

Objectives and Policy Statement

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (Department) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Department receives federal financial assistance from USDOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Department has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the Department to ensure that DBEs, as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy –

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

The DBE Program Specialist has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the liaison officer 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 Department in its financial assistance agreements with USDOT.

The Department will disseminate this policy statement to its division and field offices. It will also be distributed to DBEs and the non-DBE business community that performs work for us on USDOT-assisted contracts.

