

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

# **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)**

**PROGRAM**



## **WHAT'S INSIDE:**

SDDOT DBE Program Overview  
Eligibility Requirements  
Application Process  
Benefits for Contractors  
Impact to Your Business



## **SDDOT DBE PROGRAM:**

Through the U.S. Department of Transportation, a portion of contracts on federal-aided highway projects are allocated to “Disadvantaged Business Enterprises” (DBEs). The SDDOT DBE program provides opportunities for a variety of construction specialties to compete for a portion of highway construction projects. DBEs can capitalize on this competitive advantage to become more successful in competing for government contracts.

## **DBE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federal-aid contracts.
2. Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for federal-aid contracts.
3. Ensure that the Department’s DBE program is narrowly tailored.
4. Ensure that only firms that fully meet the eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs.
5. Help remove barriers to participation of DBEs on federal-aid contracts.
6. Assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

### Ownership and Control

An individual must own 51% or more of a “small business” and establish that they are socially and economically disadvantaged. A disadvantaged owner seeking certification must possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the firm. The owner must also have an overall understanding of managerial and technical competency and experience directly related to the type of business in which the firm is engaged.

### Social & Economic Disadvantage

All owners must provide individualized evidence of disadvantage through a Personal Narrative in which the disadvantaged owner explains the specific barriers they faced in Education, Employment or Business, and how those barriers caused economic harm.

The Department sets financial limitations to an individual’s personal net worth (PNW), and a firm’s annual gross receipts to meet an economic disadvantage status. For the most recent limitations on eligibility, visit the SDDOT DBE page by visiting: <https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/contractors/dbe>.

## COMPETITIVE EDGE:

SDDOT will apply DBE goals on federally-aided highway construction projects. This then drives prime contractors to solicit DBEs directly for quote submissions and to participate in the prime contractor’s proposal to the state. The more DBEs used on a project, the more competitive the proposal. Being certified as a DBE will open up new opportunities and can even give your company a competitive edge in government contracting.





## **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

To apply for DBE certification in South Dakota, applicant firms can either mail their complete application to the SDDOT or contact the DBE program coordinator to establish a secured share drive to upload the required documentation.

### **Firms Located in South Dakota (In-state)**

- Complete the Uniform Certification Program (UCP) application, Personal Narrative, Personal Net Worth (PNW) Statement and gather all supporting documentation listed on the UCP Application Supporting Documents Checklist.
- Mail or upload the completed application, along with all substantiating documentation to the SDDOT.
- Complete an onsite review of your home office. You will be notified in writing of the results of the application.

### **Firms Located Outside of South Dakota (Interstate)**

- Contact the SDDOT to request DBE certification in writing.
- Provide evidence of certification from your home state and submit a declaration of eligibility.
- SDDOT will confirm DBE certification with the home state and notify the applicant of approval or denial.

**Mail completed applications to or establish a secure share drive by contacting:**

Kyle Watkins- [kyle.watkins@state.sd.us](mailto:kyle.watkins@state.sd.us)

Department of Transportation - DBE Program

700 E. Broadway Ave. | Pierre SD 57501



## **IMPACT TO YOUR BUSINESS:**

All categories of horizontal and heavy construction are included in the SDDOT DBE program. Some work types include, but are not limited to:

### **Firms Located in South Dakota (In-state)**

- Architecture
- Concrete and asphalt
- Consulting
- Distributors
- Electrical services
- Engineering
- Erosion control
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Land surveying
- Portable facilities
- Signage
- Suppliers
- Traffic control
- Trucking
- Road grading

DBE firms are listed in an official directory used by prime contractors and government agencies to solicit work.

## **WHY SHOULD I APPLY?**

The SDDOT has set an annual DBE goal to be awarded to DBE-certified firms.

Additionally, companies that participate in the SDDOT DBE program are more likely to see improvements in:

- Increased revenue
- Better bidding abilities
- More bonding and loan opportunities
- Diversified experience in government contracts

**Get started today by visiting:**

<https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/contractors/dbe>

**FOR APPLICATION ASSISTANCE  
OR PROGRAM QUESTIONS,  
CONTACT:**

**SDDOT DBE Program Coordinator**

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<https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/contractors/dbe>

