

Federal Communications Commission



Office of Communications Business Opportunities

www.fcc.gov/ocbo/

Commission Meeting

January 15, 2004

Office of Communications Business Opportunities

Mission

Inform FCC policymakers on key issues, serve to promote opportunities for small, minority, and women-owned businesses, and provide outreach to the public.

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Small businesses are an important component of the thriving telecommunications sector of the U.S. economy.

- \$290 Billion—value of radio, TV, telephone, and telegraph to U.S. Gross Domestic Product (2001 U.S. Census Bureau data)
- 97.9% of U.S. telecommunications field employers are small businesses (SBA data)
- 60 to 80% of all net new jobs annually are generated by small businesses (SBA data)

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Intra-Agency
Relationships

OCBO

CGB

- Tribal addresses from Small Business Database

OSP

- Advisory Committee on Diversity

OLA

- Section 257 Report Legislative Proposals

WTB

- Small Business Size Standards

EB

- Small Business Enforcement
- Small Business Administration Ombudsman

OET

- Unlicensed Spectrum Conference

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Small Business Size Standards (5 U.S.C. § 632)



What size is a “small entity”?

The FCC needs to know, to provide policy initiatives or special exceptions to assist small entities.

- The FCC uses 9 generic SBA telecommunications small entity size standards.
- For FY 2003, OCBO assisted in coordinating 5 special size standards with Bureaus and Offices and the SBA.

Advanced Wireless Services (example):

- *Small Businesses*—those with \$40 million or less in annual revenue.
- *Very Small Businesses*—those with \$15 million or less in annual revenue.

Competition

Spectrum

Media

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National Ombudsman Coordination
(5 U.S.C. § 657)



OCBO is the FCC's liaison to the SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman.

- OCBO coordinates enforcement matters with EB.

During FY 2003, we represented the FCC in three Ombudsman programs by:

- Handling three Ombudsman-forwarded comments concerning FCC enforcement actions.
- Making presentations at Ombudsman public hearings in Montpelier, Vermont, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa (broadcast statewide).
- Submitting letters and memos to assist the Ombudsman with its annual Report to Congress, which “grades” agencies on their performance.

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Inter-Agency
Relationships



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President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13216 on June 6, 2001.

- 34 federal agencies participate in this White House Initiative on AAPIs.
- As an independent agency, the FCC voluntarily participates in this White House Initiative, sharing its telecommunications expertise in the small business context.
- Recently, the FDIC contacted us about utilizing the Universal Service E-Rate program to assist an AAPI community in rural, upstate New York.
- OCBO Director serves on policy-making Interagency Working Group.
- OCBO Attorney serves on policy-implementing Coordinating Committee.

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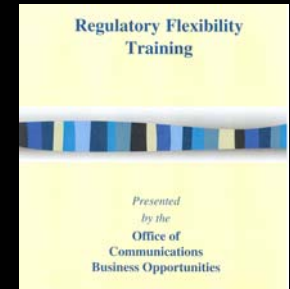
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Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)—Analyses and Certifications

(5 U.S.C. §§ 601, 603-09, 611)

OCBO implements the FCC's RFA compliance.



- Reviews 100 (+) Bureau and Office RFA analyses and certifications in rulemakings.
- Conducts agency-wide training—most recently for 263 rule writers.
- Coordinates issues with the SBA Office of Advocacy.
- Assists Bureaus and Offices in describing industry small entities, using census data and size standards as criteria.
- Guides Bureaus and Offices to consider rulemaking alternatives to lessen the burden on small entities (RFA memo in Agenda Handbook).

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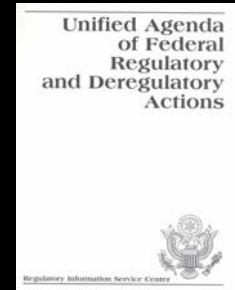
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Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions (5 U.S.C. § 602)



- “Snapshot” of all federal agencies’s regulations under development.
- Regulatory Flexibility Act requirement. • GSA publishes the Unified Agenda.
- Provides a summary of current regulatory proceedings.
- OCBO coordinates the FCC’s submission with Bureaus and Offices.
- Fall 2003 Unified Agenda submission contains 134 ongoing FCC rulemakings.

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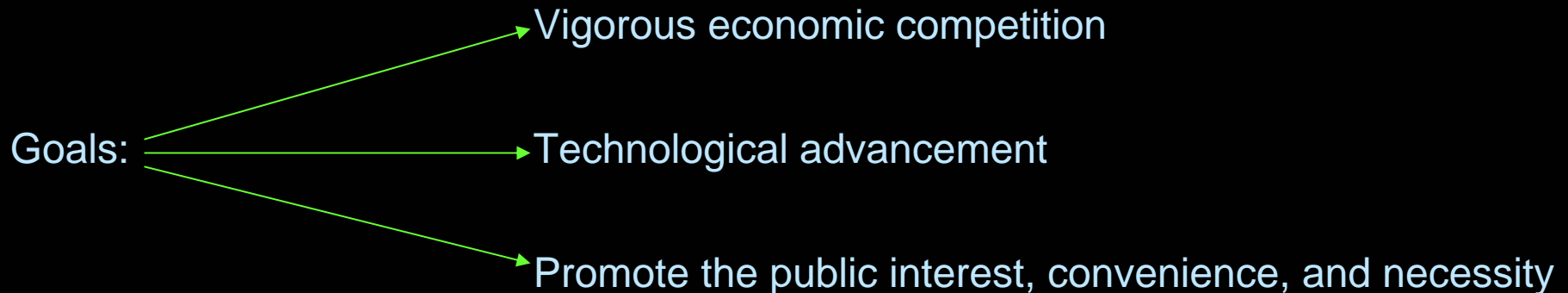
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Section 257 Report (47 U.S.C. § 257)

Triennial Report to Congress that details the FCC's actions to eliminate regulatory barriers and identify statutory barriers to market entry that small businesses face.



3rd Report adopted December 2003, details work and proposals from:

- CGB
- EB
- IB
- MB
- OCBO
- OLA
- OET
- WCB
- WTB

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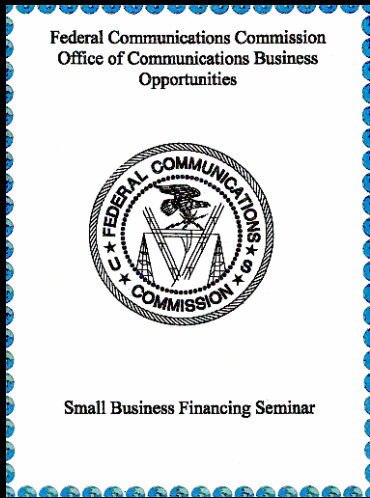
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Outreach

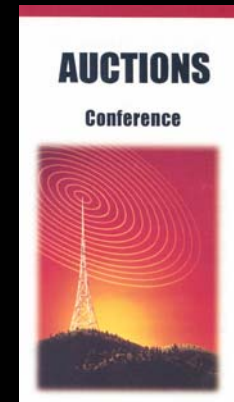


- Database growth
250 to 3,000 contacts

OCBO



- Seminars



- Conferences

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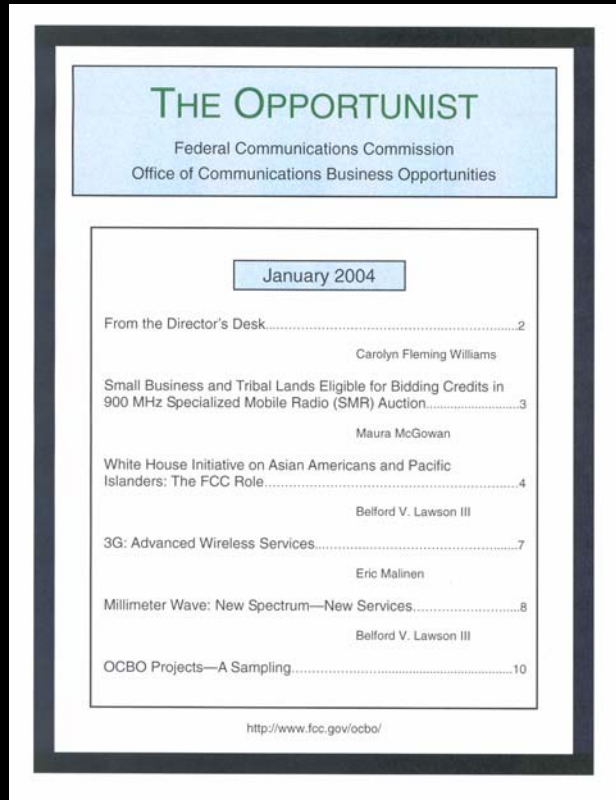
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- 1st periodic OCBO publication tailored for the small and minority and women-owned telecommunications business community.
- Fulfillment of OCBO's mandate to reach out to the small business community.
- Internet accessible: www.fcc.gov/ocbo

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Goals for 2004-05

- Modernize Small Business database
- Institute Compliance Guide Program
- Hold Section 257 Report Small Business Roundtable
- Host Women in Communications Forum
- Conduct Small Business Seminars and Workshops with Bureaus and Offices

Helping small business is good business.

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