

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Objectives / Policy Statement (49 CFR 26.1 and 26.23)

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. RIPTA has received Federal financial assistance from the DOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, RIPTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26 (Part 26).

It is the policy of RIPTA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also RIPTA's intent to adhere to the following policy objectives:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of all contracts, including DOT-assisted contracts
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for all contracts, including DOT-assisted contracts
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs on all contracts, including DOT-assisted contracts
6. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of contracts and procurement activities, including those that are DOT-assisted
7. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program.

Jenny Cordero Williford, Executive Director of Federal Programs and Compliance, has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE Program. Implementation of the DBE Program is accorded with the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by RIPTA in financial assistance agreements with the DOT. The DBELO has direct and unimpeded access to RIPTA's Chief Executive Officer.

RIPTA has disseminated this policy statement to all components of the agency. RIPTA distributes this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. This policy statement is also available on RIPTA's website.



Christopher Durand, Chief Executive Officer

4/1/2005
Date