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## Status

Small charities have a new, simpler process for applying for tax-exempt status. The Internal Revenue Service has introduced Form 1023-EZ, a shorter application form to help small charities apply for 501(c)(3) recognition.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Jul. 01, 2014

**Form 1023**  
(Rev. June 2008)  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Application for Recognition Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

Use the instructions to complete this application and for a definition of the terms used. Organizations Customer Account Services toll-free at 1-877-829-5500. If the required information and documents are not submitted, the application may be returned to you.

Attach additional sheets to this application if you need more space to answer by Part and line number. Complete Parts I - XI of Form 1023-EZ. Do not apply to you.

**Identification of Applicant**

Name of organization (exactly as it appears in your organizing documents)

Address (Number and street) (see instructions)

City, state or country, and ZIP + 4

Room/suite

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The new Form 1023-EZ, available today on IRS.gov, is three pages long, compared with the standard 26-page Form 1023. Most small organizations, including as many as 70 percent of all applicants, qualify to use the new streamlined form. Most organizations with gross receipts of \$50,000 or less and assets of \$250,000 or less are eligible.

“Previously, all of these groups went through the same lengthy application process — regardless of size,” Koskinen said. “It didn't matter if you were a small soccer or gardening club or a major research organization. This process created needlessly long delays for groups, which didn't help the groups, the taxpaying public or the IRS.”

The change will allow the IRS to speed the approval process for smaller groups and free up resources to review applications from larger, more complex organizations while reducing the application backlog. Currently, the IRS has more than 60,000 501(c)(3) applications in its backlog, with many of them pending for nine months.

Following feedback this spring from the tax community and those working with charitable groups, the IRS refined the 1023-EZ proposal for today's announcement, including revising the \$50,000 gross receipts threshold down from an earlier figure of \$200,000.

“We believe that many small organizations will be able to complete this form without creating major compliance risks,” Koskinen said. “Rather than using large amounts of IRS resources up front reviewing complex applications during a lengthy process, we believe the streamlined form will allow us to devote more compliance activity on the back end to ensure groups are actually doing the charitable work they apply to do.”

The [new EZ form](#) must be filed online. The [instructions](#) include an eligibility

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