

EPA OSBP's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program

“Increasing Opportunities for Disadvantaged Businesses Under EPA Financial Assistance Agreements”

Program Comparison

Old MBE/WBE Program

New DBE Program

Known as the Minority-Owned Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Program.	Now known as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. MBEs and WBEs are a part of the larger universe of DBEs.
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What is The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program?

- It is EPA's policy that recipients of EPA financial assistance through grants and cooperative agreements award a "fair share" of subagreements to small, minority and women-owned businesses. Since each is a separate entity, the objective is to assure that each of these business entities is given the opportunity to participate in subagreements awards under EPA financial assistance agreements. This policy applies to all subagreements for equipment, supplies, construction and services under all EPA grants, cooperative agreements, and IAGs.
- The EPA Office of Small Business Programs is responsible for establishing policy and providing procedural guidance for the utilization of small, minority and women-owned businesses under the Agency's financial assistance programs through its **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**.
- The DBE Program is an outreach, education, and goaling program designed to increase the participation of DBEs in procurements funded by EPA assistance agreements. The EPA DBE Program encompasses many of the components of the former MBE/WBE Program and includes many new features.

Why Does the Program Exist?

- The program was mandated by congress in response to the large number of procurement opportunities available through assistance agreements vs. Contracts. At EPA, assistance agreement dollars are approximately four times as much as contract dollars. The statutory authority for the program is as follows:
 - **Public Law 101-549, Nov 15, 1990 (clean air act):**
To the extent practicable, not less than 10% made available to DBEs.
 - **Public Law 102-389, Oct 6, 1992 (clean water act):**
To the fullest extent possible, at least 8% made available to socially and economically disadvantaged concerns, including HBCUs and women.

How We Achieve the Purpose of the Program?

Recipients of EPA financial assistance agreements are **required to seek**, and **encouraged to utilize** small, minority, and women-owned businesses for their procurement needs under the financial assistance agreement. This is done through the inclusion of terms and conditions in the financial assistance agreement. The key functional components of the DBE Program are as

follows. These areas are covered in more detail in individual fact sheets for each program area, in the DBE Program Manual, and in the full text of the DBE Rule:

- **Fair Share Objectives**
- **Six Good Faith Efforts and Contract Administration Requirements**
- **MBE/WBE Reporting**
- **MBE/WBE Certification**

Who do I contact for more information?

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