

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 professionals in those states for patent preparation and prosecution legal services on a pro bono (free) basis.

2. Who is running ProBoPat?

- The ProBoPat program is administered by the 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 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 (2016):

# Persons in Family / Household	Poverty Guideline	ProBoPat Qualification (3x Poverty Guideline)
1	\$11,880	\$35,640
2	\$16,020	\$48,060
3	\$20,160	\$60,480
4	\$24,300	\$72,900

6. Who may not qualify for the program?

- Individuals not residents of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming.
- Companies (for-profit or non-profit).
- Individuals who in ProBoPat’s sole discretion would require an extraordinary and disproportionate allocation of time and resources.

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7. How can I apply?

- Obtain USPTO certificate available at <http://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/certpck/>, and
- Fill Out ProBoPat Application Form

8. What happens after I apply?

- ProBoPat will let you know whether you have been accepted, and if so, ProBoPat will attempt to find a referral for you to a volunteer patent attorney. ProBoPat will notify you when we have been successful in matching you with a patent attorney to assist you. It may take a number of months to match you with a patent attorney. We will continue to work to match you with a volunteer and will keep you apprised of your status in the program.
- In any event, ProBoPat and Mi Casa cannot guarantee that an attorney 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.

9. Once I am referred to a patent attorney, then what?

- You and the patent attorney must decide whether you would like to enter into an engagement. If you do not engage the patent attorney, you may be eligible to return to ProBoPat for another referral attempt (limit 2).
- Once you engage in a representation by a volunteer attorney, the volunteer attorney 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.

10. Does ProBoPat provide legal advice?

- NO. Neither ProBoPat, nor the 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 professional volunteers, but ProBoPat does not give legal advice or assist applicants in the patent legal process.

11. Will ProBoPat keep my idea confidential?

- No. Please do not share any confidential information with ProBoPat or the Mi Casa Resource Center.
- Confidential information about your invention is not necessary in order for ProBoPat to determine your qualifications for the program, and should only be shared with a patent attorney who ultimately agrees to represent you after a referral.
- ProBoPat may 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?

- Applying to ProBoPat is free.
- For those who qualify, ProBoPat will seek to refer you to a volunteer patent professional who will provide services on a pro bono (free) basis.
- However, applicants will be responsible for paying their own U.S. Patent and Trademark Office fees. This arrangement should be discussed with your volunteer patent professional 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.

13. Does ProBoPat provide referral assistance for trademark or copyright issues?

- No, ProBoPat currently only accepts applicants with patent prosecution issues.
- ProBoPat may be able to refer you to other organizations or resources which may assist with those types of issues.

14. Am I limited to working with a volunteer patent professional in my home state?

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