



DBE POLICY

The Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) established the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (DBE), in accordance with regulations of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) 49 CFR Part 26, which is administered by its Civil Rights Office. It is the policy of the PRHTA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts, regardless of race, color, sex or national origin. To this end, it is also PRHTA's policy to ensure that the following program objectives (§26.1), are achieved:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts in DOT's highway, transit and airport financial assistance programs;
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;
6. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities conducted by recipients;
7. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Ms. Yomarie Pacheco Sánchez, Esq., Director of the PRHTA Civil Rights Office has been appointed as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, Ms. Pacheco or her designee 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 PRHTA in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The PRHTA has disseminated this policy statement to all the applicable components of the organization. It has been published in the PRHTA official website: <https://act.dtop.pr.gov/>, and distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for PRHTA on USDOT-assisted contracts in a widespread email distribution.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eileen M. Vélez Vega".

Eileen M. Vélez Vega, P.E.

Secretary

Department of Transportation and Public Works

3/5/21

Date