

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Only patents for drug products, medical devices, food additives, or color additives are potentially eligible for extension. The maximum length that a patent may be extended under 35 U.S.C. 156 is five years. The USPTO administers 35 U.S.C. 156 through 37 CFR 1.710–1.791.

This information collection covers information gathered in patent term extension applications submitted under 35 U.S.C. 156(d). Under this provision, an application for patent term extension must identify the approved product; the patent to be extended; and the claims included in the patent that cover the approved product, a method of using the approved product, or a method of manufacturing the approved product. 35 U.S.C. 156(d) also requires the submission of information that enables the USPTO to determine the eligibility of the patent for extension, and the rights that will be derived from the extension, and information to enable the USPTO and the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the period of the extension. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 156(d) requires the applicant for patent term extension to provide a brief description of the activities undertaken by the applicant during the regulatory review period with respect to the approved product and the significant dates of these activities.

This information collection also covers information gathered in requests for interim extensions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) and 156(e)(2). Under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5), an interim extension may be granted if the applicable regulatory review period that began for a product is reasonably expected to extend beyond the expiration of the patent term in effect. Under 35 U.S.C. 156(e)(2), an interim extension may be granted if the term of an eligible patent for which an application for patent term extension has been submitted would expire before a certificate of extension is issued. In addition, this information collection covers requests for review of final eligibility decisions, and requests to withdraw an application requesting a patent term extension after it is submitted.

Separate from the extension provisions of 35 U.S.C. 156, the USPTO may in some cases adjust the term of an original patent under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154 due to certain delays in the prosecution of the patent application, including delays caused by interference and derivation proceedings, secrecy orders, or appellate review by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board or a federal court in which the patent is

issued pursuant to a decision reversing an adverse USPTO determination of patentability. The USPTO administers 35 U.S.C. 154 through 37 CFR 1.701–1.705. The patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b), as amended by Title IV, Subtitle D of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999, allow the applicant an opportunity to request reconsideration of the USPTO's patent term adjustment determination. This information collection covers information gathered in such a request.

In addition, this information collection covers information collected when the USPTO reduces the amount of a granted patent term adjustment if delays were caused by an applicant's failure to make a reasonable effort to respond to a communication from the USPTO within three months of the communication's mailing date. Applicants may petition for reinstatement of a reduction in patent term adjustment with a showing that, in spite of all due care, the applicant was unable to respond to a communication from the USPTO within the three-month period.

*Forms:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

*Affected Public:* Private sector.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 903 respondents.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 903 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately 1 hour to 25 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 6,807 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden:* \$489,440. The postage costs have increased since the publication of the 60-day **Federal Register** notice, from \$11.20 to \$12.25 for the Priority Mail legal flat rate envelope used for mailed submissions. As a result, the estimated postage costs have increased from \$101 to \$110. This accounts for the added \$9 to the

estimated total annual non-hourly cost burden.

**Justin Isaac,**

*Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2026–03900 Filed 2–25–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–C–2026–0100]

#### Request for Comments on Community Outreach Office Locations in the Southeast Region

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is seeking information to consider regarding the selection of locations for one or more community outreach offices (COOs) in the Southeast Region, which the USPTO was directed to establish under the Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022 (UAI Act). This region includes Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received by 5 p.m. ET on or before March 30, 2026, and should be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the **ADDRESSES** section. No public hearing will be held.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted electronically to [NewOffices@uspto.gov](mailto:NewOffices@uspto.gov). Attachments will be accepted as MICROSOFT WORD® or ADOBE® PDF documents. To be considered, comments must be submitted to the email box. Information that the submitter does not desire to be publicly available, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

If submission of comments to [NewOffices@uspto.gov](mailto:NewOffices@uspto.gov) is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please contact the USPTO using the contact information below for special instructions regarding how to submit comments by mail or by hand delivery, based on the public's ability to obtain access to USPTO facilities at the time.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Shipp, Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for

Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, at 571–272–8600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

Enabled by the 2011 Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), Public Law 112–29, the USPTO currently has regional offices that are located in Detroit, Michigan; San Jose, California (Silicon Valley); Dallas, Texas; and Alexandria, Virginia (as well as a regional office in Denver, Colorado that is planned to be closed in 2026). The purpose of the regional offices (ROs), as originally defined in the AIA and amended by the UAIA, Public Law 117–328, 104 (2022), and signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 on December 29, 2022, is to:

- Better connect patent filers and innovators with the Office, including by increasing outreach activities to individual innovators, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings;

- Enhance patent examiner and administrative patent judge retention, which includes patent examiners and administrative patent judges from economically, geographically, and demographically diverse backgrounds;
- Improve recruitment of patent examiners;

- Decrease the number of patent applications waiting for examination; and

- Improve the quality of examination.

The USPTO has been focused on outreach and impact, and is developing ways to better introduce, support and assist those who may be new to the innovation ecosystem, enabling the involvement and participation of more individuals.

In addition to regional offices, the UAIA requires the USPTO to establish at least four COOs within five years from enactment of the Act (*i.e.*, no later than December 29, 2027). The purposes of the COOs are to:

- Further achieve the purposes described above for the ROs;
- Partner with local community organizations, institutions of higher education, research institutions, and businesses to create community-based programs that provide education regarding the patent system; and promote the career benefits of innovation and entrepreneurship; and

- Educate prospective innovators, including individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group

of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings, about all public and private resources available to potential applicants, including pro bono programs.

The Northern New England Community Outreach Office was established in January 2025 in Durham, New Hampshire. The Mountain West Community Outreach Office located in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Northwest Frontier Community Outreach Office located in Bozeman, Montana, were established in February 2026.

The USPTO is seeking information to consider regarding the selection of locations for one or more COOs in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

The USPTO will use quantitative metrics and criteria to evaluate and assess the location selection for future COOs. The Office intends to consider the following classes of data (D) at a minimum:

- Robust research activity and graduate level programs of study in areas which lead to innovations, IP, and IP-intensive companies/industries;

- Availability and concentration of existing commercialization and business development resources (Innovation Ecosystem); and

- Ability to support all innovators, as set forth in UAIA, Sec. 104(b)(3).

The USPTO welcomes input from all stakeholders on any matter that they believe is relevant to the overall planning and design or site selection of the USPTO COOs that will serve the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Commenters are encouraged to address any or all of the statutory considerations listed in the UAIA and summarized above, any other considerations they believe the USPTO should consider, and the questions listed below.

To be considered, comments must be submitted to [NewOffices@uspto.gov](mailto:NewOffices@uspto.gov). Please cite any public data that relates to or supports your responses. If data is available but non-public, describe such data to the extent permissible.

**II. Planning and Design Considerations of New Community Outreach Offices**

With the addition of COOs to the agency's footprint, the USPTO envisions the joint mission of the COOs to be the cultivation and expansion of a vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem supported by intellectual property across the United States. To

accomplish this mission, the offices will conduct broad stakeholder engagement with innovators ranging from individual innovators to multinational business entities; establish and leverage partnerships and relationships to scale the USPTO's work; incentivize regional innovation and entrepreneurship, especially in key emerging areas (*e.g.* artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, and distributed ledger); and promote full participation by innovators and entrepreneurs of all backgrounds, including in rural areas and from our armed services, to support U.S. innovation and job creation.

**III. Specific Questions for Comment**

The USPTO invites responses to the following questions:

*Community Outreach Offices*

1. Considering the envisioned mission described above, what essential services—including outreach, education, and customer service—should a COO provide to achieve the statutory purposes?

a. Should the services identified be delivered in person? Why or why not?

b. Should the services identified be delivered virtually? Why or why not?

2. What types of organizations should the COO seek to establish relationships and collaborations with to better leverage and scale its services?

3. Would there be a benefit for a COO to be co-located with other public sector entities/services (*e.g.* universities)?

a. If so, please describe the added value of having a shared location.

b. Which public sector entities/services would you suggest for the shared location(s)?

c. If not, please describe the benefit of having a unique location for a COO.

*General Comments Regarding New Community Outreach Offices*

4. What unique services should the COOs individually provide, and how should the full range of services complement each other?

5. Considering the potential classes of data listed in Part I above, what additional key indicators or data would support COO site selection?

6. What other factors should the USPTO consider when planning for the new COOs?

*Location of New Community Outreach Offices*

Given the statutory purposes and considerations of COOs, as discussed in Part I, and the planning and design considerations identified in Part II:

7. Which location is ideal for one or more community outreach offices

(COOs) in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas?

8. What else should the USPTO consider when determining the ideal locations for new Community Outreach Offices?

While the Office welcomes and values all comments from the public in response to this request, the comments submitted do not commit the Office to any further actions related to the comments, and the Office may not respond to any or every submitted comment. The Office nonetheless will consider all written submissions. Private information should not be included as there is no guarantee that it will not become public.

Any and all decisions made regarding the future locations of the COOs will be consistent with the criteria outlined in the UAIA and the goals and mission of the USPTO.

**John A. Squires,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2026-03860 Filed 2-25-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Post Allowance and Reissue

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. The USPTO invites comments on the information collection renewal of 0651-0033 (Post Allowance and Reissue), which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the reporting burden on the public. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on October 23, 2025, during a 60-day comment period (90 FR 48505). This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before March 30, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website, <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the information collection or the OMB Control Number, 0651-0033. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** This information collection request may be viewed at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.

- **Email:** [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651-0033 information request” in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- **Telephone:** Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, 571-272-7728.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Post Allowance and Reissue.  
**OMB Control Number:** 0651-0033.

**Abstract:** This collection of information covers the submission of issue fee payments, requests for certificates of correction, and reissue applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The USPTO is required by 35 U.S.C. 131 and 151 to examine applications and, when appropriate, allow applications and issue them as patents. When an application for a patent is allowed by the USPTO, the USPTO issues a notice of allowance and the applicant must pay the specified issue fee within three months to avoid abandonment of the application. If the appropriate fees are paid within the proper time period, the USPTO can then issue the patent. The rules outlining the procedure or payment of the issue fee and issuance of a patent are found at 37 CFR 1.18, 1.311, and 1.314.

This collection of information also covers several transactions that may be taken after issuance of a patent.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 254 and 255, a certificate of correction may be

requested to correct an error or errors of an issued patent. If the USPTO determines that the request should be approved, the USPTO will issue a certificate of correction.

For an original patent that is believed to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid, the original patentee, or the current patent owner if there was been a subsequent assignment, may apply for the reissue of the patent. The reissue application process requires, among other items, provision of an oath or declaration specifically identifying at least one error being relied upon as the basis for reissue and stating the reason for the belief that the original patent is wholly or partly imperative or invalid (e.g., a defective specification or drawing, or claiming more or less than the patentee had the right to claim in the patent). The rules outlining reissue application procedures are found at 37 CFR 1.171-1.173 and 1.175-1.178.

The information in this information collection can be submitted using the USPTO patent electronic filing system (Patent Center) for patent applications and related documents.

**Forms:** (AIA = America Invents Act; SB = Specimen Book; PTOL = Patent Trademark Official Legal Forms)

- PTO/AIA/05 (Reissue Application Declaration by the Inventor)
- PTO/AIA/06 (Reissue Application Declaration by the Assignee)
- PTO/AIA/07 (Substitute Statement in Lieu of an Oath or Declaration for Reissue Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 115(d) and 37 CFR 1.64)

- PTO/AIA/50 (Reissue Patent Application Transmittal)
- PTO/AIA/53 (Reissue Application: Consent of Assignee; Statement of Non-Assignment)
- PTO/SB/44 (Certificate of Correction)
- PTO/SB/51 (Reissue Application Declaration by the Inventor)
- PTO/SB/51S (Supplemental Declaration for Reissue Patent Application to Correct “Errors” Statement (37 CFR 1.175)
- PTO/SB/52 (Reissue Application Declaration by the Assignee)
- PTO/SB/53 (Reissue Application: Consent of Assignee; Statement of Non-Assignment)
- PTO/SB/56 (Reissue Application Fee Transmittal Form)
- PTOL-85 Part B (Fee(s) Transmittal)

**Type of Review:** Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

**Affected Public:** Private sector.  
**Respondent’s Obligation:** Required to obtain or retain benefits.

**Frequency:** On occasion.  
**Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 473,710 respondents.

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