UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITATION

2008 Accreditation Application for Local Chambers

Section 4 Government Affairs

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Accreditation Overview

Welcome

Welcome to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Accreditation application program. We are excited that you are interested in standing out from the crowd and moving ahead. We want to help your through the Accreditation process by explaining our procedures, walking you through the steps to complete the materials, and clarifying what you can expect from us.

The Accreditation Application is divided into nine sections with a complete set of instructions at the beginning of each one. If you have already completed a section and you are familiar with the instructions, click on the Governance Overview icon in the Bookmark Section to the left of your screen. Otherwise, the background and instructions should be reviewed in detail starting with the Accreditation Overview, below.

Accreditation History

In 1964, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce began offering its Accreditation Program to state and local chambers of commerce nationwide. The program was designed to provide a continuous self-analysis of an organization's growth and development, with an opportunity for the organization to reassess its objectives and resources, program of work, procedures, and achievements. Since the Accreditation program's launch, more than 750 chambers have met the required organizational standards and have earned the title "Accredited."

Accreditation means that a local or state chamber of commerce has been recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for having sound programs and organizational procedures and for continually creating and maintaining positive change in the community.

The U.S. Chamber Accreditation program establishes criteria for judging the quality of performance for state and local chambers of commerce, determines the extent to which organizations meet these criteria, and issues a public announcement that organizations are found to be of superior quality.

The U.S. Chamber understands that state and local chambers are diverse and have unique programs of work, operations, merit, dues structure, and program policies. As a result, the Accreditation program has separated the state chamber Accreditation process from the local chamber Accreditation process. Distinct applications have been created to recognize these differences.

Accreditation does not mean that an organization is perfect in every respect. Competent examiners acknowledge the quality of an organization and make recommendations where there are areas of deficiency and recognize chambers for areas of special distinction.

Effective chambers of commerce operate above and beyond minimum standards. As each chamber prepares its Accreditation application, it seeks ways of improving its performance in the community. These criteria or standards become a tool for management control and self-discipline.

Mission

The mission of the Accreditation program is to establish a standard of organizational competency and an objective set of criteria for assessment. The achievement of standards by state and local chambers as determined by an examining committee will be recognized with Accreditation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

<u>Procedures to Apply</u>

Make Sure Your Chamber is Entered into the Accreditation Database

We want to make sure you are properly entered in our database. If you have not yet entered your contact information, click here http://www.uschamber.com/chambers/accreditation/intent.htm and follow the steps. Upon receipt, U.S. Chamber staff will enter the information into a database, allowing the applicant chamber to receive updates about the Accreditation process and invitations to conference calls discussing the application process. **Do not send the program fee at this time.**

If clicking the link doesn't work, make sure your computer is set up to access the Internet and try again. If you still experience difficulty, call Mathew Wasserburger at (202) 463-5821.

Access the Application Documents

There are nine sections of the Accreditation application:

1. Governance
2. Finance
3. Human Resources and Staff
4. Government Affairs
5. Program Development
6. Technology
7. Communication
8. Facilities
9. Benchmarking

Copies of all nine sections of the Accreditation application can be found on our Web site at
http://www.uschamber.com/chambers/accreditation/app.htm

These files can be completed by one person at the chamber or distributed to other chamber staff or volunteers to assist in the ultimate completion of the application.

To assist in distributing the files, chamber staff or volunteers may go directly to the web site to download the sections of interest to them.

No matter how many staff members or volunteers are working on the application, the chamber's designated staff contact person should be the only one to communicate with the U.S. Chamber staff.

Review the Application

Review the application in its entirety — all nine sections — to determine whether the chamber is prepared to begin the Accreditation process. Use the glossary at the end of the each file to familiarize yourself with the language of the application. Glossary items can also be accessed by clicking on highlighted text. In the glossary a link is provided to return to the highlighted text.

Complete the Application Documents

Each applicant chamber is required to complete all nine sections of the Accreditation application.

Each of the application's nine sections is a self-contained document including:

- Application instructions and overview
- Section's standards as defined by the U.S. Chamber
- A list of minimum qualifications to achieve Accreditation for that section
- A checklist of attachments
- A digital application from

The digital application form is divided into two categories; the minimum requirements which must be met for the chamber to be Accredited, and the additional criteria which will be evaluated to determine the star ranking of an Accredited chamber.

Complete the Conclusion and Signature Page

The Conclusion and Signature Page can be found on our Web site
http://www.uschamber.com/chambers/accreditation/app.htm. The U.S. Chamber requires that these pages
be completed digitally, then printed and signed by the Chief Paid Executive and Chief Elected Officer.

Prepare the Application Materials for Delivery

Copy the nine pdf files and the conclusion page and signature page to a CD or USB drive. Print and sign the
completed Conclusion and Signature Pages, and enclose the payment form with a signed check or credit card
information for $699 for U.S. Chamber members; $1,199 for non members.

Mail the Application Materials to the U.S. Chamber

The application materials should be put into an envelope with the completed Conclusion and Signature Pages
and the payment and mailed to:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
c/o Political Affairs and Federation Relations, Accreditation
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062-2000

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Review Process

Review

Once the completed application and program fee have been received, U.S. Chamber staff will review the chamber's submission for minimum requirements. Due to the volume of applications received, we ask that you please do not contact the U.S. Chamber to inquire about the status of the chamber's application. In the event that minimum requirements have not been met or there are missing materials, U.S. Chamber staff will contact you.

An experienced Accreditation consultant will review the application and make recommendations. The consultant may contact the applicant to ask questions that might arise during the review. Based on the findings, a confidential report with recommendations will be prepared and sent to the Accrediting board, the governing body of the Accreditation program made up of business and chamber executives. The Accrediting board will review the recommendations and approve or disapprove the chamber's Accreditation status.

Recommendations will be presented to the Accrediting board at the February, June, and November board meetings. The day following the Accrediting board meeting, the applicant will be notified about the chamber's Accreditation status.

Awards

All Accredited chambers must meet the minimum requirements for each section of the application. If the applicant completed the additional criteria sections of the application, the Accreditation consultant will review the additional material and designate the chamber as Accredited, Accredited with 3-Stars, Accredited with 4-Stars, or Accredited with 5-Stars based on the number of additional criteria points scored in each sections of the application. A chamber earning at least 70% of the total number of points will be awarded Accredited with 3-Stars; 80%, Accredited with 4-Stars; 90% or more, Accredited with 5-Stars.

Post Accreditation Materials

Upon receiving Accreditation, the chamber will receive a marketing kit with the following:

• Letter of congratulations from Tom Donohue, U.S. Chamber President and CEO
• Press release
• Certificate of achievement
• Recommendations for improvement
• Sample newsletter articles and Web page blurbs
• Camera-ready logos
• U.S. Chamber of Commerce resource guide

Each chamber receiving Accreditation will be acknowledged on the U.S. Chamber's Web site.

Maintaining Accreditation

To maintain Accreditation, a chamber must submit an Accreditation application every five years. Chambers will receive an email from U.S. Chamber staff during the fourth year of Accreditation. It will remind them of the need to renew and provide links to the materials required for the renewal.

Confidentiality

The U.S. Chamber agrees to maintain the confidentiality of information received throughout this application except in cases where (1) the information is or becomes publicly known from sources other than the application itself (2) the information is received by the U.S. Chamber without restriction from a third party (3) the information is independently developed by the U.S. Chamber, or (4) the information is disclosed by the U.S. Chamber pursuant to judicial action.

Tech Support

Navigation

The Accreditation application uses bookmark navigation to assist the applicant in navigating the application. Please note that the pages of this file are divided in two. The left-hand side presents "bookmarks" that can be used to take you directly to specific pages in the document. Clicking on the triangle beside the bookmarks will "open them up" and provide you with a more detailed set of bookmarks for the section.

If you have had no experience with this type of navigation, give it a try and become comfortable with it before going on.

Completing Each Section

"Yes/No" Radio Buttons

Radio buttons — ▣ — are used for "yes/no" questions. If you inadvertently click a "yes" button, you can change your answer by clicking on the "no" button, and vice-versa. Radio buttons are also used to "check off" items on a list. If you inadvertently click a "check off" button, you can change your answer by clicking it a second time.

Short Answers

Space is provided to enter short answers. For example, the question, "In which government jurisdiction is the chamber's incorporation or charter filed?" should be answered like this:

Washington, D.C.

In some cases, the answer may exist in another file. It can be copied and pasted into the text box.

Where the answer is best provided by entering the entire file, the file can be attached, see below.

Attachments

In each section you are required to provide Attachments to support the application. Instructions for making the Attachments follow. Note that you can terminate the process before it is complete by pressing the escape key (ESC).

Digital files

If the attachment is a digital file in a common format (Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint; Adobe Acrobat pdf, etc.), the file can attached electronically. Each attachment has an "attachment area" that looks like this:

Attachment: _____

A reminder of the instructions to attach a file can be accessed by clicking the ? icon.
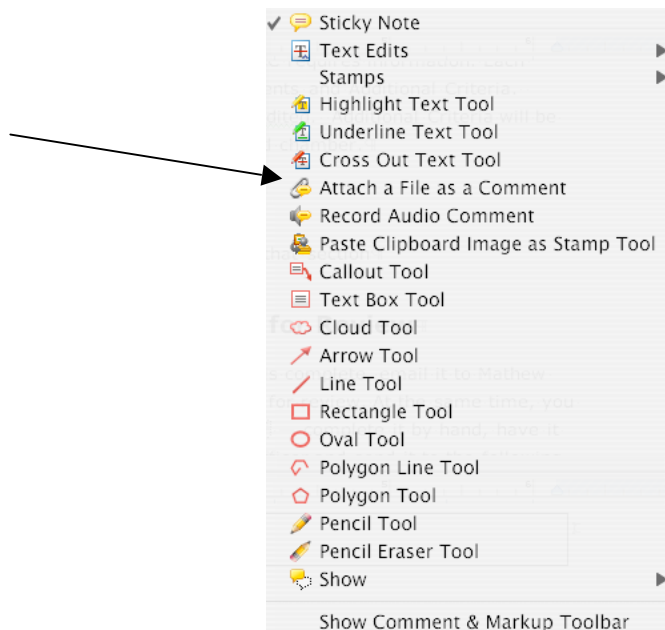
Steps for Making Attachments

1. Go to the menu at the top of the screen. It looks like this:

   Adobe Reader   File   Edit   View   Document   Tools   Window   Help

2. Click on "Tools" and a drop-down menu will appear. It looks like this:

   Comment & Markup   ▶
   Select & Zoom   ▶

   Measuring   ▶
   Typewriter   ▶
   Object Data   ▶

   Customize Toolbars...

3. Drag the cursor over the words "Comment & Markup" to show the next drop-down menu. It looks like this:

   ✓ 💬 Sticky Note
   ⊞ Text Edits   ▶
      Stamps   ▶
   🖊 Highlight Text Tool
   🖊 Underline Text Tool
   🖊 Cross Out Text Tool
   🖇 Attach a File as a Comment
   🎙 Record Audio Comment
   🖼 Paste Clipboard Image as Stamp Tool
   🗩 Callout Tool
   🖹 Text Box Tool
   ☁ Cloud Tool
   ➚ Arrow Tool
   ╱ Line Tool
   ▢ Rectangle Tool
   ○ Oval Tool
   ⌒ Polygon Line Tool
   ⬠ Polygon Tool
   🖊 Pencil Tool
   🖌 Pencil Eraser Tool
   💬 Show   ▶

      Show Comment & Markup Toolbar

4. Click on the line "Attach a File as a Comment." The arrow points to it. Click anywhere in the "Attachment Area" to trigger your computer's operating system to open.

5. Find the file you want to attach and click on it.

6. Click on the "Select" button at the bottom of the window in your operating system and a new window will appear that looks like this:

7. Click on the "Paperclip" icon, and click the "OK" button.

A "Paperclip" will appear in the "Attachment Area." Clicking on this icon will open the file you have attached. If you want to unattach the file, select the icon with your cursor and hit the delete key.

Printed Files

If your document is in printed form and no digital copy is available, it can be converted to a pdf file by having it scanned. Converting printed files to digital format is the best way to deal with these attachments.

If you cannot have the file scanned, you can send it to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in its printed form. The U.S. Chamber will have it scanned at attached to your application document for a fee of $1.00 a page.

Essays

Space is provided to enter essays. They must be as thorough as possible and the space will expand to accommodate essays of up to 1,000 words. Each essay response must be as thorough as possible.

The space can accommodate text only. If your essay already exists in a digital format, you can save time by including it as an attachment. If you would like to include tables, charts, or graphs in this section as a way to better clarify or enhance the essays, you can put them into a digital format and attach the file.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q   We have documents that we think the U.S. Chamber of Commerce should review but there is no place for them to be attached in any of the sections.

A   An area has been provided at the end of Section Nine — Benchmarking — where additional attachments can be made. Please note that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will review these items but may not include them in the basic scoring of the application. However, if the material is noteworthy or exemplifies an industry best practice, it may be eligible to receive discretionary points that may affect the chamber's star rating.

Q   There are places where we would like to add a comment but there is no text box available.

A   Generally speaking, text boxes are made available where additional information is needed to determine the chamber's level of compliance. However, if an applicant would like to insert more information, the applicants can always use Adobe Acrobat Reader's "Sticky Note" feature to insert a comment anywhere in the application forms. To access this feature click on the Tools menu at the top of your screen and slide the cursor down to "Comment and Markup." A list of features will appear with "Sticky Note" at the top. Click on the "Sticky Note" icon then move your cursor to the place in the document where you would like to make a comment. Click again and the "Sticky Note" will appear. Write your comment in the space provided then click anywhere in the document to continue.

Q   Completing the forms is time-consuming. Will we have to redo everything when it is time to renew our accreditation?

A   The set of nine pdf files should be kept in a safe place, with backup copies available elsewhere. At renewal, use the original set of pdf files, make changes only and save them under a new name, e.g. Section One – Governance 20??. This new set of files is then sent to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for review. No need to completely redo the forms.

Q   We have very large files on separate media and cannot attach them to a pdf file.

A   These files can be submitted on separate media (CDs, DVDs, USB drives, etc.) and enclosed in the same envelope used to send the nine sections to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Accreditation fee. A note should be included to indicate what the files are and the section of the application forms to which they apply.

Q   Can more than one person be involved in completing the forms? How would this be done?

A   While it is best for one person to coordinate the process and serve as the communicator with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, many chambers will want to involve more than one person. Chambers will often distribute the pdf file for certain sections to specialists who are responsible for completing them. For example, Section Two – Finance may be given to the CFO who completes it and sends it back to the person coordinating the application for the chamber.

4. Government Affairs

Standard

An Accredited chamber has a systematic procedure to develop public policy positions and participates in public policy decision making affecting economic and business issues. A grassroots network is one of the chamber's most effective advocacy tools.

Minimum Qualifications

- Has a systematic procedure in place to identify government affairs issues critical to the business community
- Compiles the chamber's policy positions and course of action in a legislative agenda published annually.
- Shares the chamber's legislative agenda with members
- Communicates positions on priority issues to elected officials
- Actively monitors and shares local, regional, state, and U.S. Chamber legislative and political affairs with membership
- Has established a grassroots network

Minimum Requirements Attachments Checklist

☐ A 4.1   Legislative or public policy agenda
☐ A 4.2   Communications samples with elected officials

Additional Criteria Attachments Checklist

☐ A 4.3   Documentation of the chamber's involvement in local, state, or federal elections
☐ A 4.4   Political action committee (PAC) disclosure report

Section 4. Government Affairs Minimum Requirements

A. Governmental Issues

1. Which of the following does the chamber use to develop its legislative or public policy issues agenda? (Check all that apply)

   ☐ Government affairs committee   ☐ Executive committee or board

   ☐ Task forces   ☐ Grassroots network

   ☐ Focus groups   ☐ Member surveys

   ☐ Forums   ☐ Round tables

   ☐ Other _____

2. To whom does the chamber distribute the legislative or public policy issues agenda? (Check all that apply)

   ☐ Board members   ☐ Elected officials

   ☐ Government Affairs committee   ☐ Media

   ☐ General membership   ☐ Other _____

☐ **A 4.1 Attach a copy of the chamber's legislative or public policy agenda[i].**

Attachment : _____

Essay Question #1

Describe the systematic process that the chamber uses to determine and develop its legislative or public policy agenda? If helpful, include a flow chart. Does the chamber have a system to quickly address high priority issues that are not mentioned in the legislative or public policy issues agenda?

☐ If the essay already exists in a file, you can attach the file in the space provided and check the box to the left.

Attachment : _____

3. Does the chamber conduct regular governmental issue update meetings, legislative breakfasts, or state of the chamber events to notify members of the chamber's legislative or public policy issues agenda? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Does the chamber conduct public forums or policy debates to share the chamber's legislative or public policy issues agenda with members and nonmembers? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Which of the following does the chamber use to communicate its positions on priority issues to elected officials? (Check all that apply)

    ☐ E-mail

    ☐ Direct mail

    ☐ Fax

    ☐ Group meetings with several elected officials

    ☐ Private meetings between chamber staff, volunteers, and elected officials

    ☐ Site tours with elected officials to chamber members' place of business

    ☐ Town hall meetings

    ☐ Other _____

☐ **A 4.2 Attach sample communications made to elected officials for each of the boxes checked in question 5.**

Attachment (E-mail**) :** _____

Attachment (Direct mail**) :** _____

Attachment (Fax**) :** _____

Attachment (Group meetings**) :** _____

Attachment (Private meetings**) :** _____

Attachment (Site tours**) :** _____

Attachment (Town hall meetings**) :** _____

Attachment (Other**) :** _____

6. Is the chamber membership informed about policy decisions that the chamber, the state chamber, and the U.S. Chamber have taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Does the chamber interact with U.S. Chamber of Commerce regional staff regarding U.S. Chamber issues and events? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. What other sources does the chamber use to stay current on public policy? Please include local, state, and federal sources.

B. Grassroots

1. Does the chamber have a grassroots network[ii]? (A grassroots network is defined as   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   the capability of a chamber to blast e-mail or fax the board, the legislative committee,
   or even the entire membership list prior to key action being taken by elected officials.)

2. What percentage of the chamber's total membership is part of the grassroots
   network?   _____ %

3. How does the chamber primarily communicate priority issues with the general membership and with the
   grassroots network? (Check all that apply)

   ☐ E-mail   ☐ Phone tree

   ☐ Fax   ☐ Web site listing of priority positions

   ☐ Direct mail   ☐ Web-based communication tool such as
                                                  VoteForBusiness.com

   ☐ Meetings or briefings   ☐ Newsletter

   ☐ Telephone   ☐ Other chamber publications

   ☐ Other

4. How often has the chamber activated its grassroots network over the course of the past year?

   ☐ 0 times per year

   ☐ 1-3 times time per year

   ☐ 4-6 times per year

   ☐ More than 7 times per year

Section 4. Government Affairs Additional Criteria

A. Governmental Issues

1. Does the chamber have a Legislative or Government Affairs Committee that functions separately from the board? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Does the chamber have additional subcommittees that focus on key issues (e.g. transportation, work force development)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Does the chamber have a dedicated government affairs staff[iii]? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   (Note: The chamber president/CEO does not constitute a dedicated staff member for the purpose of determining compliance with this standard.)

   a. If yes, please list their titles.

4. Does the chamber have a designated government affairs budget? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   a. If yes, what percentage of the total budget is devoted to government affairs? _____ %

5. Is there a chamber-sponsored trip with members to:

   State Capitol ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Washington, DC ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. How often does the chamber sponsor a trip to:

   State Capitol _____

   Washington, DC _____

7. Has the chamber ever been recognized for its involvement with government affairs? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   a. If yes, what was this recognition?

8. Have chamber staff or volunteers provided testimony to a legislative body at the local, state, or federal level in the past two years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   a. If yes, what was the outcome of the issue?

9. Does the chamber use media advocacy to communicate policy positions (e.g. editorials, op-eds, issue advocacy advertising)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. List the coalitions that the chamber has been a member of or has been active in during the past year. Describe the chamber's role in each coalition (member or steering committee member or manager).

11. If the chamber takes positions on ballot propositions and referendums, list the ballot issue, chamber position, and outcome.

B. Grassroots

1. Does the chamber have a grassroots database? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Is the chamber's grassroots database segmented by issue interest[iv]? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Does the chamber have the ability to track the activities of the grassroots network via an online platform? (e.g. VoteForBusiness.com) ☐ Yes ☐ No

    a. If yes, what percentage of the network usually participates? _____ %

Essay Question #2

Provide two examples of how the chamber activated its grassroots network in the last two years and discuss the outcomes of these efforts.

☐ If the essay already exists in a file, you can attach the file in the space provided and check the box to the left.

Attachment : _____

C. Elections and Political Affairs

1. Does the chamber keep a legislative scorecard (voting record) of elected officials? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   a. If yes, to whom is the scorecard distributed? (Check all that apply)

      ☐ Board members   ☐ Elected officials

      ☐ Legislative committee   ☐ Media

      ☐ General membership   ☐ Other _____

2. Does the chamber or its political action committee (PAC) endorse candidates for public office? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   a. If yes, please indicate at which levels (check all that apply):

      ☐ Federal   ☐ State   ☐ Local

   b. If no, please explain discussions the board has had concerning the decision not to endorse candidates, possible state law requirements, and other potential restraints.

   ```
   
   
   
   
   ```

3. In which ways does the chamber or political action committee (PAC) participate in the election process? Check all that apply.

   a. ☐ Activates a Get Out The Vote program

   b. ☐ Provides updates on candidate races and positions to membership

   c. ☐ Hosts or co-sponsors candidate fundraisers prior to elections

   d. ☐ Uses PAC funds to donate to candidate campaigns

   e. ☐ Hosts speeches and candidate debates

   f. ☐ Promotes the U.S. Chamber's endorsements among chamber members

   g. ☐ Promotes state chamber's endorsements among chamber members

   h. ☐ Hosts a press conference for candidate endorsements

   i. ☐ Recommends candidates for appointment to public office or politically appointed committees

   j. ☐ Recruits (business) candidates to run for elective office

   k. ☐ Purchases radio or TV advertisements

   l. ☐ Hosts a candidate school or boot camp for endorsed candidates

   m. ☐ Participates in an online candidate informational tool such as VoteForBusiness.com

   n. ☐ Other _____

☐ **A 4.3 Provide one sample of the chamber's involvement in the election process for each of the items checked in question 3.**

Attachment (Activates a Get Out The Vote program**) :** ___📎_____

Attachment (Provides updates on candidate races and positions to membership**) :** ___📎_____

Attachment (Hosts or co-sponsors candidate fundraisers prior to elections**) :** _____

Attachment (Uses PAC funds to donate to candidate campaigns**) :** _____

Attachment (Hosts speeches and candidate debates**) :** ___📎_____

Attachment (Promotes the U.S. Chamber's endorsements among chamber members**) :** _____

Attachment (Promotes state chamber's endorsements among chamber members**) :** _____

Attachment (Hosts a press conference for candidate endorsements**) :** _____

Attach (Rec. candidates for appointment to public office or politically appointed committees**) :** _____

Attachment (Recruits (business) candidates to run for elective office**) :** _____

Attachment (Purchases radio or TV advertisements**) :** ___📎_____

Attachment (Hosts a candidate school or boot camp for endorsed candidates**) :** _____

Attach (Participates in an online candidate informational tool such as VoteForBusiness.com**) :** _____

Attachment (Other**) :** ___📎_____

☐ **A 4.4 If the chamber has a political action committee (PAC), include a copy of the latest disclosure report.**

Attachment : _____

Supplementary Information

Applicants can use this page to enter or attach supplementary information not required by the application.

Please note that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will review the material, but does not score supplementary information either as a part of the application process or as a basis for designating the chamber as Accredited, Accredited with 3-Stars, Accredited with 4-Stars, or Accredited with 5-Stars.

Supplementary information may be awarded up to five discretionary points as deemed by the Accreditation consultant for exceptional policies or best practices.

Comments can be entered in the space below.

Additional documents can be attached here : _____

[i] **Legislative or public policy issues agenda:** A formal document outlining the chamber's major legislative or public policy issues for the current year. This document will address public policy issues for the local, state, or federal level. For sample legislative or public policy agenda, refer to the best practices Web page at http://www.uschamber.com/chambers/accreditation/best_practices.htm

[ii] **Grassroots network:** An active network of chamber members and supporters that the chamber engages in the discussion and action of public policy. The chamber has the capability to blast e-mail or fax this network policy issues updates and calls to action. The network can consist of volunteers, the board, the legislative committee, or even the entire membership list.

[iii] **Dedicated government affairs staff:** A dedicated government affairs staff is someone whose primary duties are devoted to working with elected officials to promote the chamber's legislative or public policy agenda. The chamber president/CEO does not constitute a dedicated staff member for the purpose of determining compliance with this standard. However, hiring an outside lobbying firm will constitute compliance with this standard.

[iv] **Grassroots database segmented by issue interest:** This standard goes beyond using the chamber's member list as the basis of its grassroots database. The chamber should have a separate database that segments the chamber's grassroots network by issues and interests so that the chamber's grassroots activists only receive updates on the issues and policies they specifically ask for.