

POLICY STATEMENT

(Reference 49 CFR Part 26.1, 26.23)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation [WisDOT] has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation receives federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts.

Wisconsin DOT shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any USDOT-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements 49 CFR part 26. Wisconsin DOT is committed to the DBE Program objectives for all contracts that contain USDOT-assistance or federal funding:

- a) To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
- b) To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
- c) To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- d) To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- e) To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
- f) To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities conducted by recipients.
- g) To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

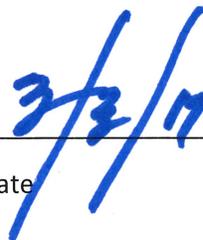
The DBE Program functions within the Office of Business Opportunity & Equity Compliance in the Division of Transportation System Development [DTSD]. The day-to-day operational management of the DBE program is delegated to the Division of Transportation System Development to most effectively align and prioritize the policies, objectives, technical services of the DBE program across regions and divisions responsible for federal contract administration. The Secretary's Office receives DBE compliance reports in bi-weekly meetings and shall allow direct access for DBE issues dependent upon the impact and significance of the compliance issue.

Every state has a DBE Liaison Officer who is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE Program. At Wisconsin DOT, our DBE Liaison Officer is titled DBE Program Chief. The DBE Program is accorded the same level of priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in its financial assistance agreements with the United States Department of Transportation.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation has disseminated this policy statement to its Board of Directors and all sectors of our organization responsible for contract administration. This policy is posted on our website and copies will be made available, upon request by emailing DBE_Alert@dot.wi.gov.



Dave Ross
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation



Date