

Reference : AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
Section : GENERAL
Title : DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
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I PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the Authority's position on disadvantaged business enterprises.

II POLICY

In accordance with requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, dated March 4, 1999 entitled, "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Programs," the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), is committed to the development and implementation of an effective Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

The NFTA has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the NFTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the NFTA 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 policy of the NFTA:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for 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 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts; and
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program.

The Manager of Equal Opportunity/Diversity Development has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Manager of Equal Opportunity/Diversity Development 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 NFTA in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The NFTA has disseminated this policy to the Board of Commissioners and all the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for the NFTA on DOT-assisted contracts by inclusion in bid specifications, Requests for Qualifications and Requests for Proposals.