

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What is the goal of the DBE program?

A. To promote and encourage DBE's to participate in procurement and business opportunities at Airports or agencies receiving US DOT Funding.

Q. What is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise?

A. A DBE is a small business concern which is at least 51% owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. In the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more socially and economically individuals. Also, the firm's management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged owners.

Q. Is there any financial stipulations for seeking certification?

A. Yes, your Personal Net Worth can not exceed \$750,000 excluding your primary residence or interest in the participating firm to be eligible for the DBE Program.

Q. What groups are included as Social and Economic Disadvantaged?

A. Any persons having a current 8(a) certification from the US Small Business Administration is considered to be socially and economically disadvantaged. The Authority makes a "rebuttable presumption" that individuals in the following groups who are citizens of the United States (or lawfully permanent residents are socially and economically disadvantaged: Women, Black Americans, Central or South Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, Tribally owned concerns. The Authority will generally assume that business owners that fall into one of these groups are socially & economically disadvantaged. Their disadvantaged status will not be generally investigated unless a third-party challenge is made.

Other individuals may be found to be socially and economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis. For example, a disabled Vietnam Veteran, an Appalachian white male, or another person may claim to be disadvantaged. If such individual requests that his or her firm be certified as a DBE, the Authority, as part of the certification process, will determine whether the individual is socially and economically disadvantaged. These owners must demonstrate that their disadvantaged status arose from individual circumstances, rather than by virtue of membership in a group.

- Q. What are the Acronyms MBE, DBE, SDB, WBE or FBE?
- A. A MBE is a Minority Business Enterprise, a DBE is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, a SDB is a Small Disadvantaged Business, a WBE is a Woman Owned Business and a FBE is a Female Business Enterprise. Each Program has different eligibility criteria for certification. Do not make the assumption that because you are certified in one of these programs that you are automatically certified in any of the other programs. You need to check with that certifying agency that you are seeking to do business with or your local Business Development Program Centers to make sure you meet their specific program requirements.
- Q. If I am currently certified by another Transit or Airport Authority, may I request reciprocal certification?
- A. Yes, if you are currently certified by a Transit or Airport Authority, or an Agency receiving funding by the US DOT and submit supporting documentation, a reciprocal certification may be granted.
- Q. If I am a DBE Prime, must I meet the same project goals as a majority prime contractor?
- A. DBE Prime Contractors must meet DBE contract goals or establish good faith efforts in the same way that non-DBE prime contractors, but a DBE prime contractor may count the work in proposes to do with its own forces towards achievement of the goal. DBE bidders on Prime contracts will be expected to make the same outreach efforts as other bidders and to document good faith efforts in situation where they do not fully meet contract goals.
- Q. If I am not currently certified or in the process of seeking DBE certification with the Airport Authority, can I still bid on Prime Contracts and Subcontracts?
- A. Anyone may bid on work. You don't have to be certified at the time of Bid. For the work by the bidder to count towards the project DBE goal, the bidder/contractor must be certified by the time of contract execution.
- Q. What is the definition of a Joint Venture?
- A. A Joint Venture (JV) means an association of a DBE firm and one or more other firms to carry out a single, for-profit business enterprise, for which the parties combine their property, capital efforts, skills and knowledge, an in which the DBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks and profits of the joint venture are commensurate with its ownership interest.

- Q. How does Joint Venturing DBE w/Majority Firms Count towards the Goal?
- A. When a DBE performs as a participant in a joint venture, count a portion of the total dollar value of the contract equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract that the DBE performs with its own forces toward DBE goals.