

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is the largest direct recipient of funds from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the State. The NCDOT shall act as the lead agency and shall perform Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program certifications in accordance with this Unified Certification Program. The list below contains those entities that receive funds, both directly and indirectly, from USDOT and are required to abide by the terms and conditions of this UCP. Any questions concerning this list may be directed to the NCDOT Office of Civil Rights and Business Development.

United States Department of Transportation Direct Recipients

Highway

City of Asheboro
 City of Charlotte
 City of Concord
 City of Durham
 City of Fayetteville
 City of Gastonia
 City of Goldsboro
 City of Greensboro
 City of Greenville
 City of Hickory
 City of Highpoint
 City of Monroe
 City of Raleigh
 City of Roanoke Rapids
 City of Shelby
 City of Statesville
 City of Wilmington
 City of Wilson
 City of Winston-Salem
 County of Columbus
 County of Anson
 County of Avery
 County of Currituck
 County of Franklin
 County of Harnett
 County of Lee
 County of Onslow
 County of Person
 County of Rutherford
 County of Sampson
 Town of Chapel Hill
 Town of Edenton
 Town of Elkin
 Town of Plymouth
 Town of Siler City
 Town of Tarboro
 Town of Wallace

Aviation

Albert J. Ellis Airport
 Asheville Regional Airport
 Charlotte-Douglas International Airport
 Craven County Regional Airport
 Fayetteville Regional / Grannis Field
 Piedmont-Triad International Airport
 Pitt-Greenville Airport
 Raleigh-Durham International Airport
 Wilmington International Airport
~~Hickory Regional Airport~~
 Moore County Airport
 Kinston Regional Jetport

Transit

City of Asheville / Asheville Transit System
 Town of Cary
 Town of Chapel Hill
 City of Charlotte
 City of Durham / Durham Area Transit Authority
 City of Fayetteville / Fayetteville Area System of Transit
 City of Gastonia / Gastonia Transit
 Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
 City of Greensboro / Public Transportation Division
 City of Greensboro / Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
 City of Greenville / Greenville Area Transit
 City of Hickory / Piedmont Wagon
 City of High Point
 City of Raleigh / Department of Transportation
 Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority / Triangle Transit Authority
 City of Rocky Mount / Tar River Transit
 City of Wilmington / Wilmington Transit Authority
 City of Winston-Salem / Winston Salem Transit Authority

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Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the Unified Certification Program (or “UCP”) is to develop standardized procedures for certification of businesses as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, also known as “DBEs”. The UCP is an agreement required by USDOT standardizing the process for certification of DBEs among those entities within a state that receive USDOT funds either directly or indirectly.

Recipients are those entities that receive funds directly from a USDOT agency – FHWA, FAA, or FTA. All participating recipients are required to be part of this agreement by signature. Although subrecipients (those that receive funds indirectly from a USDOT agency) are not required to sign this UCP agreement, they are legally bound to follow UCP certification actions.

This UCP shall follow all certification procedures and standards as required by 49 CFR, Part 23 and 26 and shall cooperate fully with oversight, review and monitoring activities of USDOT and its operating administrations. The UCP shall implement all USDOT directives and guidance concerning certification matters.

Operational Viability

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) shall commit the appropriate resources and expertise to ensure the requirements of this agreement are implemented timely. Upon receipt of final approval of this UCP by USDOT, start-up and maintenance budgets will be developed. The NCDOT shall bear the expense associated with program start-up, and a cost-sharing formula will be developed to determine each recipient’s contribution to the maintenance of the program.

The NCDOT and other recipients understand that the cost of maintaining the program must be shared among the users. So that the cost share is equitable, fair and supported by actual data (rather than estimates), the NCDOT has opted to assume all operational costs for the first year; During the first year, operational data will be gathered, stratified, and evaluated to determine the actual cost of operation.

After the actual cost of operation is determined, stakeholders will reconvene to evaluate possible cost sharing options, and select the option that is most reasonable and feasible to implement. In the event the stakeholders are unable to reach consensus on an alternative, the USDOT will be asked to intervene by providing mediation services.

Reciprocity

This UCP complies with the certification and non-discrimination requirements of 49 CFR, Part 23 and 26. Recipients may use only UCP’s that comply with the certification and non-discrimination requirements of 49 CFR, Part 23 and 26.

This UCP will not process an application for certification from a firm having its principal place of business outside the state if the firm is not certified by the UCP in the state where it maintains its principal place of business. Upon verification of information and documents, out-of-state certifications may be accepted. NCDOT and its certifying agencies reserve the option to require additional documentation to meet North Carolina's certification requirements.

Applicability

Participation in the UCP would apply to any entity that receives FHWA, FAA, or FTA funds. Other than NCDOT, other entities primarily affected would be airport authorities and municipalities with local transit systems.

This UCP shall make all certification decisions on behalf of all USDOT recipients in North Carolina with respect to participation in the DOT DBE program.

1. Certification decisions by the UCP shall be binding on all DOT recipients within the state of North Carolina.
2. All recipients in this state will honor "one-stop" shopping to applicants for certification, such that an applicant is required to apply only once for a DBE certification.

Under North Carolina's UCP, all certifications will be conducted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, with the exception of airport concessions, ~~whose certifications will be completed by the airport itself~~ which will be managed as follows:

- NCDOT will be the sole certifier for all rental car service vendors for all airports.
- Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and Raleigh-Durham International Airport will certify food & beverage, news, advertisement, and gift shop vendors located within their respective airports.
- Except as specified above, NCDOT will certify all concessionaires in all other airports.
- NCDOT will maintain all ACDBE certifications, which includes providing notification to Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and Raleigh-Durham International Airport to conduct the third-year recertification review for the concessions in their airports.

With regard to certifications, participants have agreed to the following stipulations:

1. The NCDOT will independently perform the certification of DBE firms as described in specific sections of 49 CFR Part 23 and 26 on behalf of the recipient. ~~Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and Raleigh-Durham International Airport will conduct the concession certifications for the concession vendors within their respective airports.~~

2. The NCDOT will maintain a unified DBE directory containing, for all firms certified by the UCP, the information required by 49 CFR Part 26.31, and make it available to the public electronically, on the internet, as well as in print. The UCP shall update the electronic version of the directory by including additions, deletions, and other changes as soon as they are made.

The Recipient will ensure the following measure(s) are carried out:

1. The recipient will initiate the appropriate measures to ensure their database files accurately reflect qualified and certified DBE's prior to relinquishing said files to the NCDOT. The recipient will bear the cost of this clean up and transfer of data.
2. The recipient will participate in a reasonable cost sharing option as agreed upon by the stakeholders.

DBE Directory

In accordance with 49 CFR, Part 26.31, this UCP shall maintain and make available to interested persons a unified DBE directory identifying all firms eligible (including those from other states certified under the provisions of 49 CFR, Part 26) to participate as a DBE in North Carolina's program. This directory shall contain, at a minimum, the firm's name, address, phone number, and the types of work the firm is qualified to perform as a DBE. The on-line unified DBE directory will support real-time revisions and access, and will be made available to the public electronically, on the internet, and in print. The hard-copy directory will be printed and made available to interested persons at least annually.

The NCDOT will maintain the information contained in the directory and implement the appropriate measures to ensure the integrity of the data is preserved.