DBE Program Overview
2019

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What is the DBE Program?

- DBE program is law, codified in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - Prohibits discrimination
  - Provides opportunities and access

- DBE Program is approved in the Transportation Bill
  - Applicable to transportation contracts that include federal funds: Transit, Highways, Aviation

- Every state that receives USDOT federal funds must implement a DBE Program

DBE:
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
Objectives of the DBE Program

- Nondiscrimination in award of contracts
- Fair competition
- Narrowly tailored - contract by contract analysis
- Eligibility based
- Remove barriers to participation
- Promote DBE use beyond WisDOT contracting
- Develop competitive firms
What is a DBE firm?

- **Socially Disadvantaged**
  - Asian-Indian Americans
  - Asian-Pacific Americans
  - Black Americans
  - Hispanic Americans
  - Native Americans
  - Women
  - Individuals determined to have a social disadvantage that results from circumstances beyond their control

- **Economically Disadvantaged**
  - PNW under $1.32 million

- **Small business owner - Entrepreneur**
  - 51% ownership by socially and economically disadvantaged person(s)
  - For-profit business
  - Business size meets SBA standard for business type

Entrepreneur: a person who starts a business and is willing to risk loss in order to make money; one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise
Advantages of DBE Certification

- **USDOT requires its agencies to assign DBE participation goals on contracts:**
  - Assigned DBE goals require prime contractors to solicit and respond to DBE firms

- **DBE Certification is accepted by multiple USDOT modes:**
  - FAA- Federal Aviation Administration (Airports)
  - FHWA- Federal Highway Administration (Highway, Roads, Bridges)
  - FTA- Federal Transit Administration (Rural Shared Ride Taxi, Streetcar)

- **WI UCP DBE Directory posted on all WI UCP DBE partner websites**

- **Many agencies recognize DBE certification:**
  - DBE firms can/should solicit opportunities with *all WI UCP DBE partners* and other agencies who receive federal and government funds

- **DBE Certified Firms are eligible for professional support services at no cost to the firm. WisDOT provides:**
  - ✓ Loan mobilization services
  - ✓ Legal Services related to contracting
  - ✓ Accountant services
  - ✓ Bidding & Estimating Assistance
WisDOT - DBE Program Contacts

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