- Any topic relevant to your community, e.g.:
  - *E-learning, school closures*
  - *COVID-19, public health*
  - *Unemployment*
  - *Films and books, as a way to discuss issues facing the community*

- Conversation can be in person or virtual

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

3. Share what you have learned

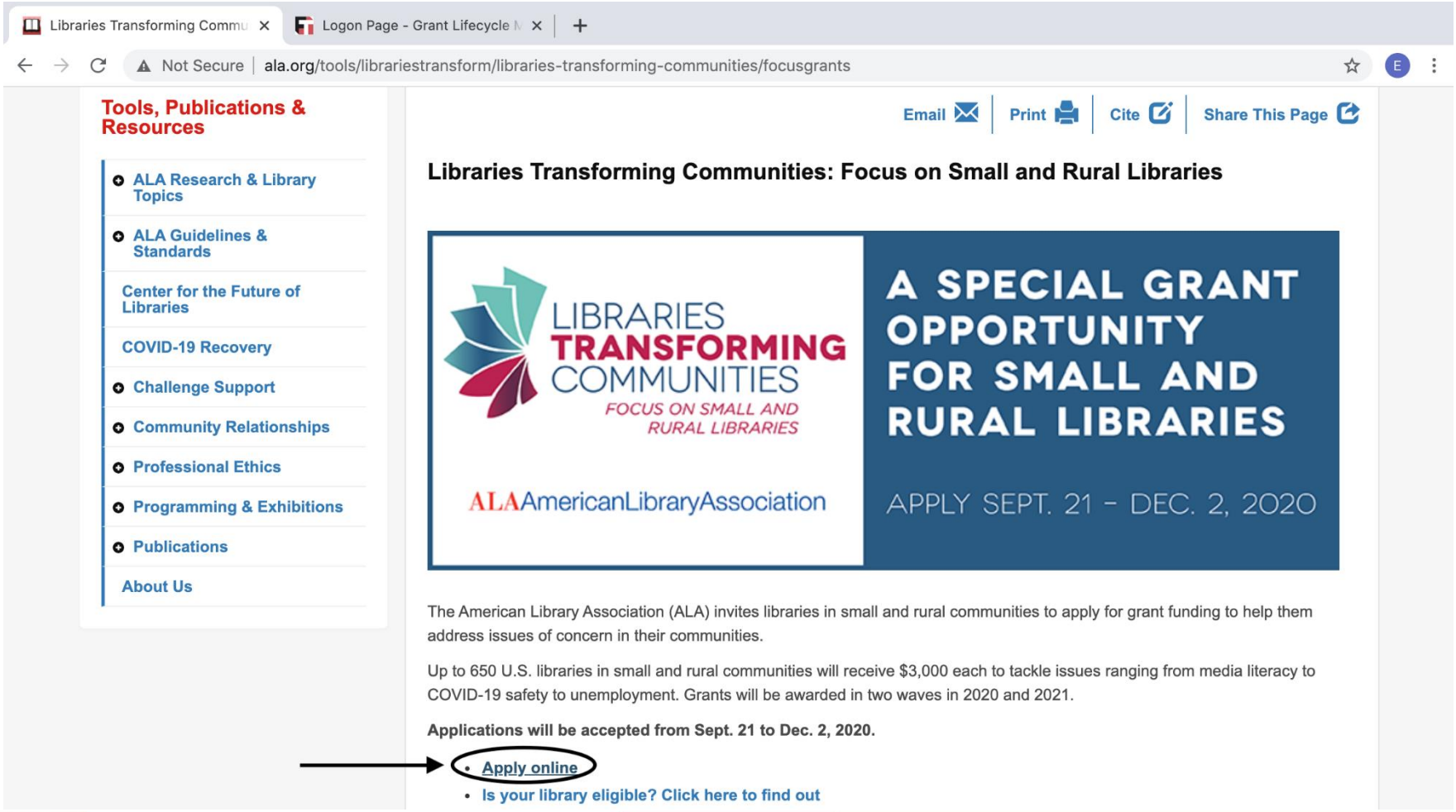
- Local newspaper or other media outlet
- Your library's social media (e.g. YouTube, Facebook)
- A letter or email to a state legislator or other elected official
- A library blog or podcast
- PLA's Project Outcome OR ACRL's Project Outcome

WHAT CAN YOU SPEND THE MONEY ON?

Grant funds may cover a wide range of expenses:

- Programming materials
- Staff time
- Books/ebooks
- Hotspot purchases
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Space rental
- Marketing
- Speaker fees
- … and more

APPLICATION WALK-THROUGH



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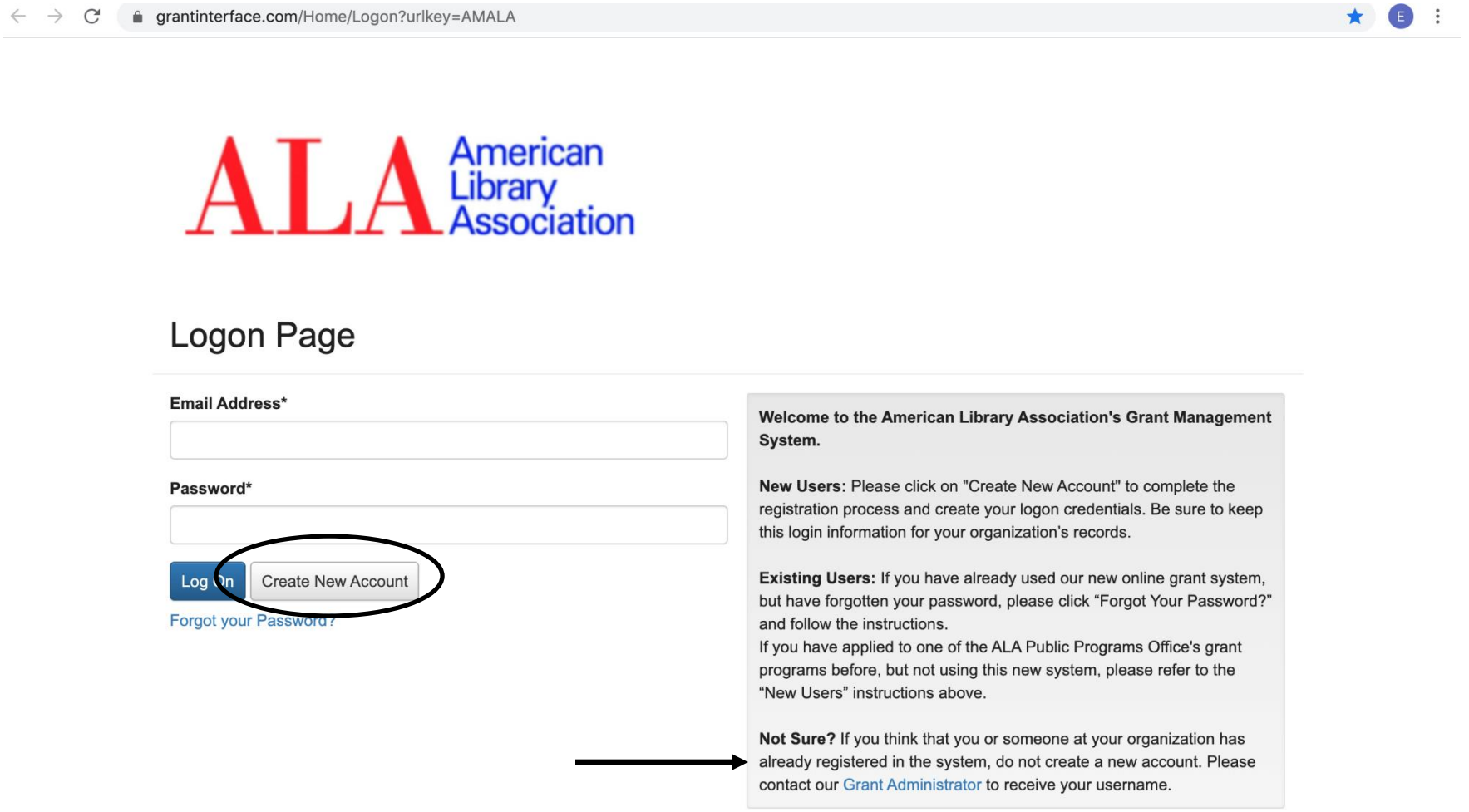

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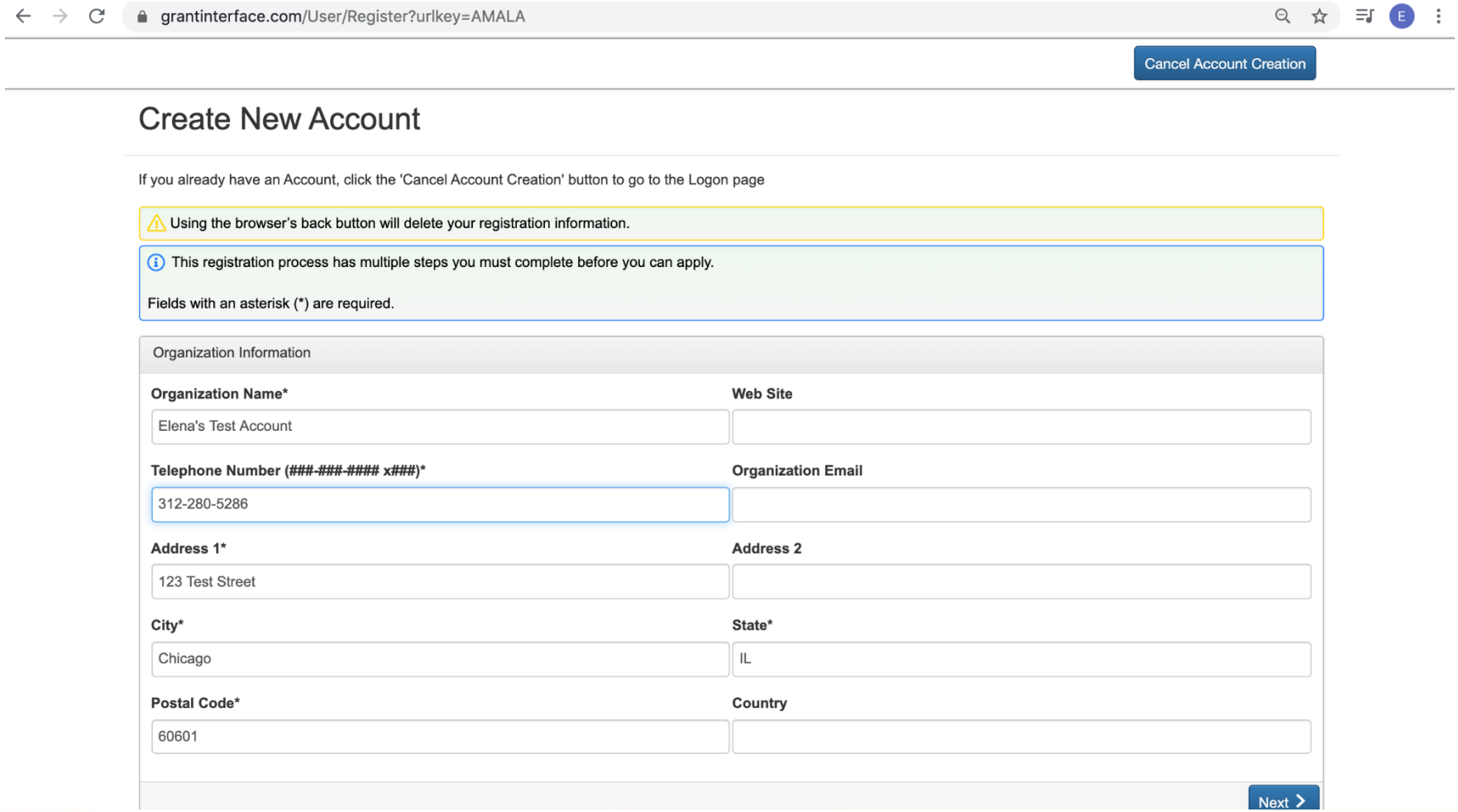

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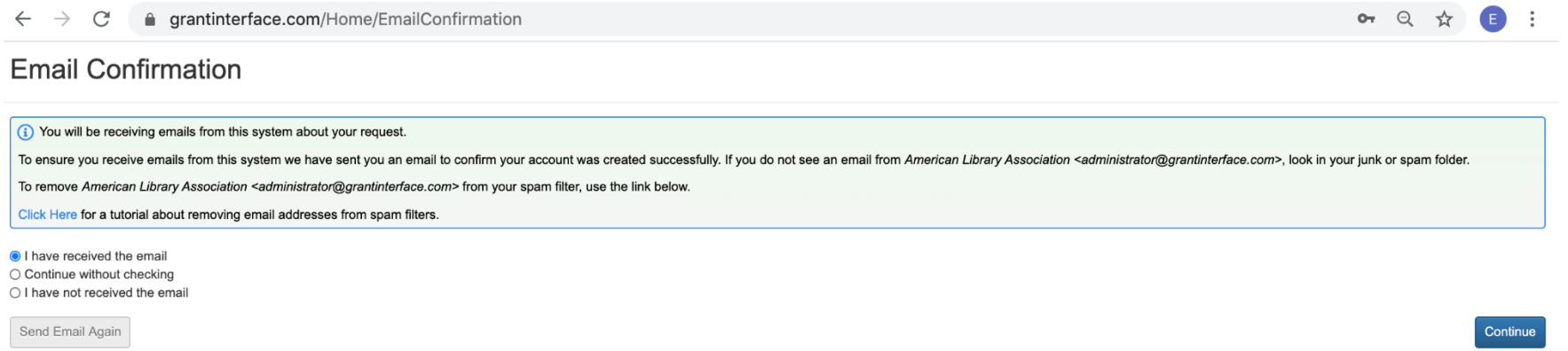

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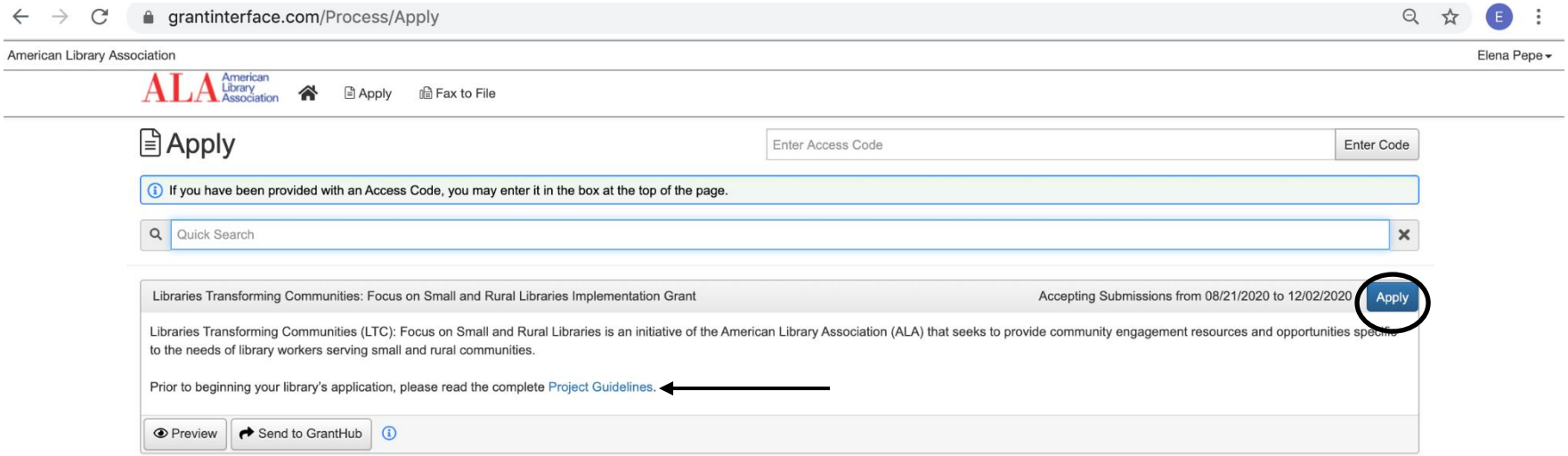

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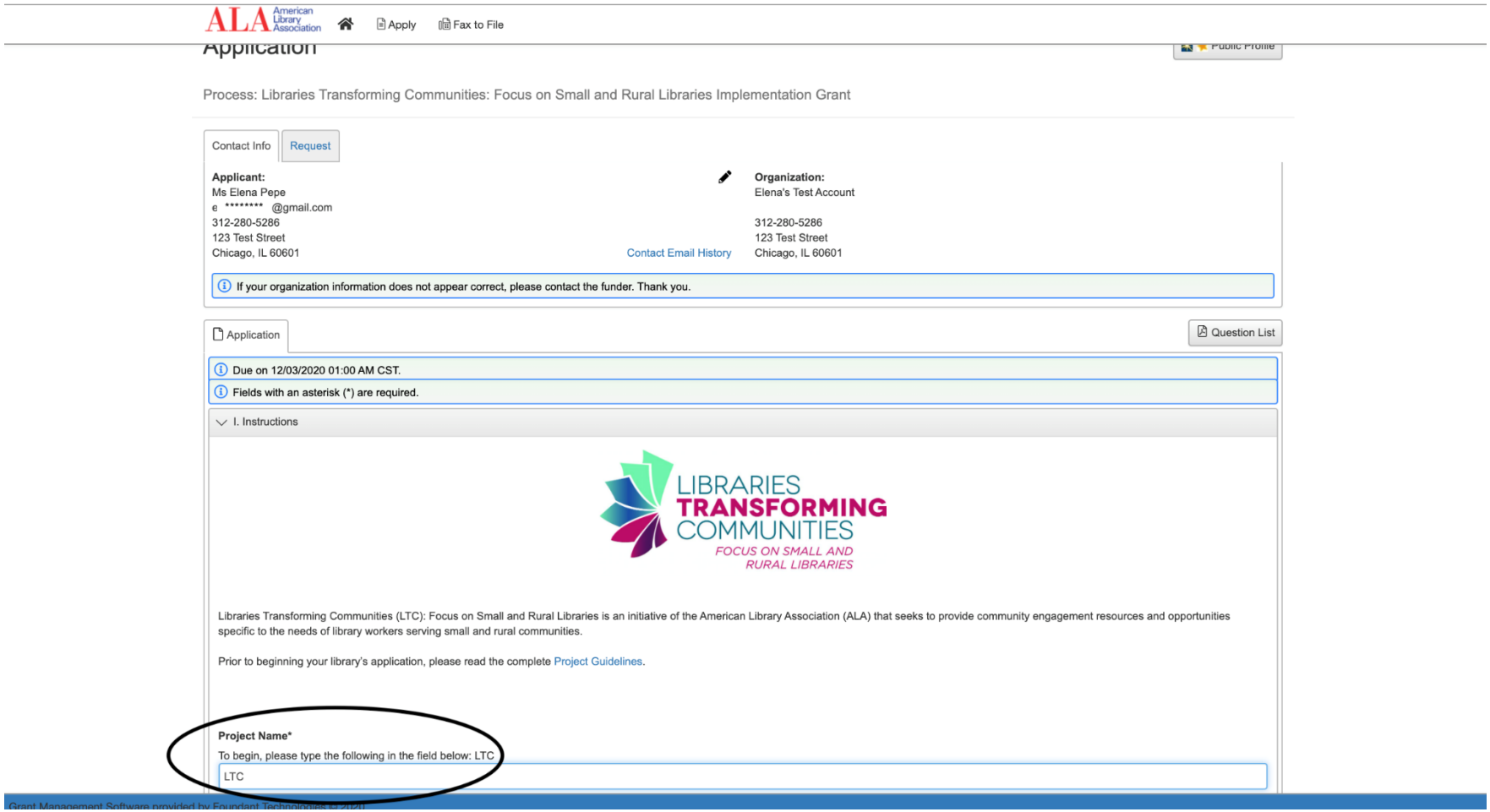

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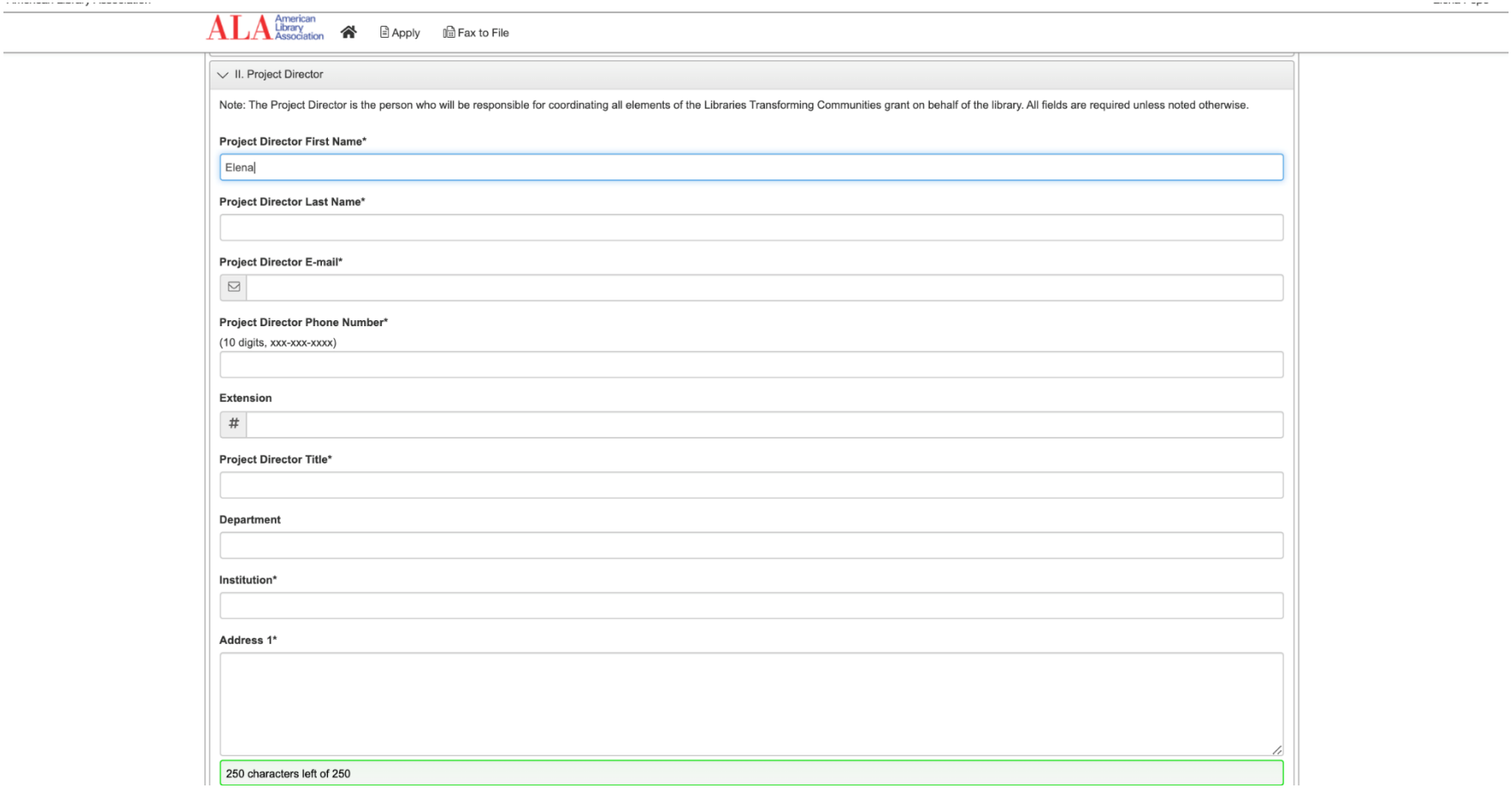

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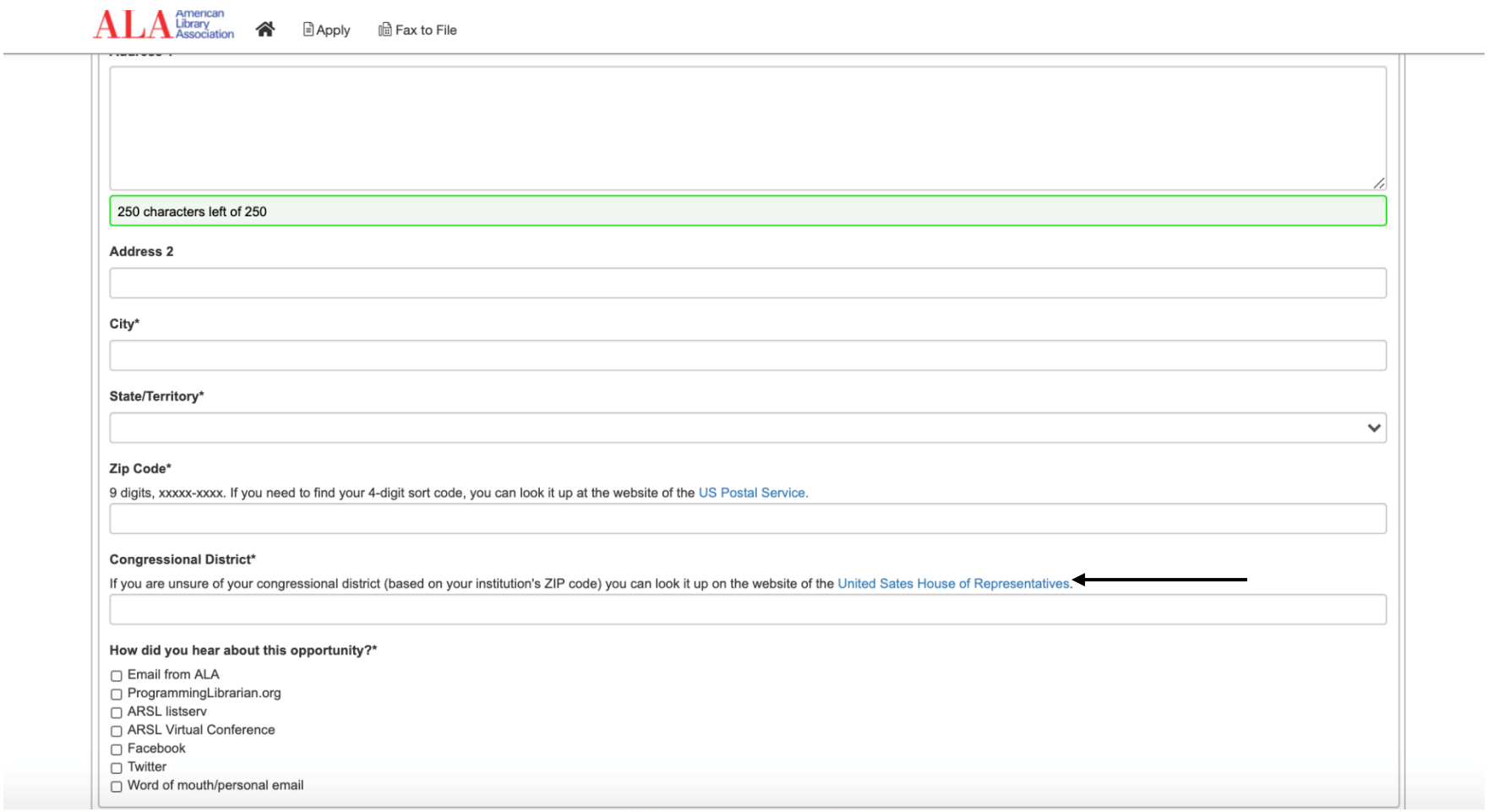

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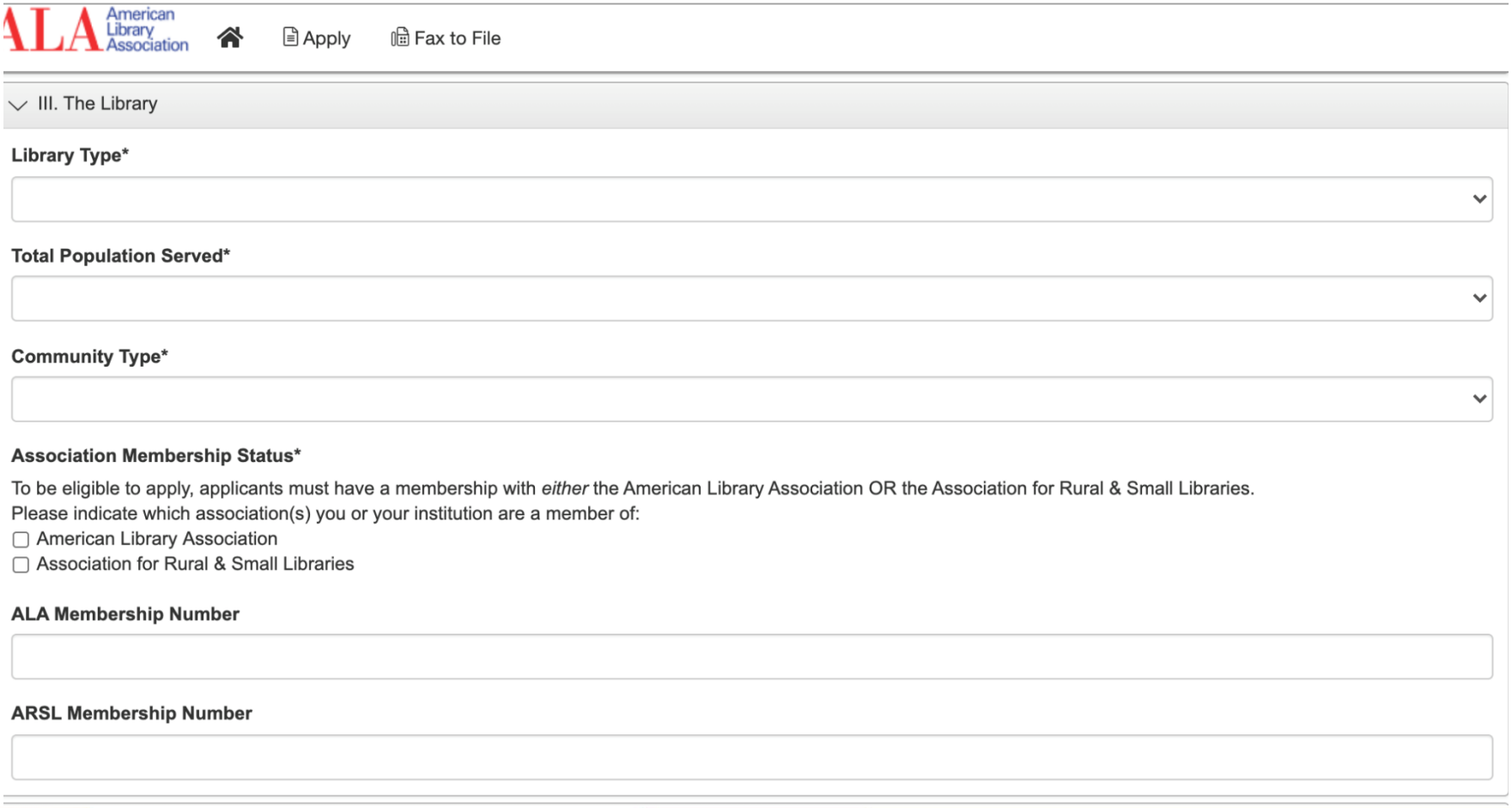

APPLICATION WALK-THROUGH

ALA American Library Association | Apply | Fax to File

IV. Proposal Narrative

Each narrative response should be **600** words or less. Before you compose the narrative part of this application, we strongly recommend that you read the grant guidelines and the "Leading Conversations in Small and Rural Libraries" Facilitation Guide carefully. If you do not, your application is unlikely to be competitive as the narrative questions are informed by the facilitation guide and grant guidelines.

Community and Library Information*

Describe your library and the community it serves, including demographics, dynamics and key issues or challenges it faces. What should reviewers know about your library and community in order to understand your proposed community engagement project?

Conversation Topic or Issue*

Describe the topic or issue that your community engagement project will focus on. Why is it important for your library or community to discuss this particular issue/topic? How did you arrive at this particular topic/subject (e.g. did you talk with library patrons, reach out to other area organizations? Dig into data about your community)? How will your library and/or community benefit from having this/these discussion(s)?

Conversation Goals*

Describe the library's goal or purpose of your project plan. What are you aiming to accomplish? (e.g. enhance library resources based on community input; explore a topic and/or build understanding of others' experiences; generate ideas, explore options, and make a decision; discuss an issue and collaboratively determine next steps, etc.)

Conversation Planning*

How do you envision your conversation taking place? (e.g. virtual book club discussion, socially-distanced conversation outdoors at the library using the National Issues Forum Model, etc.) Do you feel you are able to describe how you envision your conversation(s) will take place? Or are you new to this and planning to learn these skills though the online course? What kind of marketing/outreach do you plan to do for the conversation? How are you planning to share the content/outcomes of the conversation? (e.g. writing an article for the local newspaper, creating a video about what was discussed for the library's social media, etc.)

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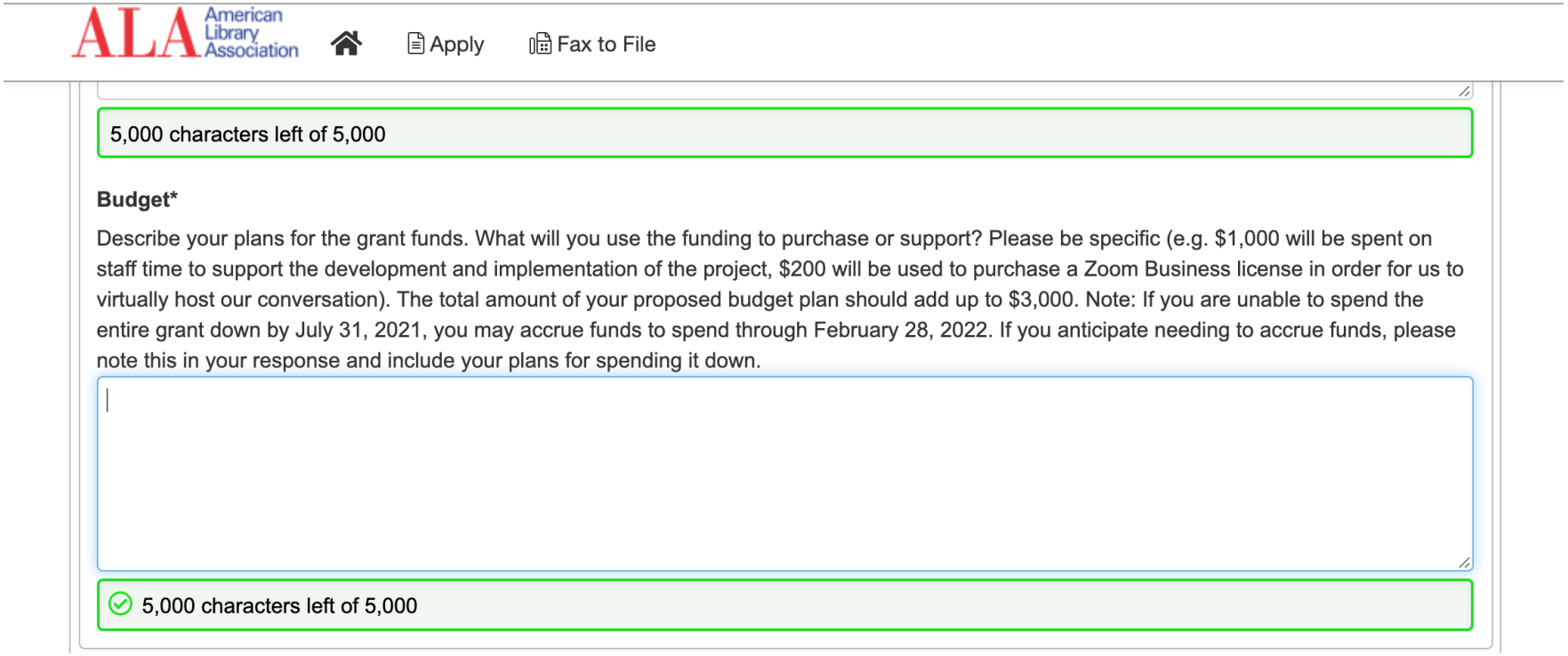

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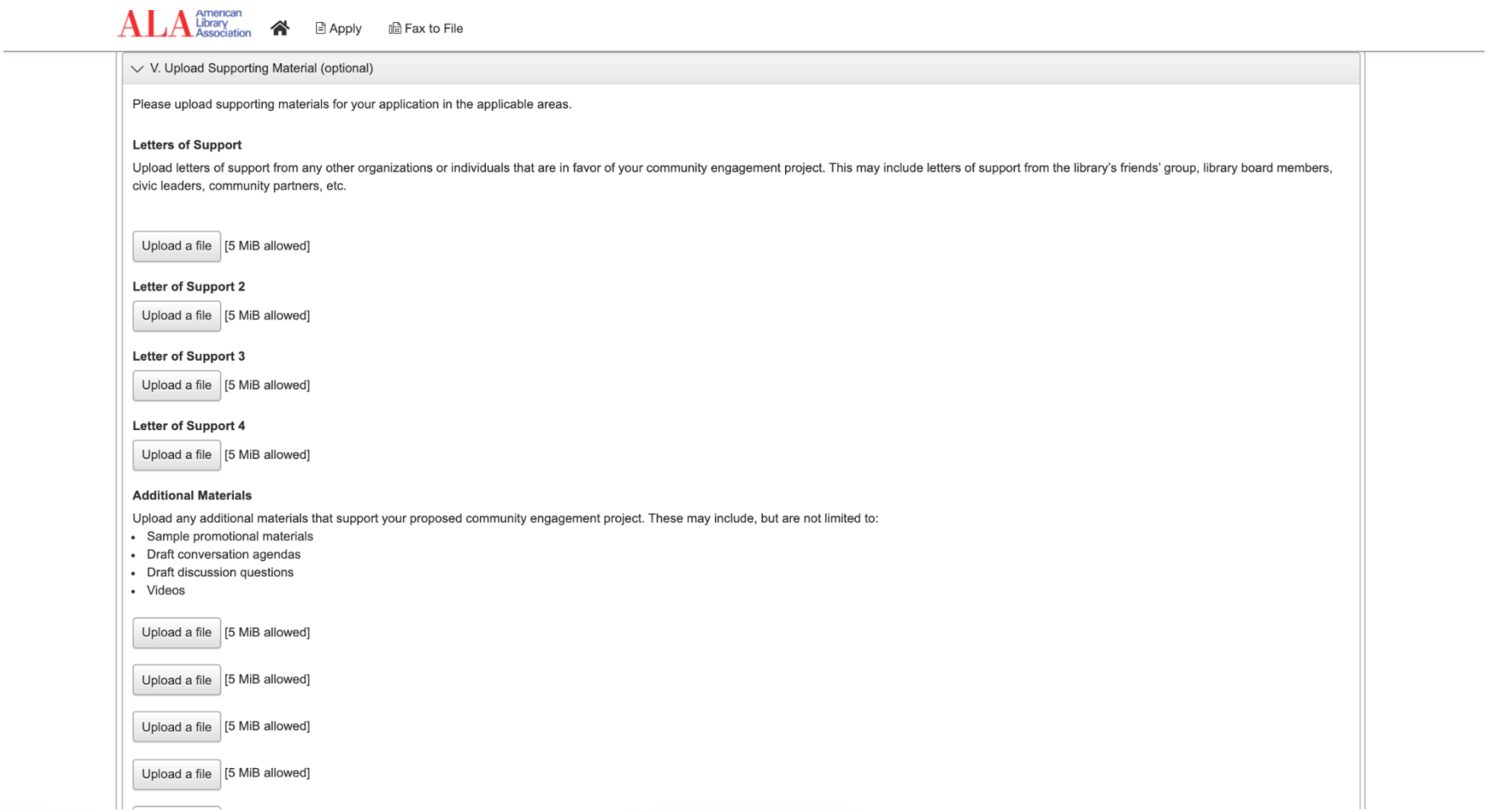

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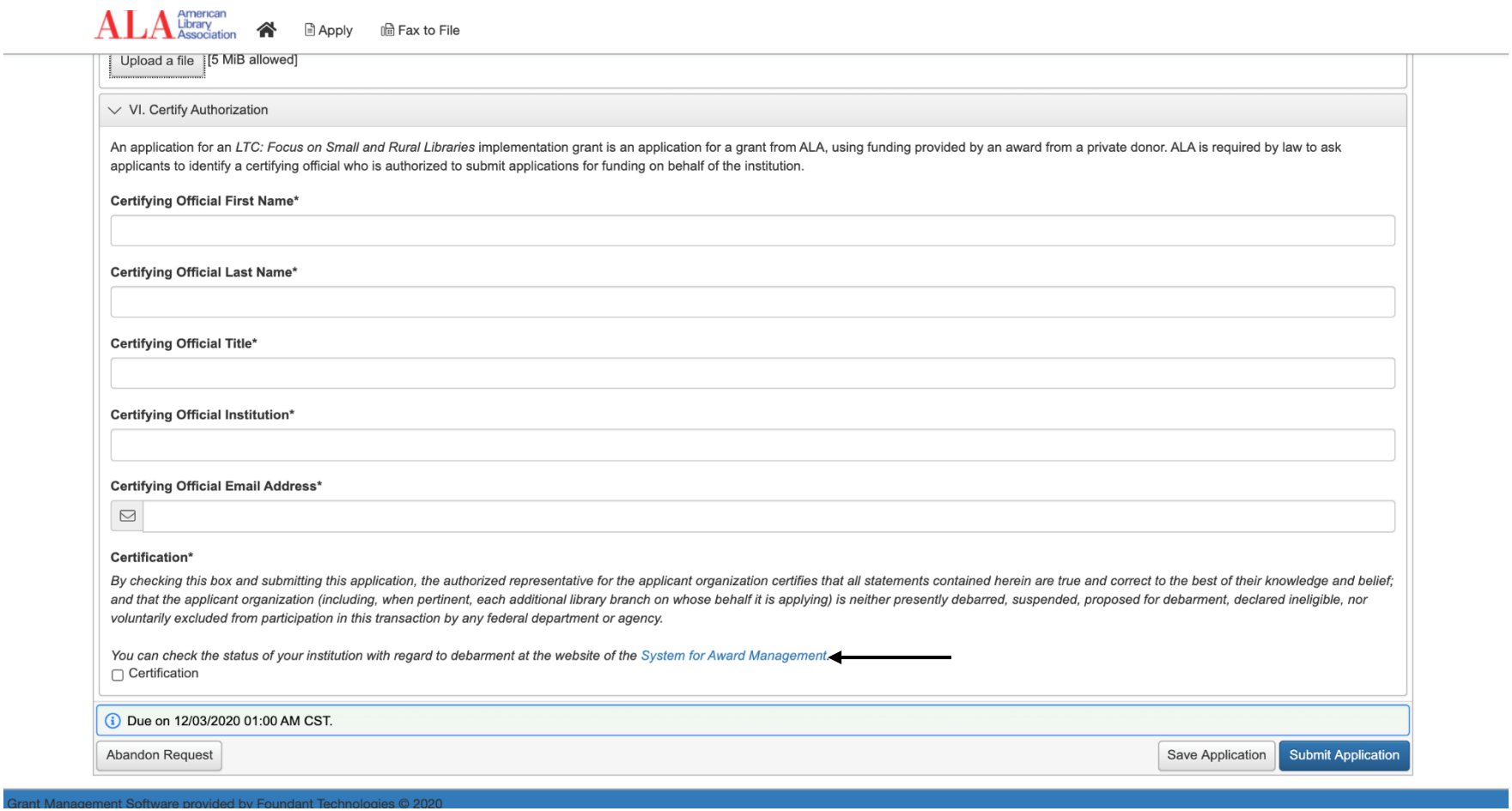

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TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

- Read the guidelines carefully
- Answer all the questions
- Provide numbers and examples to justify why your issue needs to be addressed
- Find partners
- Letters of support are optional
- ALA Public Programs staff is happy to offer pointers and answer questions. Email publicprograms@ala.org

QUESTIONS?