

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

The Hardin County Airport Authority, owner of Hardin County Airport, has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Hardin County Airport Authority has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Hardin County Airport Authority has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26 (hereafter referred to as "Part 26").

It is the policy of the Hardin County Airport Authority to ensure that DBEs as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also the Hardin County Airport Authority's policy to engage in the following actions on a continuing basis:

1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT- assisted contracts;
2. Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT- assisted contracts;
3. Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. Promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities;
7. Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. Make appropriate use of the flexibility afforded to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Kolt Buchenroth has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Kolt Buchenroth 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 Hardin County Airport Authority in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The Hardin County Airport Authority has disseminated this policy statement to the Hardin County Board of Commissioners and all of the components of our organization. This statement has been distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that may perform work on the Hardin County Airport Authority's DOT-assisted contracts. The distribution was accomplished by posting the program on the Hardin County's official website.



Ben Hensel, President



Date

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.1 Objectives

The objectives are elaborated in the policy statement on the first page of this program.

Section 26.3 Applicability

The Hardin County Airport Authority is the recipient of Federal airport funds authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47101, *et seq.*

Section 26.5 Definitions

The Hardin County Airport Authority will use terms in this program that have their meanings defined in Part 26, § 26.5.

Section 26.7 Non-discrimination Requirements

The Hardin County Airport Authority will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR Part 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, the Hardin County Airport Authority will not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

Section 26.11 Data Collection and Reporting Requirements

Reporting to DOT

The Hardin County Airport Authority will provide data about its DBE Program to the Department as directed by DOT and its operating administrations.

DBE participation will be reported to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as follows:

The Hardin County Airport Authority will transmit to FAA annually, by or before December 1, the information required for the "Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and Payments", as described in Part 26. The Hardin County Airport Authority will similarly report the required information about participating DBE firms. All reporting for this purpose will be done through the FAA's designated reporting system.

Bidders List

The Hardin County Airport Authority will collect bidders list information as described in § 26.11(c)(2) and enter it into the system designated by DOT. The purpose of the bidders list is to compile as accurate data as possible about the universe of DBE and non-DBE contractors and subcontractors who seek to work on our federally assisted contracts for use in helping you set your overall goals, and to provide the Department with data for evaluating the extent to which the objectives of § 26.1 are being achieved.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will obtain the following bidders list information about all DBE and non-DBEs who bid as prime contractors and subcontractors on each of our federally assisted contracts:

- Firm name
- Firm Address including Zip code
- Firm's status as a DBE or non-DBE
- Race and gender information for the firm's majority owner
- NAICS code applicable to each scope of work the firm sought to perform in its bid
- Age of the firm
- Annual gross receipts of the firm. The gross receipts can be obtained by asking each firm to indicate into what gross receipts bracket they fit (e.g. less than \$1 million; \$1-3 million; \$3-6 million; \$6-10 million, etc) rather than requesting an exact figure from the firm.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will collect the data from all bidders for our federally assisted contracts by requiring the information in paragraph (c)(2) of this section to be submitted with their bids or initial responses to negotiated procurements.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will enter this data in the Department's designated system no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the relevant contract was awarded.

In the case of a "design-build" contracting situation where subcontracts will be solicited throughout the contract period as defined in a DBE Performance Plan pursuant to § 26.53(e), the Hardin County Airport Authority will enter the data no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the design-build contractor awards the relevant subcontract(s).

The Hardin County Airport Authority will maintain records documenting a firm's compliance with the requirements of this part. These records will be retained in accordance with all applicable record retention requirements of the Hardin County Airport Authority's financial assistance agreement.

Section 26.13 Assurances Recipients and Contractors Must Make

The Hardin County Airport Authority has signed the following assurances, applicable to all DOT-assisted contracts and their administration:

Assurance: - Each financial assistance agreement the Hardin County Airport Authority signs with a DOT operating administration (or a primary recipient) will include the following assurance:

The Hardin County Airport Authority shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any DOT-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. The Hardin County Airport Authority shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR Part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. The Hardin County Airport Authority's DBE program, as required by 49 CFR Part 26 and as approved by DOT, is incorporated by reference in this agreement. Implementation of this program is a legal obligation and failure to carry out its terms shall be treated as a violation of this agreement. Upon notification to the Hardin County Airport Authority of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanctions as provided for under 49 CFR Part 26 and may, in appropriate cases, refer the matter for enforcement under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*).

Contract Assurance: The Hardin County Airport Authority will ensure that the following clause is included in each DOT-funded contract it signs with a contractor (and each subcontract the prime contractor signs with a subcontractor):

The contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor 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 part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-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 recipient deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- 2) Assessing sanctions;
- 3) Liquidated damages; and/or
- 4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.21 DBE Program Updates

The Hardin County Airport Authority is required to have a DBE program meeting the requirements of this part as it will receive grants for airport planning or development and will award prime contracts, cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in FAA funds in a federal fiscal year.

The Hardin County Airport Authority is not eligible to receive DOT financial assistance unless DOT has approved this DBE program and the Hardin County Airport Authority is in compliance with it and Part 26. The Hardin County Airport Authority will continue to carry out this program until all funds from DOT financial assistance have been expended. The Hardin County Airport Authority does not have to submit regular updates of the DBE program document, as long as it remains in compliance. However, significant changes in the program, including those required by regulatory updates, will be submitted to the relevant operating administration for approval.

Section 26.23 Policy Statement

The Policy Statement is elaborated on the first page of this DBE Program.

Section 26.25 DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

The following individual has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer for the Hardin County Airport Authority :

Kolt Buchenroth
13975 CR 135
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(419) 673-9542
kolt.buchenroth@gmail.com

In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that the Hardin County Airport Authority complies with all provision of 49 CFR Part 26. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the County Board of Commissioners concerning DBE program matters. An organizational chart displaying the DBELO's position in the organization is included in Attachment 2 to this program.

The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the DBE program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. The DBELO has a staff of consultant engineers to assist in the administration of the program. The duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by DOT.

2. Reviews third party contracts and purchase requisitions for compliance with this program.
3. Works with all departments to set overall annual goals.
4. Ensures that bid notices and requests for proposals are available to DBEs in a timely manner.
5. Identifies contracts and procurements so that DBE goals are included in solicitations (both race-neutral methods and contract specific goals) and monitors results.
6. Analyzes the Hardin County Airport Authority progress toward attainment and identifies ways to improve progress.
7. Participates in pre-bid meetings.
8. Advises the CEO/governing body on DBE matters and achievement.
9. Chairs the DBE Advisory Committee.
10. Determine contractor compliance with good faith efforts.
11. Provides DBEs with information and assistance in preparing bids, obtaining bonding and insurance.
12. Plans and participates in DBE training seminars.
13. Provides outreach to DBEs and community organizations to advise them of opportunities.

Section 26.27 DBE Financial Institutions

It is the policy of the Hardin County Airport Authority to investigate the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the community, to make reasonable efforts to use these institutions, and to encourage prime contractors on DOT-assisted contracts to make use of these institutions. Availability of such institutions will be investigated on an annual basis.

No DBE financial institutions were found in Hardin County.

Section 26.29 Prompt Payment Mechanisms

The Hardin County Airport Authority requires that all subcontractors performing work on DOT-assisted contracts shall be promptly paid for work performed pursuant to their agreements, in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and local law. Prompt payment and return of retainage requirements also apply to lower-tier subcontractors.

In accordance with 49 CFR § 26.29, the Hardin County Airport Authority established a contract clause implementing this requirement and requires prime contractors to pay subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days from the prime contractor's receipt of each payment from the Hardin County Airport Authority.

The Hardin County Airport Authority ensures prompt and full payment of retainage from the prime contractor to the subcontractor within 10 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Pursuant to § 26.29, the Hardin County Airport Authority has selected the following method to comply with this requirement:

The Hardin County Airport Authority shall hold retainage from prime contractors and provide for prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions of the prime contract, pay retainage to prime contractors based on these acceptances, and require a contract clause obligating the prime contractor to pay all retainage owed to the subcontractor for satisfactory completion of the accepted work within 10 days after the Hardin County Airport Authority's payment to the prime contractor.

For every airport construction project funded under Federal grant assistance programs, the Hardin County Airport Authority includes the applicable clause from FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10 (Section 90-06) pertaining to the selected retainage method. If state or local prompt payment laws provide for payment in less than 30 days, any reference to "30 days" will be revised accordingly.

Prompt Payment Monitoring for DBEs and Non-DBEs

The Hardin County Airport Authority clearly understands and acknowledges that reliance on complaints or notifications from subcontractors about a contractor's failure to comply with prompt payment and retainage requirements is not a sufficient monitoring and oversight mechanism. Therefore, the Hardin County Airport Authority undertakes proactive monitoring and oversight of prime contractors' compliance with subcontractor prompt payment and return of retainage requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. Such monitoring activities will be accomplished through the following method(s):

- 1) Make phone calls/send emails to subcontractors 11 days after the prime receives payment from the Scioto County Airport Authority to verify that they were paid.
- 2) Contact the prime contractor if there are any discrepancies or payment delays.

The Hardin County Airport Authority requires prime contractors to maintain records and documents of payments to subcontractors, including DBEs, for a minimum of three (3) years unless otherwise provided by applicable record retention requirements for the Hardin County Airport Authority's financial assistance agreement, whichever is longer. These records will be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized representative of the Hardin County Airport Authority or DOT. This reporting requirement extends to all subcontractors, both DBE and non-DBE.

- The Hardin County Airport Authority proactively reviews contract payments to subcontractors including DBEs every time a prime contractor submits an invoice for payment. Payment reviews will evaluate whether the actual amount paid to DBE subcontractors is equivalent to the amounts reported to the Hardin County Airport Authority by the prime contractor.

Prompt Payment Dispute Resolution

The Hardin County Airport Authority will take the following steps to resolve disputes as to whether timely prompt payment and retainage releases are being made as required by § 26.29.

- 1) Make phone calls/send emails to identify the cause of the dispute.
- 2) Schedule meetings with the prime contractor and subcontractor to discuss resolutions.

- 3) Provide input as to whether work has been satisfactorily completed in accordance with the contract documents.

The Hardin County Airport Authority has established, as part of its DBE program, the following mechanism(s) to ensure prompt payment and return of retainage:

- 1) A contract clause providing that the prime contractor will not be reimbursed for work performed by subcontractors unless and until the prime contractor ensures that the subcontractors are promptly paid for the work they have performed.

Prompt Payment (49 CFR § 26.29) - The prime contractor agrees to pay each subcontractor under this prime contract for satisfactory performance of its contract no later than 10 days from the receipt of each payment the prime contractor receives from the Scioto County Airport Authority. The prime contractor agrees further to return retainage payments to each subcontractor within 10 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Any delay or postponement of payment from the above referenced time frame may occur only for good cause following written approval of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

- 2) Make phone calls and/or send emails to DBE subcontractors to verify receipt of payment.
- 3) If there are delays, future payments will be withheld until payment to the DBE has been verified.

Prompt Payment Complaints

Complaints by subcontractors regarding the prompt payment requirements are handled according to the following procedure.

- If affected subcontractor is not comfortable contacting the prime directly regarding payment or unable to resolve payment discrepancies with the prime, subcontractor should contact the DBELO to initiate any complaints.
- If filing a prompt payment complaint with the DBELO does not result in timely and meaningful action by the Hardin County Airport Authority to resolve prompt payment disputes, affected subcontractor may contact the responsible FAA contact.
- Pursuant to Sec. 157 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, all complaints related to prompt payment will be reported in a format acceptable to the FAA, including the nature and origin of the complaint and its resolution.

Enforcement Actions for Noncompliance of Participants

The Hardin County Airport Authority provides appropriate means to enforce the requirements of § 26.29. These means include:

Unless prior written approval is accepted by the Hardin County Airport Authority for withholding of the subcontractor's payment by the prime contractor, the Hardin County Airport Authority will withhold further payment to the prime contractor until the subcontractor has been paid in full or written acceptance of the nonpayment from the subcontractor is received by the Hardin County Airport Authority.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will actively implement the enforcement actions detailed above.

Section 26.31 Directory of Certified Firms

The Hardin County Airport Authority is a non-certifying member of the Ohio Unified Certification Program (UCP). The UCP maintains a directory identifying all firms eligible to participate as DBEs and/or ACDBEs, and it contains all the elements required by §26.31. The directory lists all firms eligible to participate as a DBE and/or ACDBE in the program. In the listing for each firm, the UCP directory includes the following details about the firm:

- Business address
- Business phone number
- Firm website(s)
- The types of work the firm has been certified to perform as a DBE and/or ACDBE.
- The type of work a DBE and/or ACDBE is eligible to perform is listed by using the most specific NAICS code available to describe each type of work the firm performs. Pursuant to § 26.81(n)(1) and (3), the UCP directory allows for NAICS codes to be supplemented with specific descriptions of the type(s) of work the firm performs.
- The UCP directory may include additional data fields of other items readily verifiable in State or locally maintained databases, such as State licenses held, Pre-qualifications, and Bonding capacity.
- The UCP directory is an online system that permits the public to search and/or filter for DBEs by:
 1. Physical location
 2. NAICS code(s)
 3. Work descriptions
 4. All additional data fields of readily verifiable optional information described above.

The directory includes a prominently displayed disclaimer that states the information within the directory is not a guarantee of the DBE's capacity and ability to perform work.

Section 26.33 Over-concentration

The Hardin County Airport Authority has not identified that over-concentration exists in the types of work that DBEs perform.

Section 26.35 Business Development and Mentor-Protégé Programs

The Hardin County Airport Authority has not established a Business Development Program or a Mentor-Protégé Program as described by 49 CFR Part 26.

Section 26.37 Monitoring Responsibilities

The Hardin County Airport Authority implements and carries out appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26 program requirements by all program participants, and describes and sets forth these mechanisms in this DBE program.

The Hardin County Airport Authority actively monitors attainment toward overall goals by maintaining running tally that provides for a frequent comparison of cumulative DBE awards/commitments to DOT-assisted prime contract awards to determine whether our implementation of contract goals is projected to be sufficient to meet the annual goal. The running tally for overall goal monitoring will be maintained by confirming payment to DBE subcontractors via correspondence with all DBE subcontractors at least 11 days after the prime contractor receives payment . This mechanism to maintain a running tally of overall goal attainment will be used to inform the Hardin County Airport Authority's decisions to implement goals on contracts to be advertised, according to our established contract goal-setting process.

The Hardin County Airport Authority actively monitors participation with respect to each DBE commitment by using a running tally that provides for a frequent comparison of payments made to each listed DBE relative to the progress of work, including payments for such work to the prime contractor. The running tally for contract goal monitoring will be maintained by confirming payment to DBE subcontractors via correspondence with all DBE subcontractors at least 11 days after the prime contractor receives payment . These contract-specific running tallies will be used to determine whether the contractor is on track with meeting its DBE commitment and whether any projected shortfall exists that requires the prime contractor's good faith efforts to address to meet the contract goal pursuant to § 26.53(g).

Monitoring Contracts and Work Sites

The Hardin County Airport Authority reviews contracting records and engages in active monitoring of work sites to ensure that work committed to DBEs at contract award or subsequently (e.g., as the result of modification to the contract) is actually performed by the DBEs to which the work was committed, and such work is counted according to the requirements of § 26.55. Work site monitoring for counting and commercially useful function review is performed by the airport manager and our engineering consultant. Contracting records are reviewed by the Hardin County Airport Authority and our

engineering consultant. The Hardin County Airport Authority will maintain written certification that contracting records have been reviewed and work sites have been monitored to ensure the counting of each DBE's participation is consistent with its function on the contract.

Section 26.39 Fostering Small Business Participation

The Hardin County Airport Authority has created a Small Business element to structure contracting requirements to facilitate competition by small business concerns, taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to their participation, including unnecessary and unjustified bundling of contract requirements that may preclude small business participation in procurements as prime contractors or subcontractors.

The small business element is incorporated as Attachment 10 to this DBE Program. The program elements will be actively implemented to foster small business participation. The Hardin County Airport Authority acknowledges that implementation of the small business element is required for us to be considered by DOT as implementing our DBE program in good faith.

SUBPART C – GOALS, GOOD FAITH EFFORTS, AND COUNTING

Section 26.43 Set-asides or Quotas

The Hardin County Airport Authority does not use quotas or race-conscious set-asides in any way in the administration of this DBE program.

Section 26.45 Overall Goals

The Hardin County Airport Authority will establish an overall DBE goal covering a three-year federal fiscal year period if it anticipates awarding DOT-funded prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in DOT funds during any one or more of the reporting fiscal years within the three-year goal period. In accordance with §26.45(f), [Recipient] will submit its Overall Three-year DBE Goal to the FAA by August 1st of the year in which the goal is due, as required by the schedule established by the FAA.

The DBE goals will be established in accordance with the 2-step process as specified in 49 CFR Part 26.45. If the Hardin County Airport Authority does not anticipate awarding prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in DOT funds during any of the years within the three-year reporting period, an overall goal will not be developed. However, this DBE Program will remain in effect and the Hardin County Airport Authority will seek to fulfill the objectives outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.1.

Step 1. The first step is to determine a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs in the market area. The Hardin County Airport Authority will use Bidders Lists from previous projects and Ohio DBE Directory information and Census Bureau Data as a method to determine the base figure as a method to determine the base figure. The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that the exclusive use of a list of prequalified contractors or plan holders, or a bidders list that does not comply with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26.45(c)(2), is not an acceptable alternative means of determining the availability of DBEs.

Step 2. The second step is to adjust, if necessary, the “base figure” percentage from Step 1 so that it reflects as accurately as possible the DBE participation the recipient would expect in the absence of discrimination. Adjustments may be made based on past participation, information from a disparity study (to the extent it is not already accounted for in the base goal), and/or information about barriers to entry to past competitiveness of DBEs on contracts. The Hardin County Airport Authority will examine all of the evidence available in its jurisdiction to determine what adjustment, if any, is needed. If the evidence does not suggest an adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.

Any methodology selected will be based on demonstrable evidence of local market conditions and be designed to ultimately attain a goal that is rationally related to the relative availability of DBEs in the Hardin County Airport Authority’s market.

In establishing the overall goal, the Hardin County Airport Authority will provide for consultation and publication. This includes consultation with minority, women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations

which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the efforts by the Hardin County Airport Authority to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation will include a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange (e.g., a face-to-face meeting, video conference, teleconference) with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the goal setting process, and it will occur before the Hardin County Airport Authority is required to submit the goal methodology to the operating administration for review pursuant to §26.45(f). The goal submission will document the consultation process in which the Hardin County Airport Authority engaged. Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of §26.45, the proposed goal will not be implemented until this requirement is met.

In addition to the consultation described above, the Hardin County Airport Authority will publish a notice announcing the proposed overall goal before submission to the FAA on August 1st. The notice will be posted on Hardin County's official internet web site and may be posted in other sources (e.g., minority-focused media, trade association publications). If the proposed goal changes following review by the FAA, the revised goal will be posted on Hardin County's official internet web site.

The public will also be informed that the proposed overall goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at the principal office of the Hardin County Airport Authority. This notice will provide that the Hardin County Airport Authority will accept comments on the goals for 30 days from the date of the notice. Notice of the comment period will include the addresses to which comments may be sent (including offices and websites) and the location(s) where the proposed goal may be reviewed. **The public comment period will not extend the August 1st deadline.**

The Overall Three-Year DBE Goal submission to the FAA will include any information and comments received, who provided the comment, and how the Hardin County Airport Authority considered and responded to any comments and information received before finalizing the goal.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will begin using the overall goal on October 1 of the relevant period, unless other instructions from the FAA have been received.

Project Goals

If permitted or required by the FAA, an overall goal may be expressed as a percentage of funds for a particular grant or project or group of grants and/or projects, including entire projects. Like other overall goals, a project goal may be adjusted to reflect changed circumstances, with the concurrence of the appropriate operating administration. A project goal is an overall goal, and it must meet all the substantive and procedural requirements pertaining to overall goals. A project goal covers the entire length of the project to which it applies. The project goal will include a projection of the DBE participation anticipated to be obtained during each fiscal year covered by the project goal. The funds for the project to which the project goal pertains are separated from the base from which the regular overall goal, applicable to contracts not part of the project covered by a project goal, is calculated.

Prior Operating Administration Concurrence

The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that prior FAA concurrence with the overall goal is not required. However, if the FAA review suggests that the overall goal has not been correctly calculated or that the method employed by the Hardin County Airport Authority for calculating goals is inadequate, the FAA may, after consulting with the Hardin County Airport Authority, adjust the overall goal or require that the goal be adjusted by the Hardin County Airport Authority. The adjusted overall goal is binding. In evaluating the adequacy or soundness of the methodology used to derive the overall goal, the U.S. DOT operating administration will be guided by the goal setting principles and best practices identified by the Department in guidance issued pursuant to § 26.9.

A description of the methodology to calculate the overall goal and the goal calculations can be found in Attachment 5 to this program.

Section 26.47 Failure to meet overall goals

The Hardin County Airport Authority cannot be penalized, or treated by the Department as being in noncompliance with Part 26, because DBE participation falls short of an overall goal, unless the Hardin County Airport Authority fails to administer its DBE program in good faith.

The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that to be considered to be in compliance with this part, an approved DBE Program and overall DBE goal, if applicable, must be maintained, and this DBE Program must be administered in good faith.

The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that if the awards and commitments shown on the Uniform Report of Awards or Commitments and Payments at the end of any fiscal year are less than the overall goal applicable to that fiscal year, the following actions must be taken in order to be regarded by the Department as implementing this DBE Program in good faith:

- (1) Analyze in detail the reasons for the difference between the overall goal and the awards and commitments in that fiscal year;
- (2) Establish specific steps and milestones to correct the problems identified in the analysis to enable the goal for the new fiscal year to be fully met;
- (3) The Hardin County Airport Authority will prepare, within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year, the analysis and corrective actions developed under paragraph (c)(1) and (2) of this section. We will retain copy of analysis and corrective actions in records for a minimum of three years, and will make it available to the FAA upon request.

Section 26.51 Means Recipients Use to Meet Overall Goals

Breakout of Estimated Race-Neutral & Race-Conscious Participation

The Hardin County Airport Authority will meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating race-neutral DBE participation. Race-neutral DBE participation includes any time a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

Race-neutral means include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.
- (2) Providing assistance in overcoming limitations such as inability to obtain bonding or financing (e.g., by such means as simplifying the bonding process, reducing bonding requirements, eliminating the impact of surety costs from bids, and providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, obtain bonding and financing);
- (3) Providing technical assistance and other services;
- (4) Carrying out information and communications programs on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities (e.g., ensuring the inclusion of DBEs, and other small businesses, on recipient mailing lists for bidders; ensuring the dissemination to bidders on prime contracts of lists of potential subcontractors; provision of information in languages other than English, where appropriate);
- (5) Implementing a supportive services program to develop and improve immediate and long-term business management, record keeping, and financial and accounting capability for DBEs and other small businesses;
- (6) Providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, improve long-term development, increase opportunities to participate in a variety of kinds of work, handle increasingly significant projects, and achieve eventual self-sufficiency;
- (7) Establishing a program to assist new, start-up firms, particularly in fields in which DBE participation has historically been low;
- (8) Ensuring distribution of the DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors; and
- (9) Assisting DBEs, and other small businesses, to develop their capability to utilize emerging technology and conduct business through electronic media.

The breakout of estimated race-neutral and race-conscious participation can be found in Attachment 5 to this program.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will arrange solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.

Contract Goals

If the approved projection under paragraph (c) of §26.51 estimates that the entire overall goal for a given year can be met through race-neutral means, contract goals will not be set during that year, unless the use of contract goals becomes necessary in order to meet the overall goal.

Contract goals will be established only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. A contract goal need not be established on every such contract, and the size of contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract (e.g., type and location of work, availability of DBEs to perform the particular type of work).

Contract goals will be expressed as a percentage of the total amount of a DOT-assisted contract.

Section 26.53 Good Faith Efforts Procedures in Situations where there are Contract Goals

Demonstration of good faith efforts (pre-award)

In cases where a contract goal has been established, the contract in question will only be awarded to a bidder/offeror that has made good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder/offeror can demonstrate that it has made good faith efforts by either meeting the contract goal or documenting that it has made adequate good faith efforts to do so. Examples of good faith efforts are found in Appendix A to Part 26.

The DBELO is responsible for determining whether a bidder/offeror who has not met the contract goal has documented sufficient good faith efforts to be regarded as responsive.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will ensure that all information is complete and accurate and adequately documents the bidder/offeror's good faith efforts before committing to the performance of the contract by the bidder/offeror.

In all solicitations for DOT-assisted contracts for which a contract goal has been established, the following information will be required of every bidder/offeror:

- (1) Award of the contract will be conditioned on meeting the requirements of this section;
- (2) All bidders or offerors will be required to submit the following information to the recipient, at the time provided in paragraph (3) of this section:

- a. The names and addresses of DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
 - b. A description of the work that each DBE will perform. To count toward meeting a goal, each DBE firm must be certified in a NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm would perform on the contract;
 - c. The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating;
 - d. Written documentation of the bidder/offeror's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet a contract goal; and
 - e. Written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the prime contractor's commitment. Each DBE listed to perform work as a regular dealer or distributor must confirm its participation according to the requirements of § 26.53 (c)(1).
 - f. If the contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts (as elaborated in Appendix A of Part 26). The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract;
- (3) The bidder/offeror will be required to present the information stipulated in paragraph (2) of this section:
 - (4) Under sealed bid procedures, as a matter of responsiveness, or with initial proposals, under contract negotiation procedures.

Provided that, in a negotiated procurement, such as a procurement for professional services, the bidder/offeror may make a contractually binding commitment to meet the goal at the time of bid submission or the presentation of initial proposals but provide the information required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section before the final selection for the contract is made by the Hardin County Airport Authority. This paragraph (b)(3)(ii) does not apply to a design-build procurement, which must follow the provisions in paragraph (e) of 49 CFR § 26.53.

For each DBE listed as a regular dealer or distributor the Hardin County Airport Authority will make a preliminary counting determination to assess its eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively, of the cost of materials and supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor, as defined in §§ 26.55(e)(2)(iv)(A), (B), (C), and (3) under the contract at issue. The preliminary determination will be made based on the DBE's written responses to relevant questions and its affirmation that its subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the preliminary counting of such participation. Where the DBE supplier does not affirm that its participation will meet the specific requirements of either a regular dealer or distributor, the Hardin County Airport Authority will make appropriate adjustments in counting such participation toward the bidder's good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder is responsible for verifying that the information provided by the DBE supplier is consistent with the counting of such participation toward the contract goal.

In a design-build contracting situation, in which the Hardin County Airport Authority solicits proposals to design and build a project with minimal project

details at time of letting, the Hardin County Airport Authority may set a DBE goal that proposers must meet by submitting a DBE Open-Ended DBE Performance plan (OEPP) with the proposal. The OEPP replaces the requirement to provide the information required in paragraph (b) of § 26.53(b). To be considered responsive, the OEPP must include a commitment to meet the goal and provide details of the types of subcontracting work or services (with projected dollar amounts) that the proposer will solicit DBEs to perform. The OEPP must include an estimated time frame in which actual DBE subcontracts would be executed. Once the design-build contract is awarded, the Hardin County Airport Authority will provide ongoing monitoring and oversight to evaluate whether the design-builder is using good faith efforts to comply with the OEPP and schedule. The Hardin County Airport Authority and the design-builder may agree to make written revisions of the OEPP throughout the life of the project, e.g., replacing the type of work items the design-builder will solicit DBEs to perform and/or adjusting the proposed schedule, as long as the design-builder continues to use good faith efforts to meet the goal.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will apply the requirements of this section to DBE bidders/offers for prime contracts. In determining whether a DBE bidder/offeror for a prime contract has met a contract goal, The Hardin County Airport Authority will count the work the DBE has committed to performing with its own forces as well as the work that it has committed to be performed by DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers.

Administrative Reconsideration of Good Faith Efforts determinations

Within 14 days of being informed by The Hardin County Airport Authority that it is not responsive because it has not documented adequate good faith efforts, a bidder/offeror may request administrative reconsideration. Bidder/offers should make this request in writing to the following reconsideration official: **[provide name, address, phone number, e-mail address]**. The reconsideration official will not have played any role in the original determination that the bidder/offeror did not document sufficient good faith efforts.

As part of this reconsideration, the bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to provide written documentation or argument concerning the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to meet in person with the reconsideration official to discuss the issue of whether the goal was met or the bidder/offeror made adequate good faith efforts to do. The bidder/offeror will be sent a written decision on reconsideration, explaining the basis for finding that the bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The result of the reconsideration process is not administratively appealable to the Department of Transportation.

Good Faith Efforts procedural requirements (post-solicitation/award)

The Hardin County Airport Authority will include in each prime contract the contract clause required by § 26.13(b) stating that failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of this part is a material breach of the contract and may result in the termination of the contract or such other remedies set forth in that section that the

Hardin County Airport Authority deems appropriate if the prime contractor fails to comply with the requirements of this section.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will require the awarded contractor to make available upon request a copy of all DBE subcontracts. The contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials include all required contract provisions and mandate that the subcontractor and all lower tier subcontractors perform in accordance with the provisions of Part 26.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will require that a prime contractor not terminate a DBE or any portion of its work listed in response to § 26.53(b)(2) (or an approved substitute DBE firm per § 26.53(g)) without our prior written consent, unless the Hardin County Airport Authority causes the termination or reduction. A termination includes any reduction or underrun in work listed for a DBE not caused by a material change to the prime contract by the recipient. This requirement applies to instances that include but are not limited to: when a prime contractor seeks to perform work originally designed for a DBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-DBE firm, or with another DBE firm.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will include in each prime contract a provision stating that:

- (1) The contractor must utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed unless the contractor obtains the Hardin County Airport Authority's written consent as provided in § 26.53(f); and
- (2) Unless the Hardin County Airport Authority's consent is provided under § 26.53(f), the prime contractor must not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

The Hardin County Airport Authority may provide such written consent only if it agrees, for reasons stated in our concurrence document, that the prime contractor has good cause to terminate the listed DBE or any portion of its work.

Good cause does not exist if the prime contractor seeks to terminate a DBE or any portion of its work that is relied upon to obtain the contract so that the prime contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE contractor was engaged, or so that he prime contractor can substitute another DBE or non-DBE contractor after contract award. For purposes of § 26.53(f)(3), good cause includes the following circumstances:

- (1) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- (2) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;
- (3) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements;
- (4) The listed DBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit worthiness;

- (5) The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 2 CFR parts 180, 215, and 1200 or applicable state law;
- (6) The Hardin County Airport Authority has determined that the listed DBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor;
- (7) The listed DBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides to the Hardin County Airport Authority written notice of its withdrawal;
- (8) The listed DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;
- (9) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract; and
- (10) Other documented good cause that the Hardin County Airport Authority determines compels the termination of the DBE subcontractor;

Before transmitting to the Hardin County Airport Authority the request to terminate a DBE subcontractor or any portion of its work, the prime contractor must give notice in writing to the DBE subcontractor, with a copy to the Hardin County Airport Authority sent concurrently, of its intent to request to terminate and the reason for the proposed request.

The prime contractor's written notice must give the DBE five (5) days to respond, advising the Hardin County Airport Authority and the prime contractor of the reasons, if any, why it objects to the proposed termination of its subcontract or portion thereof and why the Hardin County Airport Authority should not approve the prime contractor's request. If required in a particular case as a matter of public necessity (e.g., safety), the Hardin County Airport Authority may provide a response period shorter than five (5) days.

In addition to post-award terminations, the provisions of this section apply to pre-award deletions or changes to DBEs or their listed work put forward by offerors in negotiated procurements.

When a DBE subcontractor or a portion of its work is terminated by the prime contractor as provided in § 26.53(f), or if work committed to a DBE is reduced due to overestimations made prior to award, the prime contractor must use good faith efforts to include additional DBE participation to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. The good faith efforts shall be documented by the contractor. If the Hardin County Airport Authority requests documentation under this provision, the contractor shall submit the documentation within seven (7) days, which may be extended for an additional seven (7) days, if necessary, at the request of the contractor. The Hardin County Airport Authority shall provide a written determination to the contractor stating whether or not good faith efforts have been demonstrated.

Section 26.55 Counting DBE Participation

DBE participation will be counted toward overall and contract goals as provided in § 26.55. The participation of a DBE subcontractor will not be counted toward a contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligations on a contract until the amount being counted has actually been paid to the DBE.

In the case of post-award substitutions or additions, if a firm is not currently certified as a DBE in accordance with the standards of subpart D of this part at the time of the execution of the contract, the firm's participation will not be counted toward any DBE goals, except as provided for in § 26.87(j).

For FAA-funded projects **only**, firms that exceed the business size standard in § 26.65(b) will remain eligible for DBE certification and may be counted for DBE credit toward overall and contract goals on FAA-funded projects as long as they do not exceed the small business size standard, as adjusted by the United States Small Business Administration, for the NAICS code(s) in which they are certified.

SUBPART D – CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Section 26.61 – 26.73 Certification Process

The Hardin County Airport Authority is a **non-certifying member** of the Ohio Unified Certification Program (UCP) and relies upon the UCP's determinations of certification eligibility. Ohio's UCP will use the certification standards of Subpart D of Part 26 to determine the eligibility of firms to participate as DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts. To be certified as a DBE, a firm must meet all certification eligibility standards. Certifying Ohio UCP members make all certification decisions based on the facts as a whole.

For information about the certification process or to apply for certification, firms should contact:

Ohio Department of Transportation
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
1980 West Broad Street, MS 3270
Columbus, Ohio 43223
Phone: (614) 466-2878
Email: DOT.SDBE@dot.ohio.gov
<https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/business-economic-opportunity/dbe>

The Uniform Certification Application form, Personal Net Worth statement, and documentation requirements can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/disadvantaged-business-enterprise/ready-apply>. Ohio's UCP agreement can be found at <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/business-economic-opportunity/ucp/ucp-application>.

SUBPART E – CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Any procedures included here are highlights only. Detailed certification procedures are enumerated in the full Ohio UCP agreement. The full UCP agreement can be found at: <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/business-economic-opportunity/ucp/ucp-application>.

Section 26.81 Unified Certification Programs

The Hardin County Airport Authority is a non-certifying member of a Unified Certification Program (UCP) administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The UCP will meet all certification standards and procedures requirements of Subparts D and E of Part 26.

Section 26.91 Actions Following DOT Certification Appeal Decisions

If the Hardin County Airport Authority is a certifier to which a DOT determination under § 26.89 is applicable, we will take any and all required action(s) pursuant to § 26.91.

SUBPART F – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 26.101 Compliance Procedures Applicable to The Hardin County Airport Authority

The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that if it fails to comply with any requirement of this part, the Hardin County Airport Authority may be subject to formal enforcement action under § 26.103 or § 26.105 or appropriate program sanctions by the concerned operating administration, such as the suspension or termination of Federal funds, or refusal to approve projects, grants or contracts until deficiencies are remedied. Program sanctions may include, in the case of the FHWA program, actions provided for under 23 CFR 1.36; in the case of the FAA program, actions consistent with 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122; and in the case of the FTA program, any actions permitted under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or applicable FTA program requirements.

The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that, as provided in statute, it will not be subject to compliance actions or sanctions for failing to carry out any requirement of this part because it has been prevented from complying because a Federal court has issued a final order in which the court found that the requirement is unconstitutional.

Section 26.103 Enforcement Actions Applicable to FHWA and FTA Programs

The provisions of this section apply to enforcement actions under FHWA and FTA programs. **ONLY** paragraph (2) of this section is also applicable in FAA programs.

- (1) **Noncompliance complaints.** Any person who believes that a recipient has failed to comply with its obligations under this part may file a written complaint with the concerned operating administration's Office of Civil Rights. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged violation or the date on which the complainant learned of a continuing course of conduct in violation of this part. In response to a complainant's written request, the Office of Civil Rights may extend the time for filing in the interest of justice, specifying in writing the reason for so doing. The Office of Civil Rights may protect the confidentiality of a complainant's identity as provided in § 26.109(b). Complaints under this part are limited to allegations of violation of the provisions of this part.
- (2) **Compliance reviews.** The concerned operating administration may review the recipient's compliance with this part at any time, including reviews of paperwork and on-site reviews, as appropriate. The Office of Civil Rights may direct the operating administration to initiate a compliance review based on complaints received.
- (3) **Reasonable cause notice.** If it appears, from the investigation of a complaint or the results of a compliance review, that the Hardin County Airport Authority is in noncompliance with part 26, the appropriate DOT office will promptly send **[Recipient]**, return receipt requested, a written notice advising that there is reasonable cause to find the Hardin County Airport Authority in noncompliance. The notice states the reasons for this finding and directs the Hardin County Airport Authority to reply within 30 days concerning whether you wish to begin conciliation.
- (4) **Conciliation.**

- a. If the Hardin County Airport Authority requests conciliation, the appropriate DOT office shall pursue conciliation for at least 30, but not more than 120, days from the date of the request. The appropriate DOT office may extend the conciliation period for up to 30 days for good cause, consistent with applicable statutes.
- b. If the Hardin County Airport Authority and the appropriate DOT office sign a conciliation agreement, then the matter is regarded as closed and the Hardin County Airport Authority is regarded as complying. The conciliation agreement sets forth the measures the Hardin County Airport Authority has taken or will take to ensure compliance. While a conciliation agreement is in effect, the Hardin County Airport Authority remains eligible for FHWA or FTA financial assistance.
- c. The concerned operating administration shall monitor the implementation of the conciliation agreement and ensure that its terms are complied with. If the Hardin County Airport Authority fails to carry out the terms of a conciliation agreement, the Hardin County Airport Authority is in noncompliance.
- d. If the Hardin County Airport Authority does not request conciliation, or a conciliation agreement is not signed within the time provided earlier in this section, then enforcement proceedings begin.

(5) *Enforcement actions.*

- a. Enforcement actions are taken as provided in this subpart.
- b. Applicable findings in enforcement proceedings are binding on all DOT offices.

Section 26.105 Enforcement Actions Applicable to FAA Programs

Compliance with all requirements of this part by airport sponsors and other recipients of FAA financial assistance is enforced through the procedures of Title 49 of the United States Code, including 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122, and regulations implementing them.

The provisions of § 26.103(b) and this section apply to enforcement actions in FAA programs.

Any person who knows of a violation of this part by a recipient of FAA funds may file a complaint under 14 CFR part 16 with the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Chief Counsel.

Section 26.107 Enforcement Actions Applicable to Participating Firms

If a firm that does not meet the eligibility criteria of subpart D of this part attempts to participate in a DOT-assisted program as a DBE on the basis of false, fraudulent, or deceitful statements or representations or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings against the firm under 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200.

If a firm, in order to meet DBE contract goals or other DBE program requirements, uses or attempts to use, on the basis of false, fraudulent or deceitful statements or representations or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, another firm that does not meet the eligibility criteria of subpart D of this part, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings against you under 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200.

In a suspension or debarment proceeding brought under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the concerned operating administration may consider the fact that a purported DBE has been certified by a recipient. Such certification does not preclude the Department from determining that the purported DBE, or another firm that has used or attempted to use it to meet DBE goals, should be suspended or debarred.

The Department may take enforcement action under 49 CFR Part 31, Program Fraud and Civil Remedies, against any participant in the DBE program whose conduct is subject to such action under 49 CFR part 31.

The Department may refer to the Department of Justice, for prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001 or other applicable provisions of law, any person who makes a false or fraudulent statement in connection with participation of a DBE in any DOT-assisted program or otherwise violates applicable Federal statutes.

Section 26.109 Confidentiality, Cooperation, and Intimidation or Retaliation

In responding to requests for information concerning any aspect of the DBE program, the Department complies with provisions of the Federal Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (5 U.S.C. 552 and 552a). The Department may make available to the public any information concerning the DBE program release of which is not prohibited by Federal law.

Notwithstanding any provision of Federal or state law, information that may reasonably be construed as confidential business information will not be released to any third party without the written consent of the firm that submitted the information, including applications for DBE certification and supporting information. However, this information will be transmitted to DOT in any certification appeal proceeding under § 26.89 or to any other state to which the individual's firm has applied for certification under § 26.85.

All participants in the Department's DBE program (including, but not limited to, recipients, DBE firms and applicants for DBE certification, complainants and appellants, and contractors using DBE firms to meet contract goals) are required to cooperate fully and promptly with DOT and recipient compliance reviews, certification reviews, investigations, and other requests for information. Failure to do so shall be a ground for appropriate action against the party involved (e.g., with respect to recipients, a finding of noncompliance; with respect to DBE firms, denial of certification or removal of eligibility and/or suspension and debarment; with respect to a complainant or appellant, dismissal of the complaint or appeal; with respect to a contractor which uses DBE firms to meet goals, findings of non-responsibility for future contracts and/or suspension and debarment).

The Hardin County Airport Authority, contractor, or any other participant in the program will not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual or firm for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this part or because the individual or firm has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. The Hardin County Airport Authority understands that it is in noncompliance with Part 26 if it violates this prohibition.

ATTACHMENTS

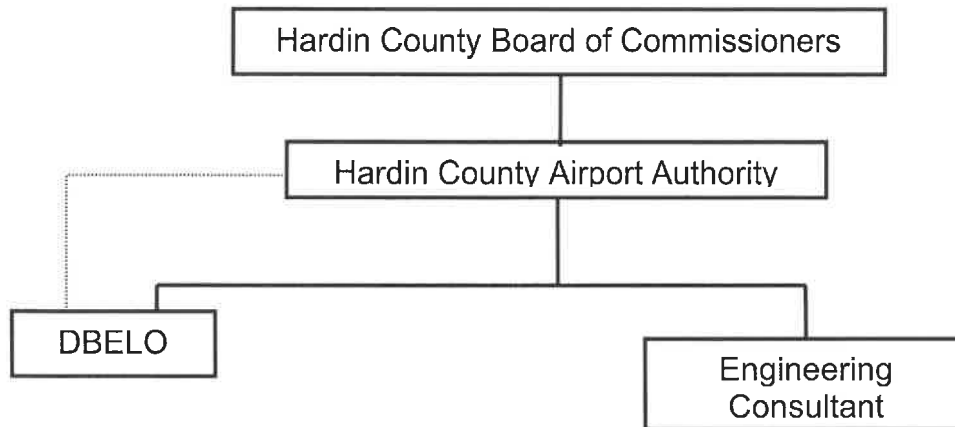
- Attachment 1 Regulations: Link to 49 CFR Part 26 (eCFR)
- Attachment 2 Organizational Chart
- Attachment 3 Bidder's List Collection Form
- Attachment 4 Link to UCP Directory of Certified Firms
- Attachment 5 Overall Goal Calculations
- Attachment 6 Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts Forms
- Attachment 7 DBE Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms
- Attachment 8 Link to Certification Application Form and Personal Net Worth Statement
- Attachment 9 Link to State's UCP Agreement
- Attachment 10 Small Business Element Program

ATTACHMENT 1

DBE program regulations are codified in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26. They can be retrieved using the following link to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-A/part-26>

ATTACHMENT 2
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ATTACHMENT 3

Bidder's List Collection Form

Firm Name	Firm Address (including ZIP code)	DBE or Non-DBE Status	NAICS Code(s) of Scope(s) Bid	Race/Gender of Majority Owner	Age of Firm	Annual Gross Receipts
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontinent Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Non-minority Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-3 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$3-6 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$6-10 million <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10 million
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontinent Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Non-minority Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-3 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$3-6 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$6-10 million <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10 million
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontinent Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Non-minority Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-3 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$3-6 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$6-10 million <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10 million

ATTACHMENT 4

Ohio's UCP Directory may be found here:

<https://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/ODI/SDBE/Pages/DBE-Directory.aspx>

ATTACHMENT 5

Overall DBE Three-Year Goal Methodology

Name of Recipient: Hardin County Airport Authority

Goal Period: FY 2025-27 (10/1/2024 through 9/30/2027)

DOT-assisted contract amounts:

Year 1	\$875,000
Year 2	\$1,008,509
Year 3	\$830,093
Totals	\$2,713,602

Overall Three-Year Goal: 6.7%, to be accomplished through 6.7% Race Conscious and 0.0% Race Neutral

Total dollar amount to be expended on DBEs: \$182,729

Describe the Number and Type of Contracts that the airport anticipates awarding:

Contracts in Fiscal Year #1

1. T-Hangar Site Work (Design) - \$75,000
2. Terminal Building (Construct) - \$800,000

Contracts in Fiscal Year #2

1. T-Hangar (Design) - \$65,000
2. T-Hangar Site Work (Construct) - \$943,509

Contracts in Fiscal Year #3

1. T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1) - \$830,093

Market Area

The market areas are Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Crawford, Delaware, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Marion, Morrow, Putnam, Seneca, Shelby, Union, Wood, and Wyandot Counties in Ohio.

Step 1. Actual relative availability of DBEs

The base figure for the relative availability was calculated as follows:

Method: Use DBE Directories (<https://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/ODI/SDBE/Pages/DBE-Directory.aspx>) and

Census Bureau Data (<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>).

Weighted Availability of DBE firms:

Fiscal Year #1

For 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025, award of the following is anticipated:

Project Name	Trade Description	NAICS Description	NAICS	Trade (\$)	Directory	Census	DBE (%)	DBE (\$) (= Trade \$ x DBE %)
T-Hangar Site Work (Design)	Engineering Services	Engineering Services	541330	\$65,000	2	47	4.3%	\$2,795
T-Hangar Site Work (Design)	Construction and Materials Testing	Testing Laboratories	541380	\$10,000	2	9	22.2%	\$2,220
T-Hangar Site Work (Design)				\$75,000			6.7%	\$5,015
Terminal Building (Construct)	Airport Building Construction	Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	236220	\$500,000	0	42	0.0%	\$0
Terminal Building (Construct)	Engineering Services	Engineering Services	541330	\$92,000	2	47	4.3%	\$3,956
Terminal Building (Construct)	Earthwork and Erosion Control	Site Preparation Contractors	238910	\$53,000	1	80	1.3%	\$689
Terminal Building (Construct)	Building Foundations	Poured Concrete Foundation and Structure Contractors	238110	\$60,000	1	31	3.2%	\$1,920
Terminal Building (Construct)	Electrical Work	Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	\$85,000	0	61	0.0%	\$0
Terminal Building (Construct)	Construction and Materials Testing	Testing Laboratories	541380	\$10,000	2	9	22.2%	\$2,220
Terminal Building (Construct)				\$800,000			1.1%	\$8,785
Year 1 Total				\$875,000			1.6%	\$13,800

Fiscal Year #2

For 10/1/2025 - 9/30/2026, award of the following is anticipated:

Project Name	Trade Description	NAICS Description	NAICS	Trade (\$)	Directory	Census	DBE (%)	DBE (\$) (= Trade \$ x DBE %)
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T-Hangar (Design)	Construction and Materials Testing	Testing Laboratories	541380	\$5,000	2	9	22.2%	\$1,110
T-Hangar (Design)	Engineering Services	Engineering Services	541330	\$60,000	2	47	4.3%	\$2,580
T-Hangar (Design)				\$65,000			5.7%	\$3,690
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)	Asphalt Pavement Construction	Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	237310	\$406,009	0	1	0.0%	\$0
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)	Aggregate Base	Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	237310	\$113,700	1	1	100.0%	\$113,700
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)	Engineering Services	Engineering Services	541330	\$120,000	2	47	4.3%	\$5,160
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)	Earthwork and Erosion Control	Site Preparation Contractors	238910	\$263,250	1	80	1.3%	\$3,422
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)	Construction and Materials Testing	Testing Laboratories	541380	\$10,000	2	9	22.2%	\$2,220
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)	Seeding & Mulching	Landscaping Services	561730	\$30,550	0	151	0.0%	\$0
T-Hangar Site Work (Construct)				\$943,509			13.2%	\$124,502
Year 2 Total				\$1,008,509			12.7%	\$128,192

Fiscal Year #3

For 10/1/2026 - 9/30/2027, award of the following is anticipated:

Project Name	Trade Description	NAICS Description	NAICS	Trade (\$)	Directory	Census	DBE (%)	DBE (\$) (= Trade \$ x DBE %)
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Airport Building Construction	Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	236220	\$378,000	0	42	0.0%	\$0
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Asphalt Pavement Construction	Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	237310	\$42,113	0	1	0.0%	\$0
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Aggregate Base	Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	237310	\$31,000	1	1	100.0%	\$31,000
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Engineering Services	Engineering Services	541330	\$66,000	2	47	4.3%	\$2,838

T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Earthwork and Erosion Control	Site Preparation Contractors	238910	\$84,850	1	80	1.3%	\$1,103
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Building Foundations	Poured Concrete Foundation and Structure Contractors	238110	\$139,500	1	31	3.2%	\$4,464
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Electrical Work	Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	\$78,000	0	61	0.0%	\$0
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Construction and Materials Testing	Testing Laboratories	541380	\$6,000	2	9	22.2%	\$1,332
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)	Seeding & Mulching	Landscaping Services	561730	\$4,630	0	151	0.0%	\$0
T-Hangar (Construct) (Phase 1)				\$830,093			4.9%	\$40,737
Year 3 Total				\$830,093			4.9%	\$40,737

The base goal projection after weighting is as follows:

- Total Weighted DBE Availability: **\$182,729**
- Total for All Trades: **\$2,713,602**

Dividing the weighted DBE totals by the total estimate for all trades gives a base DBE availability figure for the projects anticipated during the goal-setting period. This figure is expressed as a percentage and serves as the basis for the three-year overall goal.

Base of DBE Goal: **6.7%**

Not enough historical data on DBE participation is available to reference to make an adjustment to the Step 1 base figure; therefore, the Hardin County Airport Authority is adopting the Step 1 base figure of **6.7%** as the overall goal for this three-year goal period (FY 2025-27).

There was a disparity study completed by BBC Research & Consulting, who was hired by the Ohio Department of Transportation to conduct the study, which analyzes the availability of person-of-color and woman-owned business in the state that were ready and available to complete Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transportation Administration funded work. This disparity study is not referenced in this DBE or goal methodology since the disparity study's scope was the entire state, whereas this program only focuses on Hardin County and its neighboring counties.

Breakout of Estimated "Race and Gender Neutral" (RN) and "Race and Gender Conscious" (RC) Participation

The Hardin County Airport Authority will meet the maximum feasible portion of the overall goal by using race neutral means of facilitating DBE participation.

1. Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitates DBE, and other small businesses, participation;
2. Providing technical assistance and other services;

3. Ensuring distribution of DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors.

The Hardin County Airport Authority estimates that in meeting the established overall goal of 6.7%, it will obtain 0.0% from RN participation and 6.7% through race conscious measures.

The Hardin County Airport Authority does not have a history of DBE participation or over-achievement of goals to reference and expects to obtain its DBE participation through the use of DBE contract goals or a conscious effort to obtain DBE participation. Therefore, the entire goal of 6.7% is to be obtained through race-conscious participation.

The Hardin County Airport Authority will adjust the estimated breakout of race neutral and race conscious DBE participation as needed to reflect actual DBE participation (see §26.51(f)) and track and report race neutral and race conscious participation separately. For reporting purposes, RN DBE participation includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: DBE participation through a prime contract obtained through customary competitive procurement procedures; DBE participation through a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE goal, DBE participation on a prime contract exceeding a contract goal, and DBE participation through a subcontract from a prime contractor that did not consider a firm's DBE status in making the award.

Consultation

In establishing the overall goal, the Hardin County Airport Authority provided for consultation and publication. This process included consultation with minority, women's, and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the Hardin County Airport Authority's efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation included a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the goal setting process, and was conducted before the goal methodology was submitted to the operating administration for review. Details of the consultation are as follows.

The consultation engaged in was a face-to-face meeting, which was held at Hardin County Airport on Tuesday, June 10 at 4:30 P.M. local time.

The following comments were received during the course of the consultation: no comments were received.

A notice of the proposed goal was published on the Hardin County Airport's official website before the methodology was submitted to Federal Aviation Administration.

If the proposed goal changes following review by Federal Aviation Administration, the revised goal will be posted on the Hardin County Airport's official website.

Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of §26.45, the Hardin County Airport Authority proposed goals will not be implemented until this requirement has been met.

Public Notice

The Hardin County Airport Authority hereby announces its proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goal of 6.7% for FAA-funded contracts/agreements. The proposed goal pertains to federal fiscal years 2025 through 2027 (10/1/2024 - 9/30/2027). A meeting will be held at Hardin County Airport on Tuesday, June 10 at 4:30 P.M. local time for the purpose of consulting with stakeholders to obtain information relevant to the goal-setting process.

Comments on the DBE goal will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this publication and can be sent to the following:

Kolt Buchenroth
13975 CR 135
Kenton, Ohio 43326
kolt.buchenroth@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT 6

Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts - Forms 1, 2, and 3

FORM 1: DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) UTILIZATION

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AFFIDAVIT

(Source: 49 CFR Part 26)

STATE OF _____)
) SS
COUNTY OF _____)

The undersigned duly cautioned and sworn, deposes, and states the following:

I am the _____ of _____
(TITLE) (COMPANY)

and have personal knowledge of the facts contained herein.

(Check one of the following statements)

1. ____ We are a certified DBE contractor
2. ____ We have contacted certified DBE contractors, and will provide _____ percent of our contract amount for this project to certified DBE contractors (Complete the Subcontractor form on the following page for each Subcontractor). NOTE: DBE Suppliers count 60 percent towards meeting the DBE goal and DBE Distributors count 40 percent towards meeting the DBE goal.

Submit this page for each Subcontractor.

Subcontractor

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Previous Experience on Similar Work: _____

Percentage of Total Contract Amount: _____

DBE or Non-DBE: ☐ DBE ☐ Non-DBE

***** If Subcontractor is a non-DBE, leave the remainder of this page blank. *****

Scope of Work NAICS Codes: _____

Race/Gender of Majority Owner: ☐ Black American ☐ Hispanic American

☐ Asian-Pacific American ☐ Subcontinent Asian American ☐ Non-minority American

☐ Non-minority Woman ☐ Other

Age of Firm: ☐ Less than 1 year ☐ 1-3 years ☐ 4-7 years ☐ 8-10 years ☐ More than 10 years

Annual Gross Receipts: ☐ Less than \$1 million ☐ \$1-3 million

☐ \$3-6 million ☐ \$6-10 million ☐ Over \$10 million

Submit this page for each Subcontractor.

3. _____ At no time did I contact any certified DBE contractors for the purpose of having said company participate in the bid

-
- This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.
Seal of Notary

COUNTY

My Commission expires: _____

Form 3: DBE Regular Dealer/Distributor Affirmation Form

OMB Approval Pending 04/17/2024



U.S. Department of
Transportation

DBE Regular Dealer/Distributor Affirmation Form

Bidder Name:

Contract Name/Number:

Sections 26.53(c)(1) of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations requires recipients to make a preliminary counting determination for each DBE listed as a regular dealer or distributor to assess its eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively, of the cost of materials and supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor, as defined in section 26.55(e)(2)(iv)(A),(B),(C), and (3) under the contract at issue. The regulation requires the recipient's preliminary determination to be made based on the DBE's written responses to relevant questions and its affirmation that its subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the preliminary counting of such participation. The U.S. Department of Transportation is providing this form as a tool for recipients, prime contractors, regular dealers, and distributors to use to carry out their respective responsibilities under this regulation. The form may be used by each DBE supplier whose participation is submitted by a bidder for regular dealer or distributor credit on a federally-assisted contract with a DBE participation goal. The form may also be used by prime contractors in connection with DBE regular dealer or distributor participation submitted after a contract has been awarded provided such participation is subject to the recipient's prior evaluation and approval. If this form is used, it should be accompanied by the bidder's commitment, contract, or purchase order showing the materials the DBE regular dealer or distributor is supplying. Use of this tool is not mandatory. If a recipient chooses a different method for complying with Section 26.53(c)(1), it must include that method in its DBE Program Plan.

DISCLAIMER: This form has not yet received OMB/PRA approval and is subject to change. We are making it available for your voluntary use.

DBE Name:

Total Subcontract/Purchase Order Amount:

Authorized DBE Representative (Name and Title):

NAICS Code(s) Related to the Items to be Sold/Leased:

1. Will all items sold or leased be provided from the on-hand inventory at your establishment? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(If "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the regular dealer requirements and may be counted at 60%. **STOP here. Read and sign the affirmation below.** If "NO" Continue.)

- a) Are you selling bulk items (e.g., petroleum products, steel, concrete, concrete products, sand, gravel, asphalt, etc.) or items not typically stocked due to their unique characteristics (aka specialty items)? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If "YES," Go to Question 2. If "NO" Continue.)
- b) Will at least 51% of the items you are selling be provided from the inventory maintained at your establishment, and will the minor quantities of items delivered from and by other sources be of the general character as those provided from your inventory? ☐ YES ☐ NO* (If "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the regular dealer requirements and may be counted at 60%. **STOP here. Read and sign the affirmation below.**

*If 1., 1.a), and 1. b) above are "NO," your performance on the whole will not satisfy the regular dealer requirements; therefore, only the value of items to be sold or leased from inventory can be counted at 60%. (Go to Question 3. to determine if the items delivered from and by other sources are eligible for Distributor credit.)

2. Will you deliver all bulk or specialty items using distribution equipment you own (or under a long-term lease) and operate? ☐ YES ☐ NO¹

(If "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the requirements for a regular dealer of bulk items and may be counted at 60%. **STOP here. Read and sign the affirmation below.**)

¹ If "NO," your performance will not satisfy the requirements for a regular dealer of bulk items; the value of items to be sold or leased cannot be counted at 60%. (Go to Question 3.)

3. Will the written terms of your purchase order or bill of lading from a third party transfer responsibility, including risk for loss or damage, to your company at the point of origin (e.g. a manufacture's facility)? ☐ YES² ☐ NO³

- a) Will you be using sources other than the manufacturer (or other seller) to deliver or arrange delivery of the items sold or leased? ☐ YES² ☐ NO³

² If your responses to 3 and 3.a) are "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the requirements of a distributor; therefore, the value of items sold or leased may be counted at 40%.

³ If you responded "NO" to either 3 or 3.a), counting of your participation is limited to the reasonable cost of fees or commissions charged, including transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies; the cost of materials or supplies may not be counted.

I affirm that the information that I provided above is true and correct and that my company's subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the above responses. I further affirm that my company will independently negotiate price, order specified quantities, and pay for the items listed in the bidder's commitment. This includes my company's responsibility for the quality of such items in terms of necessary repairs, exchanges, or processing of any warranty claims for damaged or defective materials.

Printed Name and Signature of DBE Owner/Authorized Representative:

The bidder acknowledges its responsibility for verifying the information provided by the DBE named above and ensuring that the counting of the DBE's participation is accurate. Any shortfall caused by errors in counting are the responsibility of the bidder.

Printed Name and Signature of Bidder's Authorized Representative:

ATTACHMENT 7

Administrative Enforcement Mechanisms

The Hardin County Airport Authority has available several remedies to enforce the DBE requirements contained in its contracts, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Breach of contract action, pursuant to the terms of the contract;
2. Breach of contract action, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4112, and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4112; or
3. File a complaint with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

In addition, the Federal government has available several enforcement mechanisms that it may apply to firms participating in the DBE problem, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Suspension or debarment proceedings pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26
2. Enforcement action pursuant to 49 CFR Part 31
3. Prosecution pursuant to 18 USC 1001.

ATTACHMENT 8

DBE Certification Application Form and Personal Net Worth Statement:

<https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/disadvantaged-business-enterprise/ready-apply>

ATTACHMENT 9

Ohio Department of Transportation's UCP Memorandum of Understanding Website

<https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/business-economic-opportunity/ucp/ucp-mou>

ATTACHMENT 10

Small Business Element

1. Objective/Strategies

- 1) The Airport Authority routinely contacts the small businesses in their market to request proposals for repairs and small projects or notify them of the larger projects that are out for bid.
- 2) Project bid documents are routinely itemized for prices or major work items and are separated for bid proposals to promote small businesses to be prime or subcontractors on the airport projects.
- 3) Prime Contractors are encouraged to contact and subcontract with small businesses on the airport projects.
- 4) The Airport Authority will meet with local Chamber of Commerce and other community associations to exchange information of any opportunities or take input on how to promote small business opportunities at the airport.
- 5) For the small businesses that wish to submit a proposal for a project, the Airport Authority will inform and guide them through the bidding procedures to submit a bid.
- 6) The Airport Authority will have a project bid plan holders list available to provide to small businesses who wish to contact prime contractors to submit subcontract proposals to them.
- 7) The Airport Authority will facilitate competition by small businesses and do their due diligence to eliminate obstacles of small businesses to encourage their participation.

2. Definition

- 1) Does not exceed the SBA size standards for the firm's industry.
- 2) Social and Economic Disadvantages are not taken into account.

3. Assurance

- 1) The program is authorized under state law;
- 2) Certified DBEs that meet the size criteria established under the program are presumptively eligible to participate in the program;
- 3) No limits are placed on the number of contracts awarded to firms participating in the program, but every effort will be made to avoid creating barriers to the use of new, emerging, or untried businesses; and
- 4) Aggressive steps will be taken to encourage those minority and women owned firms that are eligible for DBE certification to become certified.

The program is open to small businesses regardless of their location (i.e., there is no local or other geographic preference).