

Dear Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)/Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program vendor,

On October 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued an interim final rule (IFR) requiring immediate changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program regulations. These changes require the re-evaluation of all DBE firms previously certified using race- or sex-based presumptions of social and economic disadvantage. As part of the reevaluation, all DBE/ACDBE firms owned by an individual who was presumed to be disadvantaged (e.g., women, Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian Pacific American, Subcontinent Asian American), must now submit a personal narrative explaining their social and economic disadvantage, without regard to race or gender, and submit an updated personal net worth statement.

Action required to start compliance process with the interim final rule

Please log into the certification portal (<https://certification-app.sbsd.virginia.gov>) and upload the following documents:

1. A personal narrative that establishes the existence of disadvantage by a preponderance of the evidence based on individualized proof regarding specific instances of economic hardship, systemic barriers, and denied opportunities that impeded the owner's progress or success in education, employment, or business, including obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated persons who did not face barriers in obtaining terms. The personal narrative must state how and to what extent the impediments caused the owner economic harm, including a full description of type and magnitude, and must establish the owner is economically disadvantaged in fact relative to similarly situated non-disadvantaged individuals. (as stated in the interim final rule)

2. A personal net worth statement and any other financial information the owner considers relevant. (as stated in the interim final rule)

Please submit the requested documents by October 27, 2025. The United States Department of Transportation's Regulation, *49 CFR Part 26.109 (c)*, requires that DBE firms and firms seeking DBE certification shall cooperate fully with requests for information relevant to the certification process. Failure or refusal to provide such information is grounds for a denial or removal of certification (de-certification). **Any firm that fails to comply with this request or does not meet the standard of certification based on the new IFR will be decertified without the opportunity to have a hearing.**

To view your application and submit the requested documents, click on the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser. You will be asked for your username and password to gain access to your application portal.