

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

FOR APPLICATION ASSISTANCE OR
PROGRAM QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

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DBE Supportive Services

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🌐 <https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/contractors/dbe>



WHAT'S INSIDE

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An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense forest of tall pine trees. The road curves through the center of the frame, with a guardrail on the right side. The trees are mostly green, with some yellowing leaves visible, suggesting an autumn setting. The lighting is bright, creating shadows on the road surface.

SDDOT DBE PROGRAM

Through the U.S. Department of Transportation, a portion of contracts on federal-aided highway projects are allocated to “Disadvantaged Business Enterprises” (DBEs). The SDDOT DBE program provides opportunities for a variety of construction specialties to compete for a portion of highway construction projects. DBEs can capitalize on this competitive advantage to become more successful in competing for government contracts.

DBE Program Objectives

- 1** Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federal-aid contracts.
- 2** Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for federal-aid contracts.
- 3** Ensure that the Department’s DBE program is narrowly tailored.
- 4** Ensure that only firms that fully meet the eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs.
- 5** Help remove barriers to participation of DBEs on federal-aid contracts.
- 6** Assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

● Ownership and Control

An individual must own 51% or more of a “small business” and establish that they are socially and economically disadvantaged. A disadvantaged owner seeking certification must possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the firm. The owner must also have an overall understanding of managerial and technical competency and experience directly related to the type of business in which the firm is engaged.

● Social and Economic Disadvantage

Certain groups are presumed socially disadvantaged by the U.S. Small Business Administration including women, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian-Pacific Americans.

The Department sets financial limitations to an individual’s personal net worth (PNW), and a firm’s annual gross receipts to meet an economic disadvantage status. For the most recent limitations on eligibility, visit the SDDOT DBE page by visiting: <https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/contractors/dbe>.

The Competitive Edge

SDDOT will apply DBE goals on federally-aided highway construction projects. This then drives prime contractors to solicit DBEs directly for quote submissions and to participate in the prime contractor’s proposal to the state. The more DBEs used on a project, the more competitive the proposal.

Being certified as a DBE will open up new opportunities and can even give your company a competitive edge in government contracting.





APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for DBE certification in South Dakota, applicant firms can either mail their **complete application** to the SDDOT or contact the DBE program coordinator to establish a secured share drive to upload the required documentation.

● Firms Located in South Dakota (In-state)

- Complete the Uniform Certification Program (UCP) application, Personal Net Worth (PNW) Statement, and gather all supporting documentation listed on the UCP Application Supporting Documents Checklist.
- Mail or upload the completed application, along with all substantiating documentation to the SDDOT.
- Complete an onsite review of your home office.
- You will be notified in writing of the results of the application.

● Firms Located Outside of South Dakota (Interstate)

- Contact the SDDOT to request DBE certification in writing.
- Provide evidence of certification from your home state and submit a declaration of eligibility.
- SDDOT will confirm DBE certification with the home state and notify the applicant of approval or denial.

Mail completed applications to:

South Dakota
Department of Transportation
DBE Program
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

*Establish a secure share
drive by contacting:*

kyle.watkins@state.sd.us

BENEFITS FOR CONTRACTORS

The SDDOT program offers additional resources, training, and networking opportunities to certified DBEs to help grow, develop, and become more successful in bidding on government contracts.

● Increased Opportunities on Government Contracts

- DBE firms are listed in an official directory used by prime contractors and government agencies to solicit work
- Certified firms receive notifications and a monthly newsletter with business development training and work opportunities
- Access to networking events with other DBEs, prime contractors, and state agencies that work with small businesses

SDDOT DBE Supportive Services

The SDDOT has partnered with Project Solutions, Inc. (PSI) to provide both applicants and certified firms with assistance in the application process and understanding program regulations.

PSI also offers additional services to certified firms:

- Application assistance
- Coaching on government contracting process
- Monthly DBE newsletter
- Live training webinars and access to training video library
- Business Development Program customized to each firm



For more information, visit:
<https://sddb.com/dbe-support/>





IMPACT TO YOUR BUSINESS

All categories of horizontal and heavy construction are included in the SDDOT DBE program. Some work types include, but are not limited to:

- Architecture
- Concrete and asphalt
- Consulting
- Distributors
- Electrical services
- Engineering
- Erosion control
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Land surveying
- Portable facilities
- Signage
- Suppliers
- Traffic control
- Trucking
- Road grading

Why Should I Apply?

The SDDOT has set an annual DBE goal of **6.65%** for fiscal years 2025-2027 to be **awarded to DBE-certified firms.**

Additionally, companies that participate in the SDDOT DBE program are more likely to see improvements in:

- Increased revenue
- Better bidding abilities
- More bonding and loan opportunities
- Diversified experience in government contracts

Get started today by visiting:

<https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/contractors/dbe>