

GAINESVILLE REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS)

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM GOAL

The RTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program establishes guidelines for the participation of firms owned and operated by socially and economically disadvantaged persons in DOT-assisted contracting.

DBE Program Goal

For fiscal years 2010-11 through 2012-13, RTS intends to expend at least 1.87% of its total DOT-assisted expenditures with qualified DBE firms.

DBE Program Objectives

- To create a level playing field on which such firms can compete fairly for RTS contracts;
- To ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
- To increase participation of qualified firms that are owned, operated and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
- To help remove present and past barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet the eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBE firms; and
- To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

DBE Program Eligibility Requirements

Owner(s) must own 51 percent of the firm and be a member(s) of one of the following groups:

- Women (Regardless of race)
- Black Americans
- Hispanic Americans
- Native Americans
- Asian-Pacific Americans
- Subcontinent Asian Americans

Any additional groups whose members are designated as socially and economically disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and has a personal net worth not to exceed \$750,000 (minus the value of their principal residence and interest in the business).

DBE Certification

While RTS is not a certifying member of the Unified Certification Program we can answer questions, supply a DBE application and provide contact information for nearby UCP certifying agencies.

[Florida UCP DBE Directory Listing](#) – for a listing of certified DBE firms in the State of Florida

[Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) Certification Application](#) – for firms wanting to become DBE certified.

Contact Information

For information on the DBE Program and/or getting your firm DBE certified, please contact the RTS DBE Liaison Officer, at (352) 393-7852.