

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE:

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SP1 G64

Policy

It is the policy of the North Carolina Department of Transportation that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises shall have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or in part by Federal Funds in order to create a level playing field.

The Contractor is also encouraged to give every opportunity to allow DBE participation in Supplemental Agreements.

Obligation

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

Goals

Even though specific DBE goals have not been established for this project the Contractor shall report the utilization of DBE's during the construction of the project as follows:

Counting DBE Participation

- (1) If a firm is determined to be an eligible DBE firm and certified by the Department, the total dollar value of the participation by the DBE will be counted. The total dollar value of participation by a certified DBE will be based upon the value of work actually performed by the DBE and the actual payments to DBE firms by the contractor.
- (2) When a DBE performs as a participant in a joint venture, the contractor may count a portion of the total value of participation with the DBE in the joint venture, that portion of the total dollar value being a distinct clearly defined portion of work that the DBE performs with its forces.
- (3) (a) The Contractor may count only expenditures to DBEs that perform a commercially useful function in the work of a contract. A DBE is considered to perform a commercially useful function when it is responsible for execution of a distinct element of the work of a contract and carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To determine whether a DBE is performing a commercially useful function, the Department will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it

is actually performing and the DBE credit claimed for its performance of the work, and other relevant factors.

- (b) Consistent with normal industry practices, a DBE may enter into subcontracts. Work that a DBE subcontracts to another DBE firm may be counted. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE firm does not count. If a DBE Contractor or Subcontractor subcontracts a significantly greater portion of the work of the contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practices, the DBE shall be presumed not to be performing a commercially useful function. The Department's decision on the rebuttal of this presumption is subject to review by the Federal Highway Administration but is not administratively appealable to USDOT.
- (c) The following factors will be used to determine if a DBE trucking firm is performing a commercially useful function.
 - (1) The DBE firm must be responsible for the management and supervision of entire trucking operation
 - (2) The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured and operational truck
 - (3) The DBE will receive full credit for all trucks that he owns, insures, operates, and for which he employs drivers
 - (4) The DBE will receive full credit for all trucks leased from a certified DBE firm
 - (5) The DBE will only receive credit for the fees or commission for trucks leased from a non-DBE firm
 - (6) Others may use trucks during the term of the lease so long as the lease gives priority to the DBE for the use of the truck(s).

The DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption to the Department for commercially useful functions.

- (4) A Contractor may count toward its DBE goal 60 percent of its expenditures for materials and supplies required to complete the contract and obtained from DBE regular dealer and 100 percent of such expenditures to a DBE manufacturer.
 - (a) For purposes of this provision, a manufacturer is a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces on the premises the materials or supplies obtained by the Contractor.

- (b) For purposes of this provision, a regular dealer is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials or supplies required for the performance of the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold to the public in the usual course of business. To be a regular dealer, the firm must engage in, as its principal business and in its own name, the purchase and sale of the products in question. A regular dealer in such bulk items as steel, cement, gravel, stone, and petroleum products need not keep such products in stock, if it owns or operates distribution equipment. Brokers and packagers shall not be regarded as manufacturers or regular dealers within the meaning of this section.
- (5) A contractor may count toward its DBE goal the following expenditures to DBE firms that are not manufacturers or regular dealers:
- (a) The fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consultant, or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a DOT-assisted contract, toward DBE goal, provided the fees or commissions are determined to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees and commissions customarily allowed for similar services.
 - (b) The fees or commissions charged for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or for transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on a job site (but not the cost of the materials and supplies themselves), toward DBE goals, provided the fees are not from a manufacturer or regular dealer and provided the fees are determined to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.

Reports

All requests for subcontracts involving DBE subcontractors shall be accompanied by a certification executed by both the Prime Contractor and the DBE subcontractor attesting to the agreed upon unit prices and extensions for the affected contract items. This document shall be on the Department's Form RS-1-D, or in lieu of using the Departments Form, copies of the actual executed agreement between the Prime Contractor and the DBE subcontractor may be submitted. In any event, the Department reserves the right to require copies of actual subcontract agreements involving DBE Subcontractors.

The RS-1-D certification forms may be obtained from the Departments Resident Engineer.

These certifications shall be considered a part of the project records, and consequently will be subject to penalties under Federal Law associated with falsifications of records related to projects.

Reporting Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation

When payments are made to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms, including material suppliers, contractors at all levels (prime, subcontractor, or second tier subcontractor) shall provide the Engineer with an accounting of said payments. This accounting shall be furnished the Engineer for any given month by the end of the following month. Failure to submit this information accordingly may result in (1) withholding of money due in the next partial pay estimate; or (2) removal of an approved Contractor from the prequalified bidders list or the removal of other entities from the approved subcontractors list. The accounting shall list for each payment made to a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firm the following:

- DOT Project Number
- Payee Contractor Name
- Receiving Contractor or Material Supplier
- DBE Certification Basis, e.g., Woman Owned, Native American, African American, etc.
- Amount of Payment
- Date of Payment

A responsible fiscal officer of the payee contractor, subcontractor, or second tier subcontractor who can attest to the date and amounts of the payments shall certify that the accounting is correct. A copy of an acceptable report may be obtained from the Engineer.