Financial Capability

Personal interests are important, but your interests must match your financial capability. An investment in a franchise business can run from as little as \$10,000 for maintenance franchises to as high as several million dollars for a hotel. To assess a business opportunity, you must determine:

- a. Your net worth (total assets minus total liabilities)
- b. How much liquid, unencumbered capital you have to invest in the business; and
- c. Your ability to pay your personal financial obligations regardless of the performance of the business you select.

Monthly Personal Expense Budget

Regular Monthly Expenses	Monthly Expenses	Annual Expenses
Rent or Mortgage Payments		
Car Payments		
Installment Debt (credit cards)		
Life Insurance Premiums		
Other Insurance Premiums		
Miscellaneous Expenses		

Personal Living Expenses (for entire family)	Monthly Expenses	Annual Expenses
Clothing		
Doctor and Dentist Bills		
Education		
Membership Dues		
Gifts and Contributions		
Auto Maintenance, Gas Parking Fees		
Travel		
Food (home, away)		
Books, Newspaper, Magazine		
Spending Allowance		

Entertainment					
Household Operating Expenses	Monthly Expenses	5	Annual Expenses		
Telephone					
Gas and Electricity					
Water					
Sewer Fees					
Fixture, Furniture					
Repairs, Maintenance					
Other Household Expenses					
Taxes:					
Federal, State, and Local Income Taxes	Monthly Expenses		Annual Expenses		
Property Taxes					
Total Personal Expenses					
Personal Financial Statement					
Instructions: Complete the personal fina	ncial statement.				
Assets		Amount			
Cash on Hand					
Checking					
Savings					
Other					
CD's or Treasury Bills					
Total Liquid Assets*		Amount			
U.S. Treasury Bonds, Notes					

Loans Receivable	
Life Insurance (cash value)	
Stocks, Bonds, Other Securities	
Real Estate	
Autos/Other Vehicles	
Vested Pension Plan/Retirement Accounts	
Other Assets (household effects)	
Total Liabilities	
Net Worth**	

Total Assets-Total Liabilities

Once you have determined your net worth, you can determine the amount of money which you are prepared to invest in a franchise. Determining this information also will be useful in developing a business plan. In addition, this analysis will be useful in narrowing your search of franchisors, as many franchisors have minimum net worth requirements for prospective franchisees.

^{*}Liquid Assets are assets that can be easily converted into cash.

^{**}Net worth generally provides an indication of your ability to raise additional capital.