



DBE Program

Federal Transportation Administration (FTA)

Future Funded Projects

FTA & Houston Southeast

The Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") is an agency within the United States Department of Transportation ("U.S. DOT") that provides financial and technical assistance to local public transportation systems.

Houston Southeast is a recipient of FTA funds.

Houston Southeast's DBE Policy Statement

Houston Southeast has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise ("DBE") Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Houston Southeast has received federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration and, as a condition of receiving this assistance, Houston Southeast has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR part 26 - Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs.

It is the policy of Houston Southeast to facilitate and assure that each third party participant will facilitate DBE participation by:

1. Complying with 49 CFR part 26;
2. Not discriminating on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin;
3. Implementing Houston Southeast's DBE program; and
4. Verifying DBE Certification.

What is the 49 CFR Part 26?

The Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") is the codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations (sometimes called administrative law) published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government of the United States.

The 49 CFR Part 26 - PARTICIPATION BY DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS is the government regulation that all grantees of FTA funds must adhere to in order to be in good standing with the FTA.

General Requirements of FTA Funded DBE Programs:

Objectives

The objectives of a DBE program, as listed in 49 CFR part 26.1, include:

- “To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT FTA-assisted contracts in the transit financial assistance programs;
- To create a level-playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for U.S. DOT FTA-assisted contracts;
- To ensure that Houston Southeast’s DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet this part’s eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in U.S. DOT FTA-assisted contracts;
- To assist the develop of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program; and
- To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.”

Houston Southeast strives to achieve the listed objectives through its DBE Program.

General Requirements of FTA Funded DBE Programs:

Non-discrimination Requirements

Houston Southeast will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR part 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, **Houston Southeast** will not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

General Requirements of FTA Funded DBE Programs:

Assurances

Each contract **Houston Southeast** signs with a contractor (and each subcontract the prime contractor signs with a subcontractor) or sub-recipient must include the following assurance:

The contractor, subcontractor, or sub recipient shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT FTA-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor, subcontractor, or sub recipient 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 recipient deems appropriate.

Certification Standards

State of Texas's Unified Certification Program ("TUCP") is administered by the **Texas Department of Transportation ("TXDOT")**. All certification activities should be submitted to the TUCP certifying entity that services the Texas county in which the business' home or corporate headquarters is located. The TUCP Certifying Agency Region Map on the TXDOT website indicates the appropriate entity.

The appropriate TUCP certifying agency and contact information for businesses located in Harris County is listed below:

City of Houston - Office of Business Opportunity

Carlecia D. Wright, Director

611 Walker, 7th Floor

Houston, TX 77002

Phone: 832.393.0600

<http://www.houstontx.gov/obo/>

Thank You

Please participate by submitting your input regarding our DBE goals during the public comments period.