



## DBE POLICY

The Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) established the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (DBE), in accordance with regulations of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) 49 CFR Part 26, which is administered by its Civil Rights Office. PRHTA has received Federal financial assistance from USDOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, it has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26, with the intention to remedy past and current discrimination against disadvantaged business enterprises, reduce burdens on small businesses and reach its goals.

In addition to establishing goals, the PRHTA also certifies the eligibility of DBE to participate in USDOT-assisted projects. Puerto Rico's demography is 98.9% Hispanic, so most of the firms are considered part of the disadvantaged groups. Nevertheless, the PRHTA abides by the main objectives of the USDOT DBE Program.

It is the policy of the PRHTA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, income status, or language limitations. To this end, it is also PRHTA's policy to ensure that the following program objectives (§26.1), are achieved:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federally funded transportation-related projects in PRHTA's highway and transit 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 CFR 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 promote the use of all types of federal-assisted contracts and procurement activities conducted by recipients;
7. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. To provide appropriate flexibility in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Ms. Yomarie Pacheco Sánchez, Esq., Director of the PRHTA Civil Rights Office has been appointed as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, Ms. Pacheco or her designee, 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 the PRHTA in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The PRHTA has disseminated this policy statement to the Executive Director's Office, and the Office of the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), Secretary. It has been published in the PRHTA official website: <https://act.dtop.pr.gov/>, and distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for PRHTA on USDOT-assisted contracts in a widespread email distribution.

Dr. Edwin E. González Montalvo, P.E.  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation and Public Works

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Date