



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS

- NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

How to Know Whether Your Small Business is “Small” in the SBA’s Eyes

Washington, D.C., March 27, 2009 - Your business may be eligible for assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA), with loan amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$350,000.

Vicki Rolens, managing director of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT), says, “A significant number of our members own and operate their own businesses. They could use help from the SBA but they aren’t sure if they technically qualify as *small* businesses under that agency’s guidelines.”

FACT is a not-for-profit association which was founded in 1984 and which provides a variety of benefits -- ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental care discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#) and [timely consumer information](#) -- for more than 1 million Americans nationwide.

In response to member inquiries, FACT has published a link on its Web site which lets business owners readily locate the SBA’s size standards.

Some Examples

“Basically,” states Rolens, the definition of ‘small’ depends upon your particular industry, and is based upon either the business’ annual receipts or average number of employees.”

She goes on to point out that a wheat or corn farmer is classified as a small business if its annual receipts are less than \$750,000 annually, whereas a wholesaler of computer or office equipment is small if it has fewer than 100 employees.

“And,” she says, “if you’re in the business of new single-family housing construction, you are considered ‘small’ if your annual receipts are less than \$33.5 million!”

In addition to meeting size requirements, a business must be for-profit, must not have the internal resources to provide its own financing, and must be able to demonstrate repayment capability.

Consumers may find out whether their businesses are eligible for SBA assistance by visiting the FACT Web site (www.usafact.org) and clicking on News Bulletins. There is also a list of SBA Government Contracting Area Offices, along with the proper SBA telephone number and email addresses to use.

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Questions may be directed to FACT by sending an e-mail to cservice@usafact.org. More information on the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's web site (www.usafact.org). [The organization was formed](#) under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. Its administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

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