

Reference: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
Section: GENERAL
Title: DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the position of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and the Niagara Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. (collectively referred to as "NFTA" or "Authority") on Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE).

II. POLICY

In accordance with requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, dated March 4, 1999, entitled, "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Programs," the Authority, is committed to the development and implementation of an effective DBE Program.

The Authority has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation (DOT), and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Authority has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the Authority to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also the policy of the Authority:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts; and
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

The Manager of Equal Opportunity/Diversity Development has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, the Manager of Equal Opportunity/Diversity Development is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE Program. Implementation of the DBE Program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Authority in its financial assistance agreements with the DOT.

The Authority has disseminated this policy to the Board of Commissioners and all the components of the organization. The Authority has distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for the Authority on DOT-assisted contracts by inclusion in bid specifications, Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) and Requests for Proposals (RFPs).