

## Overview

WeGo Public Transit, the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA), and the Davidson Transit Organization (DTO) have established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 26: Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs and subsequently issued United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT). The Authority receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and, as a condition of receiving this assistance, both Authorities have signed an assurance that they will fully comply with Title 49 CFR, Part 26. These regulatory provisions and both Authorities' DBE Programs apply to all of the Authority's U.S. DOT-assisted contracts.

Both Authorities participate in the Tennessee Unified Certification Program (TNUCP) as a certifying agency. To obtain information regarding the TNUCP or the Authorities' Disadvantaged Business Programs, click on the related links below.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the WeGo Public Transit and RTA DBE program?

The DBE program was developed by the Federal Highway Administration and is administered by WeGo and RTA to encourage minority, female, and other disadvantaged firms to work in the transit industry. Both local and federal projects and monies are included.

### 2. What are the criteria for obtaining certification?

The eligibility requirements as a DBE or Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) by WeGo and RTA are similar. To be eligible for certification under either federal or state program, your firm will be required to submit documentation showing it is an ongoing independent business enterprise that is owned, operated, and controlled by a "socially and economically disadvantaged" individual (for DBEs) or by a "minority group member" or a woman (for MWBEs). Generally, your business should have been in operation for at least a year.

If your business is not located in Tennessee, you may wish to get certification in your home state. This may accelerate the certification process with WeGo & RTA.

### 3. How does DBE or M/WBE Certification help get business?

Based on federal and state guidelines, the Division may set goals for participation of these vendors on a contract.

When the contract is ready for bid, WeGo and RTA provide a list of available qualified DBE and MWBE vendors and send a list to the vendors seeking bids. [Register today](#).

#### **4. Should I apply?**

You may be eligible to participate in the DBE/Airport Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program if:

- The firm is a for-profit business that performs or seeks to perform transportation related work (or a concession activity) for a recipient of Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, or Federal Aviation Administration funds;
- The firm is at least 51% owned by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s) who also controls it;
- The firm's disadvantaged owners are U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the U.S.;
- The firm meets the Small Business Administration's size standard and does not exceed \$23.98 million in gross annual receipts for DBE (\$56.42 million for ACDBEs). (Other size standards apply for ACDBE that are banks/financial institutions, car rental companies, pay telephone firms, and automobile dealers.)

#### **5. How do I apply?**

First-time applicants for DBE certification must complete and submit this certification application and related material to the certifying agency in your home state and participate in an on-site interview conducted by that agency. The attached document checklist can help you locate the items you need to submit to the agency with your completed application. If you fail to submit the required documents, your application may be delayed and/or denied. Firms already certified as a DBE do not have to complete this form but may be asked by certifying agencies outside of your home state to provide a copy of your initial application form, supporting documents, and any other information you submitted to your home state to obtain certification or to any other state related to your certification.

#### **6. Where can I send my application?**

WeGo Public Transit & RTA  
Procurement Department  
Amber Gooding  
Director of Procurement and Business Diversity  
430 Myatt Drive  
Nashville, TN 37115  
Phone: 615-880-3984  
Fax: 615-862-6208  
[WeGoBusiness@nashville.gov](mailto:WeGoBusiness@nashville.gov)

#### **7. Who will contact me about my application and what are the eligibility standards?**

The DBE and ACDBE Programs require that all U.S. DOT recipients of federal assistance participate in a statewide Unified Certification Program (UCP). The UCP is a one-stop certification program that eliminates the need for your firm to obtain certification from multiple

certifying agencies within your state. The UCP is responsible for certifying forms and maintains a database of certified DBEs and ACDBEs for DOT grantees, pursuant to the eligibility standards found in 49 C.F.R. Parts 23 and 26.

## 8. Where can I find more information?

### Resources & Links:

- <http://www.nashvillemta.org/PDF/MTA-August-2017-DBE-Policy-Statement.PDF>
- <https://www.civilrights.dot.gov>
- <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>
- <http://www.sba.gov/content/table-small-business-size-standards>
- <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=118d968ddd7be866465348712103d866&node=49:1.0.1.1.20&rgn=div5>