

LIVERMORE/AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

*(Adopted September 1999; Revised January 2000;
Updated February 2001; Updated February 2006; Updated June 2009, Updated February 2012,
Updated March 2014, Updated September 2021, Updated October 2024)*

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

The Livermore/Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA or Authority) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26, revised as of April 9, 2024, as may be amended (Regulations). LAVTA has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, LAVTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26

In order to achieve DBE participation, the Authority has developed procedures to remove barriers to DBE participation in the bidding and award process.

The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing the DBE policy of the Authority. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy. The DBE Liaison, in coordination with all Authority Officers, Department Heads, and Purchasing and Buying staff, is responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the DBE Program in accordance with the Authority's nondiscrimination policy. It is the expectation of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director that all Authority personnel shall adhere to the spirit, as well as the provisions and procedures, of this Program.

This policy will be circulated to all Authority personnel and to members of the community that perform or are interested in performing work on Authority contracts. Analysis regarding the overall DBE goal(s) and/or project goal(s) established every three years is available to review at www.wheelsbus.com or by visiting the Authority's administrative office at 1362 Rutan Court Suite 100 Livermore, Ca 94551.

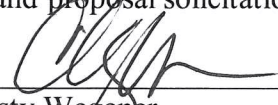
It is the policy of LAVTA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

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 CR 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 assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
7. To adhere to the adopted LAVTA purchasing policy principles throughout all aspects of the DBE program.

The Executive Director has assigned the role of DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO) to Tamara Edwards, Director of Finance, tedwards@lavta.org, 925-455-7566. In that capacity, the DBELO 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 LAVTA in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

LAVTA has disseminated this policy statement to its Board of Directors and all the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts by including it in all relevant bid and proposal solicitations.



Christy Wegener
Executive Director



Date

SUBPART A – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Sections 26.3 and 26.1 Applicability

The Authority, a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), is required to implement a DBE Program in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 26, which is incorporated herein by this reference. The Program outlined herein applies to all Authority contracts that are funded, in whole or in part, by U.S. DOT federal financial assistance. In the event of any conflicts or inconsistencies between the Regulations and this DBE Program with respect to U.S. DOT-assisted contracts, the Regulations shall prevail.

Section 26.1 Objectives

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5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program; and
7. To adhere to the adopted LAVTA purchasing policy principles throughout all aspects of the DBE program.

Section 26.5 Definitions

Any terms used in this Program that are defined in 49 C.F.R. § 26.5 or elsewhere in the Regulations shall have the meaning set forth in the Regulations. Some of the most common terms are defined below:

A. Contract

A legally binding relationship obligating a seller to furnish supplies or services (including, but not limited to, construction and professional services) and the buyer to pay for them. For purposes of this part, a lease is considered to be a contract.

B. Contractor

One who participates, through a contract or subcontract (at any tier), in a DOT-assisted highway, transit, or airport program.

C. Department or DOT

The U.S. Department of Transportation, including the Office of the Secretary, the Departmental Office of Civil Rights, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

D. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

A for-profit, small business concern: 1) that is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged or, in the case of a corporation, in which fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and 2) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

E. FTA Tier I Recipient

An FTA recipient to whom this part applies will award prime contracts (excluding transit vehicle purchases) the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$670,000 in FTA funds in a Federal fiscal year.

F. FTA Tier II Recipient

An FTA recipient to whom this part applies will award prime contracts (excluding transit vehicle purchases) the cumulative total value of which does not exceed \$670,000 in FTA funds in a Federal fiscal year.

G. Personal Net Worth (PNW) (Sections 26.5 and 26.68)

The net value of an individual's reportable assets and liabilities, per the calculation rules in §26.68.

H. Race-Conscious

A measure or program that is specifically focused on assisting only DBEs, including women-owned DBEs.

I. Race-Neutral

A procedure or program that is used, or can be used, to assist all small businesses. For the purposes of this Program, race-neutral includes ethnic and gender neutrality.

J. Small Business Concern

With respect to firms seeking to participate as DBEs in U.S. DOT-assisted contracts, a small business concern as defined pursuant to Section 3 of the Small Business Act and the U.S. Small Business Administration regulations implementing it (13 C.F.R. Part 121), whose average annual gross receipts for the previous three (3) years does not exceed \$30.72 million (or as adjusted for inflation by the Secretary of U.S. DOT annually) pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 26.65(b).

K. Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals

Socially and economically disadvantaged individual means any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of his or her identity as a member of a group and without regard to his or her individual qualities. The social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond the individual's control.

(1) Any individual who a recipient finds to be a socially and economically disadvantaged individual on a case-by-case basis. An individual must demonstrate that he or she has held himself or herself out, as a member of a designated group if required.

(2) Any individual in the following groups, members of which are rebuttably presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged:

1. "Black American" (including persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa);
2. "Hispanic American" (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race);
3. "Native American" (including persons who are enrolled members of a federally or State recognized Indian tribe, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians);
4. "Asian-Pacific American" (including persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Burma (Myanmar), Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), Republic of the Northern Marianas Islands, Samoa, Macao, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Hong Kong);
5. "Subcontinent Asian American" (including persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands, Nepal, or Sri Lanka);
6. Women; or
7. Any additional groups whose members are designated as socially and economically disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration, at such time as the Small Business Administration designation becomes effective.

L. Transit Vehicle Manufacturer (TVM)

Any manufacturer whose primary business purpose is to manufacture vehicles built for mass transportation. Such vehicles include, but are not limited to buses, rail cars, trolleys, ferries, and vehicles manufactured specifically for paratransit purposes. Businesses that perform retrofitting or post-production alterations to vehicles so that such vehicles may be used for public transportation purposes are also considered TVMs. Businesses that manufacture, mass-produce, or distribute vehicles primarily for personal use are not considered TVMs

Section 26.7 Nondiscrimination Requirements

LAVTA will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR Part 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, LAVTA will not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

Section 26.11 Record Keeping Requirements

Reporting to DOT: 26.11(b)

LAVTA will report DBE participation on a semi-annual basis. These reports will reflect payments actually made to DBEs on DOT assisted contracts.

Bidders List: 26.11 (c)

LAVTA will create and maintain a bidders list consisting of the following information for all bidders (including prime contractors and subcontractors, DBEs and non-DBEs) on U.S. DOT-assisted projects: firm name, firm address (including zip code), firm status as a DBE or non-DBE, race and gender information for the majority owner, NAICS code applicable to each scope of work the firm sought to perform in its bid, the age of the firm, and the annual gross receipts of the firm. Data gathering will be conducted on a form entitled *Prime Contractor and Subcontractor/Subconsultant/Supplier Report* for construction contracts and *Prime Consultant and Subcontractor/Subconsultant/Supplier Report* for professional service contracts. Subsequently, most of a firm's general information is collected on the Authority's procurement portal powered by Bonfire Interactive Ltd., during vendor registration. The DBELO will maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary information in accordance with applicable California law and the Regulations. This information will be requested of all bidders.

Authority staff will submit bidders list information required by § 26.11, paragraph (c)(2) to the DOT's designated system no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the relevant contract was awarded. For "design-build" contracts where subcontracts will be solicited throughout the contract period as defined in a contractor's DBE Open-Ended Performance Plan, the data will be entered no later than December 1 following the federal fiscal year in which the design-build contractor awards the relevant subcontract(s).

Section 26.13 Federal Financial Assistance Agreement Assurance

LAVTA has signed the following assurance, applicable to all DOT-assisted contracts and their administration:

Assurance: 26.13 (a)

The recipient shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any DOT assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE Program or the requirements of 49 CFR part 26. The recipient shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts. The recipient's DBE Program, as required by 49 CFR part 26 and as approved by DOT, is incorporated by reference in this

agreement. Implementation of this program is a legal obligation and failure to carry out its terms shall be treated as a violation of this agreement. Upon notification to the recipient of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanctions as provided for under part 26 and may, in appropriate cases, refer the matter for enforcement under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.)

This language will appear in financial assistance agreements with sub-recipients.

Contract Assurance: 26.13 (b)

We will ensure that the following clause is placed in every DOT-assisted contract and subcontract:

The contractor or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to (1) Withholding monthly progress payments; (2) Assessing sanctions; (3) Liquidated damages; and/or (4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

SUBPART B – ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.21 DBE Program Updates

We will continue to carry out this program until all funds from DOT financial assistance have been expended. We will provide to DOT updates representing significant changes in the program.

Section 26.23 Policy Statement

The Policy Statement is elaborated on the first page of this program.

Section 26.25 DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

The Executive Director will designate a staff member to be our DBE Liaison Officer:

The DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that LAVTA complies with all provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the LAVTA Executive Director concerning DBE program matters. An organization chart displaying the DBELO's position in the organization is found in Attachment 1 to this program.

The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the DBE program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. Duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by DOT.
2. Reviews third party contracts and purchase requisitions for compliance with this program.
3. Works with all departments to set overall annual goals.