

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DBE SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

FOR USE ON FEDERAL AID PROJECTS WITHOUT DBE GOALS

(PROJECT SPECIFIC CONTRACTS)

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## **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES:**

### **1.0 Policy:**

The Arizona Department of Transportation (hereinafter the Department) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Department has received Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Department has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the Department to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts. It is also the policy of the Department:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of USDOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are counted as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in USDOT-assisted contracts;
6. To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program; and
7. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities.

It is also the policy of the Department to facilitate and encourage participation of Small Business Concerns (SBCs), as defined in Subsection 3.0, in USDOT-assisted contracts. The Department encourages consultants to take reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to SBCs' participation and to utilize SBCs in performing contracts.

### **2.0 Assurances of Non-Discrimination:**

The consultant, subrecipient, or subconsultant shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin in the performance of this contract. The consultant shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the consultant to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the Department deems appropriate, which may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- (2) Assessing sanctions;
- (3) Liquidated damages;
- (4) Disqualifying the consultant from submitting SOQs, or any other forms of proposals, as non-responsible;
- (5) Cancellation, termination, or suspension of the Contract, in whole or in part.

The consultant, subrecipient, or subconsultant shall ensure that all subcontract agreements contain this non-discrimination assurance.

### **3.0 Definitions:**

**(A) Commercially Useful Function (CUF):** Commercially Useful Function is defined fully in 49 CFR 26.55, which definition is incorporated herein by reference.

**(B) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE):** a for-profit small business concern which meets both of the following requirements:

- (1) Is at least 51 percent owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals; and,

- (2) Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.
- (C) NAICS Code:** The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.
- (D) Non-DBE:** any firm that is not a DBE.
- (E) Race-Conscious (RC):** a measure or program focused specifically on assisting only DBEs, including women-owned DBEs.
- (F) Race-Neutral (RN):** a measure or program used to assist all small businesses. For the purposes of this part, race-neutral includes gender-neutrality.
- (G) Small Business Concern (SBC):** a business that meets all of the following conditions:
- (1) Operates as a for-profit business registered to do business in Arizona;
  - (2) Operates a place of business primarily within the U.S., or makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials, or labor;
  - (3) Is independently owned and operated;
  - (4) Is not dominant in its field on a national basis; and
  - (5) Does not have annual gross receipts that exceed the Small Business Administration size standards average annual income criteria for its primary North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.
- (I) Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals:** any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who is:
- (1) Any individual who is found to be a socially and economically disadvantaged individual on a case-by-case basis.
  - (2) Any individual in the following groups, members of which are rebuttably presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged:
    - (i) "Black Americans," which includes persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa;
    - (ii) "Hispanic Americans," which includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race;
    - (iii) "Native Americans," which includes persons who are enrolled members of federally or State recognized Indian tribe, Alaskan Natives or Native Hawaiians;
    - (iv) "Asian-Pacific Americans," which includes persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Burma (Myanmar), Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), the Republic of the Northern Marianas Islands, Macao, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, or Hong Kong;
    - (v) "Subcontinent Asian Americans," which includes persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands, Nepal or Sri Lanka;

(vi) "Women;"

(vii) Any additional groups whose members are designated as socially and economically disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration (SBA), at such time as the SBA designation becomes effective.

#### **4.0 Working with DBEs:**

The Department works with DBEs and assists them in their efforts to participate in the highway construction program. All proposers should contact the Department's Business Engagement and Compliance Office (BECO) by phone, through email, or at the address shown below, for assistance in their efforts to use DBEs in the highway construction industry. BECO contact information is as follows:

Arizona Department of Transportation  
Business Engagement and Compliance Office  
1801 W. Jefferson St, Suite 101, Mail Drop 154A  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone (602) 712-7761  
FAX (602) 712-8429  
Email: [ContractorCompliance@azdot.gov](mailto:ContractorCompliance@azdot.gov)  
Website : [www.azdot.gov/bec](http://www.azdot.gov/bec)

#### **4.01 Mentor-Protégé Program**

The Department has established a Mentor-Protégé program as an initiative to encourage and develop disadvantaged businesses in the highway construction industry. The program encourages prime contractors to provide certain types of assistance to certified DBE subcontractors. ADOT encourages consultants and certified DBE subconsultants to engage in a Mentor-Protégé agreement under certain conditions. Such an agreement must be mutually beneficial to both parties and to ADOT in fulfilling requirements of 49 CFR Part 23. For guidance regarding this program refer to the Mentor-Protégé Program Guidelines available on the BECO website.

The Mentor-Protégé program is intended to increase legitimate DBE activities and is not intended to diminish nor circumvent existing DBE rules or regulations.

#### **5.0 Applicability:**

The Department has established an overall annual goal for DBE participation on Federal-aid contracts. The Department intends for the goal to be met with a combination of race conscious efforts and race neutral efforts. Race conscious participation occurs when the consultant uses a percentage of DBEs, as defined herein, to meet the contract-specified goal. Race neutral efforts are those that are, or can be, used to assist all small businesses or increase opportunities for all small businesses. The regulation, 49 CFR 26, defines race neutral as when a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

The DBE provisions are applicable to all consultants including DBE consultants.

#### **6.0 Certification and Registration:**

##### **6.01 DBE Certification:**

Certification as a DBE shall be predicated on:

- (1) The completion and execution of an application for certification as a "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise."
- (2) The submission of documents pertaining to the firm(s) as stated in the application(s), including but not limited to a statement of social disadvantage and a personal financial statement.

- (3) The submission of any additional information which the Department or the applicable Arizona Unified Certification (UCP) agency may require to determine the firm's eligibility to participate in the DBE program.
- (4) The information obtained during the on-site visits to the offices of the firm and to active job-sites.

Applications for certification may be filed online with the Department or the applicable UCP agency at any time through the Arizona Unified Transportation Registration and Certification System (AZ UTRACS) website at <http://www.azutracs.com>.

DBE firms and firms seeking DBE certification shall cooperate fully with requests for information relevant to the certification process. Failure or refusal to provide such information is a ground for denial or removal of certification.

ADOT is a member of the AZ Unified Certification Program (AZUCP). Only DBE firms that are certified by the AZUCP are eligible for credit on ADOT projects. A list of DBE firms certified by AZUCP is available on the internet at <http://www.azutracs.com>. The list will indicate contact information and specialty for each DBE firm, and may be sorted in a variety of ways. However, ADOT does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of this information, nor does ADOT represent that any licenses or registrations are appropriate for the work to be done.

The Department's certification of a DBE is not a representation of qualifications and/or abilities nor does it mean that a DBE firm is guaranteed or entitled to receive or be awarded a contract. Being certified simply means that a firm has met the criteria for DBE certification as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26. The consultant bears all risks of ensuring that DBE firms selected by the consultant are able to perform the work.

## **6.02 SBC Registration:**

To comply with 49 CFR Part 26.39, ADOT's DBE Program incorporates contracting requirements to facilitate participation by Small Business Concerns (SBCs) in federally assisted contracts. SBCs are for-profit businesses authorized to do businesses in Arizona that meet the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards for average annual revenue criteria for its primary North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code

While the SBC component of the DBE program does not require utilization of goals on projects, ADOT strongly encourages consultants to utilize small businesses that are registered in AZ UTRACS on their contracts, in addition to DBEs meeting the certification requirement. The consultant may use the AZ UTRACS website to search for certified DBEs and registered SBCs that can be used on the contract. However, SBCs that are not DBEs will not be counted toward DBE participation.

SBCs can register online at the AZ UTRACS website.

The Department's registration of SBCs is not a representation of qualifications and/or abilities nor does it mean that an SBC firm is guaranteed or entitled to receive or be awarded a contract. Being SBC registered simply means that a firm has met the criteria for SBC registration as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26. The consultant bears all risks of ensuring that SBC firms selected by the consultant are able to perform the work.

## **7.0 DBE Financial Institutions:**

The Department thoroughly investigates the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in its service area and makes reasonable efforts to use these institutions. The Department encourages prime consultants to use such institutions on USDOT assisted contracts. However, use of DBE financial institutions will not be counted toward DBE participation.

The Department encourages prime consultants to research the Federal Reserve Board website at [www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov) to identify minority-owned banks in Arizona derived from the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income filed quarterly by banks (FFIEC 031 and 041) and from other information on the Board's National Information Center database.

## **8.0 Time is of the Essence:**

## TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN RESPECT TO THE DBE PROVISIONS

### **9.0 Computation of Time:**

In computing any period of time described in this DBE special provision, such as calendar days, the day from which the period begins to run is not counted, and when the last day of the period is a Saturday, Sunday, Federal or State holiday, the period extends to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, Federal or State holiday. In circumstances where the Department's offices are closed for all or part of the last day, the period extends to the next day on which the Department's offices are open.

### **10.0 Consultant and Subconsultant Requirements:**

#### **10.01 General:**

The consultant shall establish a DBE program that will ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts and subcontracts.

Agreements between the proposer and a DBE in which the DBE promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other proposers are prohibited.

#### **10.02 DBE Liaison:**

The consultant shall designate a DBE Liaison responsible for the administration of the consultant's DBE program. The name of the designated DBE Liaison shall be included on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary.

### **11.0 DBE Goal:**

The Department has not established contract goals for DBE participation in this contract. Consultants are still encouraged to employ reasonable means to obtain DBE participation. Consultants must retain records in accordance with these DBE specifications. The consultant is notified that this record keeping is important to the Department so that it can track DBE participation where only race neutral efforts are employed.

### **12.0 Bidders/Proposers List and AZ UTRACS Registration Requirement:**

Under Title 49 CFR of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26.11, DOTs are required to collect certain information from all consultants and subconsultants who seek to work on federally-assisted contracts in order to set overall and contract DBE goals. ADOT collects this information when firms register their companies on the Arizona Unified Transportation Registration and Certification System (AZ UTRACS) web portal at <http://www.azutracs.com/> a centralized database for companies that seek to do business with ADOT. This information will be maintained as confidential to the extent allowed by federal and state law.

Prime consultants and all subconsultants, including DBEs listed in the SOQ must be registered in AZUTRACS. Proposers may verify that their firm and each subconsultant is registered using the AZUTRACS website.

Proposers may obtain additional information at the AZ UTRACS website or by contacting BECO.

All proposers shall create a Bidders/Proposers list in the AZ UTRACS by selecting all firms, service providers, and vendors that expressed interest or submitted proposals or quotes for this contract. The Bidders/Proposers List form must be complete and must include the names for all subconsultants, service providers, and vendors that submitted proposals or quotes on this project regardless of the proposer's intentions to use the those firms on the project.

All proposers must complete and submit the Bidders/Proposers List online at AZ UTRACS prior to Cost Proposal submittal. A confirmation email will be generated by the system. This email confirmation shall be submitted with the Cost Proposal.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED BIDDERS/PROPOSERS LIST CONFIRMATION EMAIL WITH THE COST PROPOSAL BY THE STATED TIME AND IN THE MANNER HEREIN SPECIFIED AND AS OUTLINED IN THE RFQ SHALL BE CAUSE FOR THE PROPOSER'S COST PROPOSAL TO BE REJECTED.

### **13.0 Payment Reporting:**

The consultant shall report on a monthly basis indicating the amounts paid to all subconsultants, of all tiers, working on the project. Reporting shall be in accordance with Section 4.33 of the contract.

### **14.0 Crediting DBE Participation:**

#### **14.01 General Requirements:**

To count toward DBE participation, the DBE firms must be certified at the time of Cost Proposal submission in each NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm will perform on the contract. NAICS for each DBE can be found on the AZ UTRACS website. General descriptions of all NAICS codes can be found at <http://www.naics.com/search/>.

Credit is given only after the DBE has been paid for the work performed.

The entire amount of a contract that is performed by the DBE's own forces, including the cost of supplies and materials purchased by the DBE for the work on the contract and equipment leased by the DBE will be credited toward DBE participation. Supplies and equipment the DBE subconsultant purchases or leases from the prime consultant or its affiliate will not be credited toward DBE participation.

The consultant bears the responsibility to determine whether the DBE possesses the proper consultant's license(s) to perform the work and, if DBE credit is requested, that the DBE subconsultant is certified for the requested type of work.

The Department's certification is not a representation of a DBE's qualifications and/or abilities. The consultant bears all risks that the DBE may not be able to perform its work for any reason.

A DBE may participate as a prime consultant, subconsultant, or as a vendor of materials or supplies. The dollar amount of work to be accomplished by DBEs, including partial amount of a lump sum or other similar item, shall be on the basis of subcontract, purchase order, hourly rate, rate per ton, etc., as agreed to between parties.

DBE credit may be obtained only for specific work done for the project, supply of equipment specifically for physical work on the project, or supply of materials to be incorporated in the work. DBE credit will not be allowed for costs such as overhead items, capital expenditures (for example, purchase of equipment), and office items.

The consultant may credit second-tier subcontracts issued to DBEs by non-DBE subconsultants. Any second-tier subcontract to a DBE must meet the requirements of a first-tier DBE subcontract.

A prime consultant may credit the entire amount of that portion of a contract that is performed by the DBE's own forces. The cost of supplies and materials obtained by the DBE for the work of the contract can be included so long as that cost is reasonable. Leased equipment may also be included. No credit is permitted for supplies purchased or equipment leased from the prime consultant or its affiliate(s).

When a DBE subcontracts a part of the work of its contract to another firm, the value of the subcontract may be credited towards DBE participation only if the DBE's subconsultant is itself a DBE and performs the work with its own forces. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE firm does not count toward DBE participation.

A prime consultant may credit the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consulting, or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a USDOT-assisted contract, provided the fees are reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.

#### **14.02 Effect of Loss of DBE Eligibility:**

If a DBE is deemed ineligible (decertified) or suspended by the Department in accordance with 49 CFR 26.87 and 26.88, the DBE may not be considered to count toward DBE participation on a new contract, but may be considered to count toward DBE participation under a subcontract that was executed before the DBE suspension or decertification is effective.

When a DBE firm or a DBE prime consultant loses its DBE eligibility and a subcontract or contract has not been executed before a decertification notice is issued to the DBE firm by its certifying agency, the ineligible firm does not count toward DBE participation.

When a subcontract is executed with the DBE firm before the Department notified the firm of its ineligibility, the consultant may continue to use the firm on the contract and may continue to receive DBE participation credit for the firm's work.

#### **14.03 Notifying the Consultant of DBE Certification Status:**

Each DBE contract at any tier shall require any DBE subconsultant or supplier that is either decertified or certified during the term of the contract to immediately notify the consultant and all parties to the DBE contract in writing, with the date of decertification or certification. The consultant shall require that this provision be incorporated in any contract of any tier in which a DBE is a participant.

#### **14.04 Police Officers:**

DBE credit will not be permitted for procuring DPS officers. For projects on which officers from other agencies are supplied, DBE credit will be given only for the broker fees charged, and will not include amounts paid to the officers. The broker fees must be reasonable.

#### **14.05 Commercially Useful Function:**

A prime consultant can credit expenditures to a DBE subconsultant only if the DBE performs a Commercially Useful Function (CUF).

A DBE performs a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of a contract and carries out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself that it uses on the project. To determine whether a DBE is performing a commercially useful function, the Department will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is actually performing and the DBE credit claimed for its performance of the work, and other relevant factors.

A DBE will not be considered to perform a commercially useful function if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. In determining whether a DBE is such an extra participant, the Department will examine similar transactions, particularly those in which DBEs do not participate.

If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, or if the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved, the Department will presume that the DBE is not performing a commercially useful function.

When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a commercially useful function as provided above, the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption. The Department will determine if the firm is performing a CUF given the type of work involved and normal industry practices.

The Department will notify the consultant, in writing, if it determines that the consultant's DBE subconsultant is not performing a CUF. The consultant will be notified within seven calendar days of the Department's decision.

Decisions on CUF may be appealed to the ADOT State Engineer. The appeal must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the State Engineer. The appeal must be received by the State Engineer no later than seven calendar days after the decision of BECO. BECO's decision remains in place unless and until the State Engineer reverses or modifies BECO's decision. ADOT State Engineer will promptly consider any appeals under this subsection and notify the consultant of ADOT's State Engineer findings and decisions. Decisions on CUF matters are not administratively appealable to USDOT.

The BECO may conduct project site visits on the contract to confirm that DBEs are performing a CUF. The consultant shall cooperate during the site visits and the BECO's staff will make every effort not to disrupt work on the project.

#### **15.0 Required Provisions for DBE Subcontracts:**

All subcontracts of any tier, all supply contracts, and any other contracts in which a DBE is a participant shall include as a physical attachment, DBE Subconsultant Compliance Assurances available on BECO website and all of the Uniform Terms and Conditions set forth in Section 3.0 and 4.0 of this contract.

Consultants executing agreements with subconsultants, DBE or non-DBE, that materially modify federal regulation and state statutes such as, prompt payment and retention requirements, through subcontract terms and conditions will be found in breach of contract which may result in termination of the contract, or any other such remedy as the deemed appropriate as outlined in DBE Subsection 2.0.

The Department reserves the right to conduct random reviews of DBE and non-DBE subcontract documentation to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

The consultant shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials require that the subcontract and all lower tier subcontracts be performed in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26 provisions.

The Consultant shall provide electronic copies of subcontract agreements with all Subconsultants by uploading them within 15 calendar days of an executed contract to the ADOT DBE System. Subcontract agreements shall include all required assurances and clauses as outlined in Section 3.0 and 4.0 of the Contract. Each agreement and required attachment shall be dated and signed by the Subconsultant in order for the subcontract to be considered valid.

The Consultant shall be in breach of this Contract if the Consultant materially modifies the federal regulations and State statutes in its subcontract agreements terms and conditions with its Subconsultants. Deviations from the terms of this Contract may result in termination of the Contract, or any other such remedy as deemed appropriate by the Department.

#### **16.0 Certification of Final DBE Payments:**

DBE participation on the contractor is measured by actual payments made to the DBEs. The consultant shall submit the "Certification of Final DBE Payments" form for each DBE firm working on the contract. This form shall be signed by the consultant and the relevant DBE, and submitted to ECS no later than 30 days after the DBE completes its work.

ADOT will use this certification and other information available to determine applicable DBE credit allowed to date by the Prime Consultant and the extent to which the DBE firms were fully paid for that work. By the act of filing the forms, the consultant acknowledges that the information is supplied in order to justify the payment of state and federal funds to the consultant.

The consultant will not be released from the obligations of the contract until the "Certification of Final DBE Payments" forms are received and deemed acceptable by the ECS and BECO.

#### **17.0 False, Fraudulent, or Dishonest Conduct:**

In addition to any other remedies or actions, the Department will bring to the attention of the US Department of Transportation any appearance of false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the DBE program, so that USDOT can take steps such as referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the USDOT Inspector General for possible initiation of suspension and debarment proceedings against the offending parties or application of "Program Fraud and Civil Penalties" rules provided in 49 CFR Part 31.