

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



TO: DDOT Industry Partners, Contractors, and Consultants
Participating Localities
DDOT Chiefs and Administrators
Division Administrators

FROM: Sharon Kershbaum, Director

THROUGH: LaKisha Love-Pettis, Chief Transportation Equity and Inclusion Officer

DATE: Monday, October 6, 2025

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Transportation Interim Final Rule (IFR) on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Implementation Modifications

The United States Secretary of Transportation issued an IFR making changes to the DBE program requirements, which became effective upon publication in the Federal Register on October 3, 2025. A copy of the IFR is available at [DBE IFR Guidance.9-30-2025.pdf](#).

Among other changes, the IFR removes race- and sex-based presumptions of social and economic disadvantage, contains new definitions and requirements that replace race- and sex-based presumptions of social and economic disadvantage, and requires that all currently certified DBEs must be re-evaluated in accordance with the new rules. Moving forward, DBEs must demonstrate, on a case-by-case basis, a social and economic disadvantage based on their own experience and circumstances within the United States without regard to race or sex to benefit from DBE classification and concomitant financial assistance. The District Department of Transportation office of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises is responsible for conducting the required re-evaluations and has initiated this process.

Effective immediately, DBE goals on all active, federally eligible contracts are temporarily set at zero. Further, until DDOT completes its re-evaluation of all currently certified DBEs and implements the required changes to the DBE certification process, DDOT will not (1) include DBE goals in future contracts; and (2) count participation toward DBE goals on active contracts. Contractors/consultants with active contracts are not required to submit the DBE Utilization form in Section K. Contractors/consultants should continue to submit comments to the DBE Checklist and questionnaire, omitting answers to questions regarding gender and ethnicity in all documents related to the DBE program.

The information above is based on public information provided by USDOT and not intended as legal advice. Should you have any questions regarding IFR implications specific to your circumstance, please seek advice of counsel. DDOT will provide updates on changes to the DBE program as additional information becomes available. Please email any questions regarding the information herein provided to the DBE branch at dbe.ddot@dc.gov.