

SBA vs. Office of Advocacy Comparison Chart



MISSION	<p>The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is one of the federal government agencies under the Executive Branch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SBA assists small businesses through financial assistance, disaster assistance, and counseling to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. 	<p>Advocacy is an independent office in the federal government housed within SBA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The office advocates on behalf of small business by ensuring their concerns with proposed regulations are heard and considered by the White House, Congress, and federal agencies. - In addition, the office provides the public and lawmakers with sound economic research to facilitate small business growth.
BUDGET	Responsible for its own budget while also providing Advocacy with the necessary tools for standard operations.	Responsible for its own budget which underscores its independence and indicates that Congress intends to clearly identify the resources available to Advocacy. SBA provides office space and equipment.
OUTREACH	10 Regional Administrators, 50+ Regional Offices, and 4 Disaster Assistance Offices further the mission of the SBA by providing development services and training along with counseling and financial help and guidance.	10 Regional Advocates gain first-hand knowledge about the regulatory barriers impeding small business success and bring back to Washington, D.C. the best practices of America's small businesses. Advocacy staff hosts roundtables and visits small businesses to hear feedback on proposed rules.
ASSISTANCE WITH REGULATORY PROCESS	<p>- SBA Ombudsman -</p> <p>Post Regulation: Assist small businesses with complaints about final federal practices and actions.</p>	<p>- Advocacy Interagency -</p> <p>Pre-Regulation: Find and suggest alternatives to proposed federal rules.</p>
FEDERAL REGULATIONS	Establish SBA regulations and participate in the Office of Management and Budget approval process.	Works directly with all federal agencies to suggest solutions or alternatives that achieve the agency's goals while easing the burden on small business.
LEGAL	Office of the General Counsel assists SBA in legal matters.	Advocacy's Chief Counsel, the head of the Office of Advocacy, is not involved in SBA litigation.
RESEARCH	Report on SBA program data.	Advocacy's Office of Economic Research is the only unit of the federal government to develop and maintain data exclusively on small business and to study the impact of federal policy on small businesses. The research provides policymakers with the knowledge to write sound legislation that will build a strong US economy.
LOANS	Provide various small business loans. (7(a) loans, 504 loans, SBIR grants).	N/A