What is the Benefit to My Business?

- Every year in Indiana there are tens of millions of transportation or transportation-related dollars in potential DBE contracting opportunities.
- While starting or growing your business requires a lot of hard work, being DBE certified can be a powerful tool to assist you in that task.
- Becoming a member of the DBE community provides excellent networking opportunities with other DBEs, prime contractors, and state agencies that work with small businesses.
- INDOT's DBE Directory is used by many companies to locate subcontractors for their projects.
- DBEs may participate in a variety of supportive services, including training and technical assistance.

Who Certifies DBE Businesses in Indiana?

The Indiana Department of Transportation's Economic Opportunity Division is the sole certifier of DBE businesses in Indiana.

How Do I Apply?

We do not accept paper applications. All applications must be submitted through Indiana's ITAP system. Visit our website to set up your ITAP account and complete the application:

http://www.in.gov/indot/2748.htm

What Happens After I Apply?

Once submitted, your application will be assigned to a Certification Specialist and they will schedule a site visit.

Application processing time is limited to 90 days, but is usually completed in 45 to 60 days.

For questions, please contact:

DBECertification@INDOT.in.gov

Indiana Department of Transportation
Economic Opportunity Division

100 N. Senate Avenue, Rm N750
Indianapolis, IN 46204

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

FTA
Federal Transit Administration

Federal Aviation Administration

DBE Certification

What You Need To Know

What is the DBE Program?

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program was initiated in 1980 within the U.S. Department of Transportation. It serves as a civil rights program designed to remedy ongoing discrimination and the continuing effects of past discrimination in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Federal Transit Adminstration (FTA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and highway safety contracting markets nationwide.

How Does the Program Achieve This Goal?

Most U.S. DOT assisted transportation projects have a DBE participation goal. Each year, INDOT is required to review its DBE goal and, if necessary, make adjustments based on its three-year aspirational goal. INDOT's goal for the October 2017–September 2019 period is 10.9 percent DBE participation. FTA and FAA goals are set by their respective organizations.

What is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise?

A DBE is defined by 49 CFR 26.5 as a for-profit small business concern: That is at least 51 percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged; and whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged owners.

Does My Business Qualify?

To qualify as a DBE, the company must be a small business as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) which means:

The firm's average annual gross receipts may not exceed SBA size standards for its assigned NAICS code(s).

In any case, the firm's gross annual receipts may not exceed a $23.98 million average over the previous three fiscal years.

Do I Qualify?

The DBE program is unique, as it takes into account the personal economic situation of the applicant firm owner(s).

Under 49 CFR 26, to qualify for the program, an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Possess expertise in the field
- Control daily business operations
- Have a personal net worth of less than $1,320,000 (excluding the value of their primary residence and assets of the firm applying for DBE certification).

The following groups are presumed by law to be socially and economically disadvantaged:

- Black Americans
- Asian-Pacific Americans
- Hispanic Americans
- Native Americans
- Subcontinent Asian-Americans
- Women

Others, such as the disabled and veterans, may apply on an individual basis. In these situations, the burden of proof to meet both social and economic disadvantage rests with the applicant.

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