

ProBoPatSM Frequently Ask Questions

1. What is ProBoPat’s mission?

- ProBoPat seeks to connect low income inventors in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming with patent practitioners for patent preparation and prosecution legal services on a pro bono (free) basis as well as to provide access to general business consulting, training and other resources for bringing new ideas to market.
- ProBoPat is open to all regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other factor.

2. Who is running ProBoPat?

- ProBoPat is administered by Mi Casa Resource Center, a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, as a fiscal sponsor of the Intellectual Property Section of the Colorado Bar Association.

3. Is ProBoPat accepting applicants?

- Yes.

4. Who should I contact with questions?

- Contact ProBoPat at 303-573-1302 or ProBoPat@MiCasaResourceCenter.org
- Information and application are available at <http://www.micasaresourcecenter.org/business-development/pro-bono-patent-program/>

5. Who may qualify for the program?

- Individual Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming residents who have a target annual income of three times the federal poverty guidelines or less (using the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services federal poverty guidelines available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>) and who in ProBoPat’s sole discretion would benefit from the program.
- **Income Qualification Examples (2019):**

# Persons in Family / Household	Poverty Guideline	ProBoPat Qualification – no more than (3x Poverty Guideline)
1	\$12,490	\$37,470
2	\$16,910	\$50,730
3	\$21,330	\$63,990
4	\$25,750	\$77,250

6. Who may not qualify for the program?

- Individuals who are not residents of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming.
- Individuals whose annual income exceeds the above qualification.
- Companies (for-profit or non-profit).

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7. How can I apply?

- Complete the ProBoPat Application Form, [Click here for ProBoPat Application](#) and
- Obtain USPTO certificate available at <http://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/certpck/index.htm>

8. Is there a fee to apply to the program?

- Yes. There is a \$50 fee. Once you are notified that your application has been accepted by ProBoPat, you must pay the \$50 fee to complete your acceptance into the program. The fee may be paid by credit card, check, or cash to Mi Casa Resource Center.

9. What happens after I apply?

- ProBoPat will let you know whether you have been accepted, and if so, a \$50 fee is due to complete your application. After receipt of the fee, ProBoPat will attempt to find a referral for you to a patent practitioner. ProBoPat will notify you when we have successfully matched you with a patent practitioner to assist you. It may take a number of months to match you with a patent practitioner.
- In any event, ProBoPat and Mi Casa Resource Center cannot guarantee that a patent practitioner referral will be available for your legal situation, and going through the application process does not guarantee or ensure that your legal situation will be addressed.

10. Once I am referred to a patent practitioner, then what?

- You and the patent practitioner must decide whether you would like to enter into an engagement. If you do not engage the patent practitioner, you may be eligible to return to ProBoPat for a second (and final) referral attempt.
- Once you engage in a representation by a patent practitioner, the patent practitioner will discuss with you your specific legal situation.
- Representations will, in most cases, be limited to a specific case and a specific amount of time or phase of patent prosecution.

11. Will ProBoPat keep my idea confidential?

- NO. Please do not share any confidential information about your invention with ProBoPat or Mi Casa Resource Center.
- Confidential information about your invention is not necessary for ProBoPat to determine your qualifications for the program, and should only be shared with a patent practitioner who ultimately agrees to represent you after a referral.
- ProBoPat will request very limited information about your idea, including the title/name of it, and a short summary of the basic subject matter, without going into detail about the invention. Confidential information should not be included.

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12. What is the cost of the program?

- There is a \$50 fee payable once your application is accepted by ProBoPat.
- For those who qualify, ProBoPat will seek to refer you to a patent practitioner who will provide services on a pro bono (free) basis.
- Applicants will be responsible for paying their own U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) government fees and other out-of-pocket costs involved in the representation. This arrangement should be discussed with your patent practitioner at the beginning of any representation.
 - For example, the filing, search and examination fee due to the USPTO for a Non Provisional Application (micro entity) is \$400.
- Below is a list of common government fees an inventor may need to pay over the lifetime of a patent. You should discuss the fees you may be required to pay with your patent practitioner. *The information contained below is for informational purposes only and is not necessarily comprehensive.*

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Government Fees for Micro-Entities

Application Filing Fees	Fee
Provisional Application	\$70.00
Non-provisional Application	\$430.00
Design Application	\$240.00

Application Examination Fees	Fee
Request for Continued Examination	
• 1st Request	\$325.00
• 2nd and Subsequent Requests	\$475.00
Extensions of Time	
• 1-month	\$50.00
• 2-month	\$150.00
• 3-month	\$350.00

Patent Issue Fees	Fee
Utility application	\$250.00
Design application	\$175.00

Post-issuance Maintenance Fees	Fee
3.5 years	\$400.00
7.5 years	\$900.00
11.5 years	\$1,850.00

*As of January 16, 2018.

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13. Does ProBoPat provide legal advice?

- NO. Neither ProBoPat, nor Mi Casa Resource Center, nor any of their respective volunteers, employees, or steering committee members will provide legal advice to applicants of the program. ProBoPat is only a referral service that attempts to connect low income inventors with patent practitioners. ProBoPat does not give legal advice or assist applicants in the patent legal process.

14. Does ProBoPat provide referral assistance for trademark or copyright matters?

- No, ProBoPat currently only accepts applicants for patent preparation and prosecution referrals.
- ProBoPat may be able to direct you to other organizations or resources which may assist with those types of matters.

15. Am I limited to working with a volunteer patent practitioner in my home state?

- No. Although ProBoPat will attempt to match applicants with patent practitioners in the same state, ProBoPat has the flexibility to accommodate high number of applicants from one state by utilizing patent practitioners from other states. Because most matters can be handled by email or phone, working with a patent practitioner from another state is typically not difficult.

16. May I participate in the business programs offered by The Women's Business Center at Mi Casa Resource Center?

- Yes. One of ProBoPat's goals is to assist inventors to create and grow a business to bring an invention to market. As a participant in the ProBoPat program we encourage you to take advantage of the services and programs offered by The Women's Business Center at Mi Casa Resource Center. Mi Casa's programs are open to all regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other factor. The business programs available to you are:
- -Individual Business Consulting including:
 - Startup Assistance
 - Assistance with Writing a Business Plan
 - Managing a Business
 - Marketing/Sales
 - Financial Management
 - Accessing Capital
- -Entrepreneurial Training
- -Technology Training.
- -Business Legal Night
- For more information about the services available to you please go to:
<http://www.micasaresourcecenter.org/business-development/>