Polkassembly — Continuity Settlement & Transition Proposal (Treasury)

Summary

This proposal requests USD 62,700 to (1) settle a discounted portion of outstanding contributor compensation for already-delivered OpenGov infrastructure work, and (2) cover the minimum legal/administrative costs needed to conclude Polkassembly's current operating phase responsibly.

Polkassembly for Polkadot and Kusama will remain operational for at least ~4 months during the transition period (through 31 May 2026). Members of the technical team will maintain baseline operations without compensation during this window to avoid disruption to governance participants and ecosystem users.

1. Context and rationale for this proposal

Polkassembly has been built and operated as full-time governance infrastructure for Polkadot and Kusama for multiple years, serving as a primary interface for governance participation, discovery, discussion, and transparency.

During 2025 the ecosystem underwent substantial technical and governance shifts, including Asset Hub migration and evolving multi-chain indexing and data requirements. Supporting these changes required significant engineering and operational work spanning analytics infrastructure, data restructuring, and performance improvements.

We attempted to align this work and its funding through successive proposals. Scope was repeatedly reduced — including removing AI/Klara components and other overlapping items — culminating in Referendum 1814, which was ultimately rejected.

Following this outcome, we engaged extensively with Foundation stakeholders to determine a viable path forward under prevailing community sentiment. Guidance consistently emphasized:

- reducing the request to the lowest practical level
- presenting clear cost transparency
- submitting a tightly scoped community-reviewable proposal

This submission reflects that direction. It is structured specifically to conclude outstanding obligations responsibly while maintaining short-term continuity for ecosystem users.

2. Delivered work and shipped infrastructure

The work referenced across recent proposals represents concrete platform capabilities delivered in production, not abstract maintenance.

Transparency, analytics, and governance observability

We delivered analytics and transparency layers spanning treasury, delegation, bounty, and judgement data, including delegation statistics, bounty insights, and treasury-level visibility tools. These features improved governance discoverability and participation awareness across users and delegates.

Identity, relationships, and verification experience

We implemented identity-relationship tooling such as sub-identity UX flows, mapping of proxy and multisig relationships, and exploration tools aimed at improving governance-level visibility into account relationships and permissions.

Core infrastructure upgrades for Asset Hub era

Engineering work supported Asset Hub migration and long-term infrastructure sustainability, including:

- unified multi-chain indexing architecture

- schema and API refactoring

- migration to GCP infrastructure

- performance optimizations reducing latency and load times

These efforts were executed collaboratively with ecosystem technical stakeholders and were not billed separately at the time they were delivered.
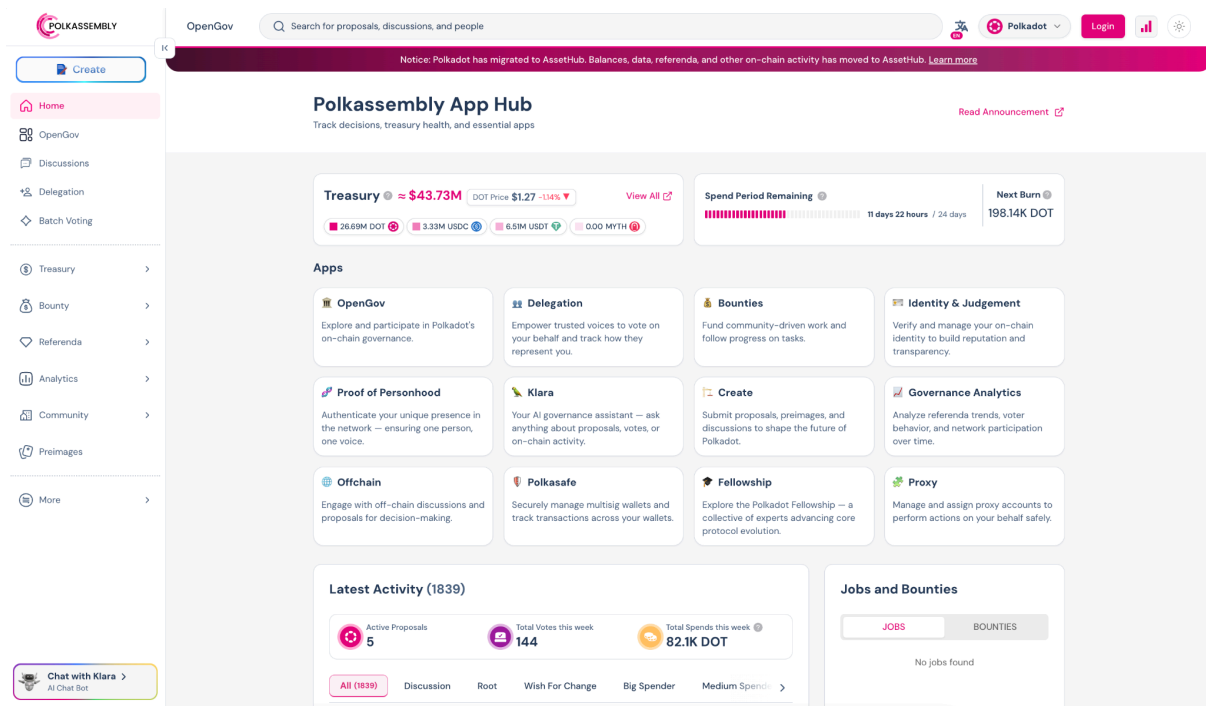
Developer-facing ecosystem infrastructure

We produced reusable APIs, UI components, and governance widgets enabling other ecosystem teams to integrate OpenGov data without rebuilding backend systems. These outputs continue to provide utility beyond Polkassembly itself.

AI and experimental work (Klara and related tooling)

AI-related governance tooling, including Klara, was developed and released with an open-source posture and subsequently excluded from funding scope to reduce proposal overlap and contention. These outputs remain available to the ecosystem at no cost and represent unbilled R&D effort that advanced governance tooling exploration.

Additional platform improvements

In alignment with the evolving Polkadot app ecosystem vision, we delivered the redesigned Polkassembly landing experience to significantly improve product discoverability and access to governance tools and services.

3. Summarizing the operational challenges

Building governance infrastructure requires continuous delivery while ecosystem expectations and technical directions evolve. Over the past year, conflicting signals regarding direction, priorities, and technical alignment created uncertainty in planning and budgeting.

Despite these conditions, the team continued delivering infrastructure relied upon by governance participants. The platform remained operational and improvements continued shipping.

As a result, compensation for multiple full-time contributors has been partially deferred for several months, even though their work was completed and deployed.

This proposal addresses that reality in a measured and responsible manner.

4. Scope clarification

This proposal represents:

- A minimized request to settle discounted contributor compensation for already-delivered work
- A request to complete the minimum legal/administrative steps for proper closure of the operating entity
- A continuity plan to keep Polkassembly running for a defined transition period

It does not represent:

- A maintenance or runway request
- A roadmap or expansion proposal
- Funding for future development

5. Community value and continuity commitments

This proposal is intentionally designed so the community receives tangible, durable value even during transition:

Operational continuity

Polkassembly will remain available for Polkadot and Kusama governance usage through the transition window, protecting user workflows and participation stability.

Open-source infrastructure availability

The Polkassembly codebase, Klara tooling, and associated governance infrastructure remain open for reuse and extension.

We're soon releasing a clear overview of the key technical infrastructure, features, optimizations, and tools we've built for OpenGov and other Polkadot products.

The goal is to make it easy for the community and future builders to understand, reuse, extend, and build on top of this work.

Full documentation coming shortly – stay tuned!

Delivered infrastructure utility

Analytics layers, identity tooling, delegation-related features, APIs, and developer components already deployed remain usable by ecosystem participants and integrators.

Responsible closure execution

A structured close-out prevents unresolved obligations and avoids ecosystem

reputational risk associated with disorderly termination of long-standing infrastructure providers.

6. Funding request and budget breakdown

We are requesting USD 62,700. intentionally structured as a reduced and transparent ask.

Closure execution costs — USD 12,700

- Accounting and corporate closure services — USD 10,000
- Legal and administrative closure execution — USD 2,700

Subtotal A: USD 12,700

B) Discounted contributor settlement — USD 50,000

This pool covers unpaid compensation for work delivered over the previous three months.

It excludes all founder compensation and reflects approximately a 45% reduction following internal discussions and early reviewer feedback.

Role	Amount
Senior Engineering	8,250
Engineering Team (2 FE + 1 BE)	25,000
Product / Operations	6,750
Design	5,400
QA / Support	4,600

Subtotal — USD 50,000

Total request

USD 12,700 + USD 50,000 = USD 62,700

While prior funding structures were based on feature scope and hours invested, the reduced scope of this proposal required reframing toward a transparent final settlement structure that accurately reflects remaining obligations.

Closing

We respectfully request community support to conclude this work responsibly — compensating contributors at a discounted level for delivered infrastructure and completing the minimum closure requirements. We remain available to provide clarification and documentation as appropriate.