



**Understanding the Disadvantaged
Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**

DBE Program Overview



Required by USDOT regulations



Applies to federally funded contracts



Establishes participation and reporting framework

DBE Program Interim Final Rule Overview

**U.S. Department of Transportation Interim
Final Rule – Effective Immediately**

PRESUMPTIONS ELIMINATED (race &
gender-based eligibility removed)

MANDATORY REEVALUATION (all current
DBEs must reapply)

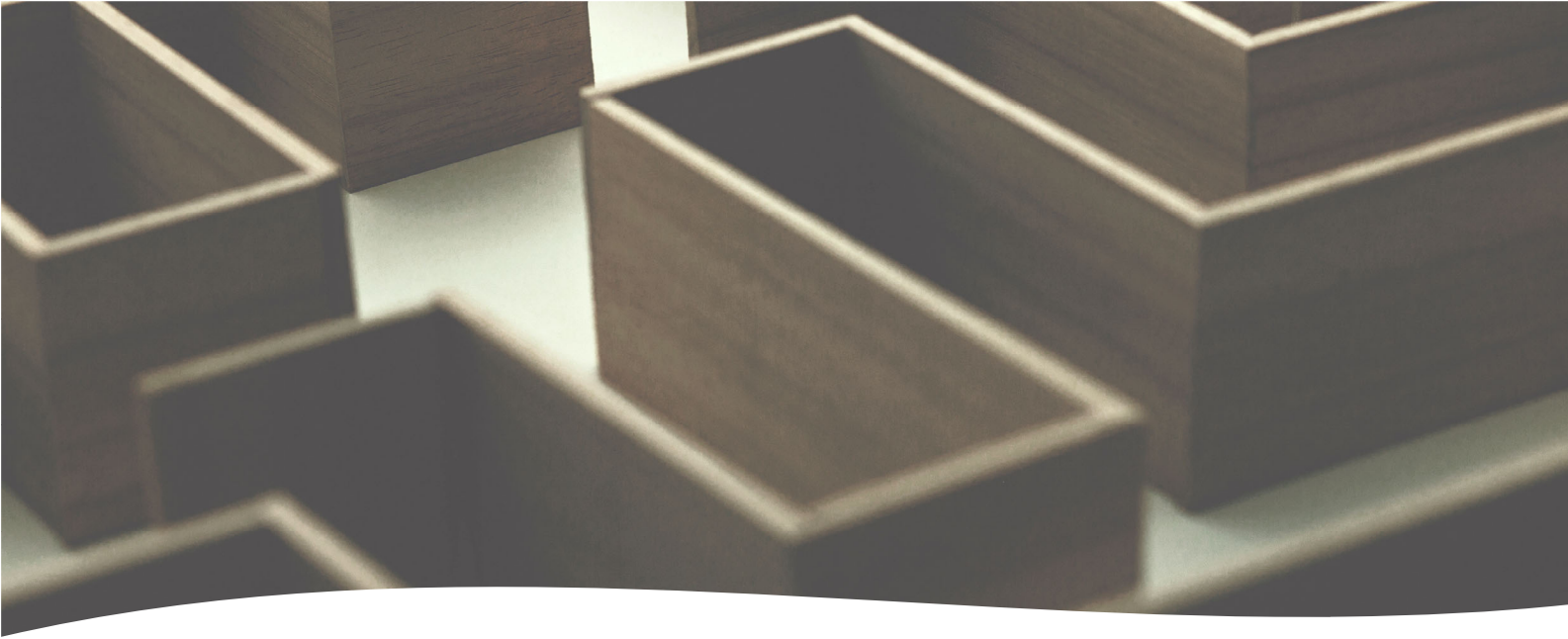
CONTRACT TARGETS SUSPENDED (new
targets prohibited until reevaluation process
is complete)

Elimination of Race & Gender- Based Presumptions

Previous System: Presumed social and economic disadvantage based on race & gender.

New Requirement: Applicants must now provide individualized evidence of disadvantage through a personal narrative and supporting documentation.

Impact: All current certifications are invalid; firms must be reevaluated under the new criteria.



Operational Impacts

- Existing contracts remain valid
- DBE participation **not** counted during reevaluation period
- CUF reviews are **not** required during the reevaluation period
- Other compliance requirements remain active

Suspension of DBE Targets

IMMEDIATE EFFECT:

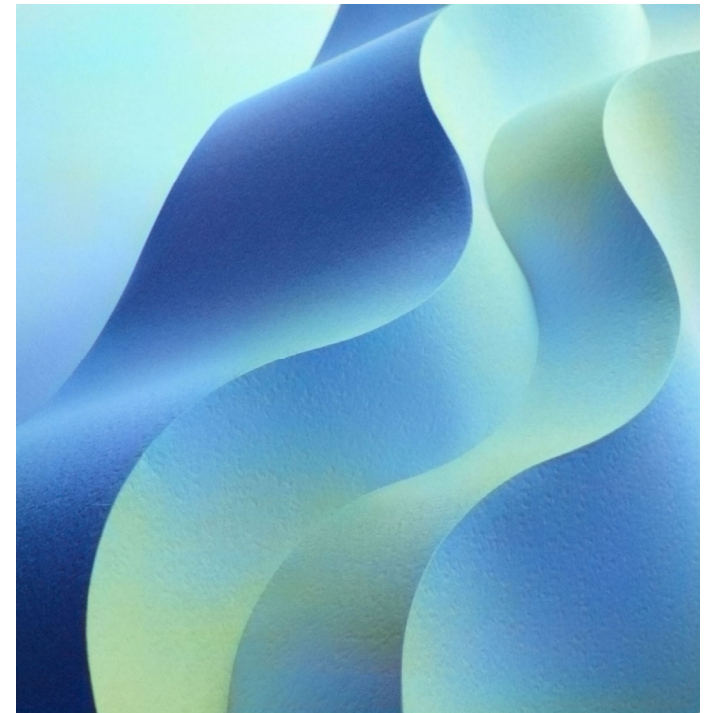
RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL FUNDS CANNOT SET DBE PARTICIPATION GOALS/TARGETS OR COUNT DBE PARTICIPATION ON CONTRACTS UNTIL THE REEVALUATION PROCESS IS COMPLETE

REASON:

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS


CURRENT STATUS:

DBE GOALS/TARGETS ARE SUSPENDED PENDING REEVALUATION





SUSPENSION OF CUF REVIEWS DURING TRANSITION

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- Under the IFR effective October 3, 2025, recipients, such as MaineDOT and municipalities, may ***not*** count any DBE participation toward contract or overall goals or targets until MaineDOT completes the reevaluation process.

DBE Program Requirements Still in Effect

Bidder's List

Purpose: Tracks all firms that bid on federally funded MaineDOT projects.

Prompt Payment

Purpose: Ensure contractors and subcontractors are paid promptly for work and materials supplied.



Bidder's List Form Requirements



Required for
federally funded
contracts



Required from prime
contractors on
construction
projects



Must be retained in
project files



Prompt Payment

Ensure contractors and subcontractors are paid promptly for work and materials supplied

KEY POINTS:

- Payments are to occur within thirty days after the Prime receives funds.
- Applies to subcontracts and retention payments.
- Ensures contractors have cash flow to operate effectively.

Implications for Stakeholders

Prepare

For DBE Firms: Submit detailed personal narratives and updated financial documentation for reevaluation.

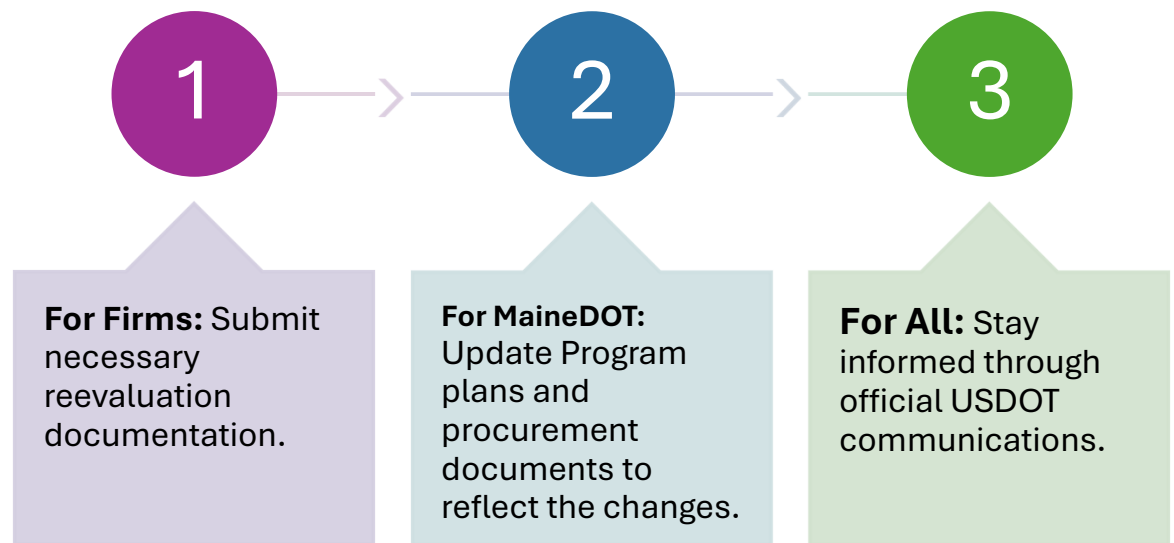
Implement

For MaineDOT: Implementation of new evaluation processes and compliance with the updated regulations.

Adjust

For Contractors/Consultants/Municipalities: Adjust procurement processes to align with the suspension of DBE goals and the reevaluation period.

NEXT STEPS

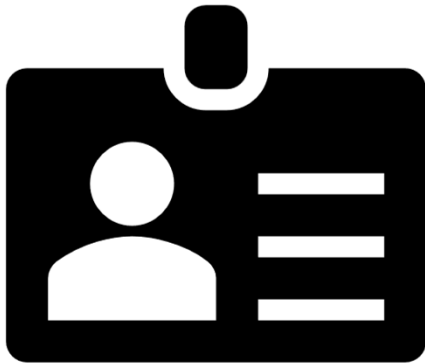




Title VI & DBE Program Summary

- Both apply to federally funded transportation projects.
- Both require compliance with federal regulations.
- Both require monitoring, documentation, and reporting.
- MaineDOT and the contracting community are all responsible for integration into planning, contracting, and oversight.

Contact Information



Sherry Tompkins – Director, Civil Rights Office
sherry.Tompkins@maine.gov

Mary Bryant – Title VI Program Coordinator & DBE
Program Administrator mary.bryant@maine.gov

Jennifer Laliberte – OJT, Elation, Davis Bacon,
Contractor Compliance
Jennifer.e.Laliberte@maine.gov

Amy McCann – EEO Officer amy.mccann@maine.gov



Questions?