

Getting a Discount

Today's blog highlights two discounts that the USPTO offers for small business and individuals called the small and micro entity discounts.

Small Entity Discounts

The three main ways for an applicant to qualify for the small entity discount are to be:

A person who has not transferred any of their patent rights to another entity that would not qualify as a small entity; or,

A business that qualifies under SBA rules as a small entity (currently fewer than 500 employees) and that has not transferred any of their patent rights to another entity that would not qualify as a small entity; or,

A non-profit organization that has not transferred any of their patent rights to an entity that would not qualify as a small entity.

Applications qualifying for a small entity discount receive a 50% discount off most USPTO fees.

Micro Entity Discounts

To qualify for a micro entity discount, the applicant must certify ([using this form](#)) that:

They qualify for the small entity discount; and,

None of the applicants or inventors have been named as inventors in more than four prior patent applications; and,

None of the applicants or inventors earned more than \$153,051 (subject to annual revision); and,

None of the applicants or inventors has transferred their patent rights to an entity that had gross income of more than \$153,051.

Applications qualifying for a micro entity discount receive 75% off most USPTO fees.

While the above discounts only apply to USPTO activities, when contracting for patent services don't be shy about telling people you are an individual, micro or small company. Though no one will advertise it, I have run across many companies providing patent related services that are happy provide special pricing to help small operations.

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