

Arizona Department of Transportation
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Objectives and Policy Statement (49 CFR 26.1, 26.23)

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

It is ADOT's policy to ensure that DBEs as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. ADOT's objectives for its DBE program are to:

- Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts ADOT and its Subrecipient's construction, procurement, and professional service highway, transit, and airport contracts;
- Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts;
- Ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are counted as DBEs;
- Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in USDOT-assisted contracts;
- Promote the use of DBEs in all types of DOT-assisted contracts and procurement activities.
- Assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program;
- Provide appropriate flexibility in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs to participate on DOT-assisted contracts as outlined in the DBE Program Plan, ADOT DBE Policy, contract specifications and other DBE program related processes and procedures.

It is also ADOT's policy to facilitate and encourage participation of Small Business Concerns (SBCs), as defined herein in DOT-assisted contracts, as a component of its DBE program. ADOT encourages contractors to take reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to SBCs' participation and to utilize SBCs in performing contracts.

ADOT conducts DBE Availability and Disparity Studies at regular intervals and has established a narrowly-tailored DBE program in accordance with applicable laws. The ADOT DBE program is managed and administered by the Business Engagement & Compliance Office (BECO) in collaboration with all ADOT departments and units that execute and/or manage DOT-assisted projects. As such, ADOT has established Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Policy SUP-3.05, which provides guidelines for the implementation of the DBE program.

ADOT will take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR Part 26, its DBE Policy SUP-3.05 and the DBE Program Plan to implement the DBE Program within its applicable departments and with its subrecipients, consultants, contractors, subcontractors and DBEs in a manner that shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in the award and performance of DOT-assisted contracts or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements 49 CFR part 26.

Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by ADOT in its financial assistance agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This policy statement shall be posted on the ADOT website and distributed to all affected ADOT divisions, and all Arizona Subrecipient/Subgrantees and Local Public Agencies (LPAs). This policy statement will also be made available on the ADOT website for consultants, contractors, DBE and non-DBE companies that perform on DOT-assisted contracts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Toth', written in a cursive style.

**Jennifer Toth, Director
Arizona Department of Transportation**

05/18/2023

Date