

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PROVISION DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

PROJECT _____

RACE/GENDER NEUTRAL GOAL: 0%

NDDOT Contact Information	
Contractor Sign In & Submit Advertisements https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm	Amy Conklin, DBE Program Administrator 701-328-3116 - or - aconklin@nd.gov
Submit quotes and post-bid documentation to: subquotes@nd.gov	Ramona Bernard, Civil Rights Division Director 701-328-2576 - or - rbernard@nd.gov
DBE Directory https://dotnd.diversitycompliance.com/	All times are stated in Central Time. The day of the bid opening is not counted as one of the business days.

PURPOSE

These provisions:

1. Provide an explanation of the federal law and outline the obligations to comply with the Federal DBE requirements applicable to this contract,
2. Explain the process NDDOT will follow to evaluate bidders' efforts to obtain DBE participation
3. Provide the standards NDDOT will use to measure compliance with the requirements
4. Identify sanctions for failing to comply with DBE program requirements.

QUOTES:

All bidders (regardless of whether they are apparent low bidder in this bid opening) should submit a completed [SFN 52013-List of Businesses Submitting Quotes](#) (Form B) by 4:00 pm CST, within 5 business days after the bid opening. Copies of quotes are no longer accepted, however, submitting a list in another format (Excel or other) is acceptable if all the information is clearly provided. This process is necessary in identifying "ready, willing, and able" contractors upon which to base the NDDOT Triennial DBE Goal. The number of contractors and the types of work they have bid/quoted will be used in the calculation of the DBE goal for each goal setting period.

All subcontractors, suppliers, manufacturers, regular dealers, vendors, and brokers should email quotes to the Department no later than 9 PM the day before each bid opening.

All DBEs quoting on this project should submit all quotes and a list of contractors they quoted to NDDOT no later than 9 PM the day before each bid opening.

Prime contractors preparing to bid on NDDOT highway projects have requested that quotes be sent to them the day before the bid opening by:

- 2 PM Central - Suppliers (brokers/regular dealers), vendors, & manufacturers
- 5 PM Central - Subcontractors under \$500,000
- 8 PM Central - Subcontractors over \$500,000

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS:

- ALL BIDDERS are strongly encouraged to submit all documentation at the time of bid opening.
- Must submit Form A (DBE utilization identification) with bid package at the time of bid opening.
- Must submit [SFN 52160 – Notification of Intent to Use](#) (Form C) for DBE(s) used by 4:00 pm CST, within 2 business days after the bid opening. If no DBE's are used, Form C is not required.
- Completed Form B, or a spreadsheet containing all the information on Form B, should be submitted by 4:00 pm, CST within 5 business days after the bid opening.
- Prime contractors are strongly encouraged to submit their bid documentation in one electronic file.
- If required documents are not submitted by the deadline or submitted incorrectly, the Department may consider the bid non-responsive and could be rejected per 102.12 Irregular Bid, NDDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction.

To maximize subcontracting opportunities the following actions are encouraged.

ADVERTISE

All DBE and Non-DBE prime contractors and all subcontractors (over/under \$500,000), vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers, are encouraged to advertise using one of the two options:

OPTION 1: Place an advertisement soliciting DBE participation using the electronic DBE Advertisement System.

- Submit the required information online at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm> no later than noon, 15 calendar days before the bid opening.

OPTION 2: Directly contact by email or fax, all DBEs certified in the specific work type (NAICS) required for the job.

- Make contact with DBEs no later than 5 PM 7 calendar days before the bid opening.
- Use the DBE Directory to determine the DBE firms certified in the work to be subcontracted.

Either method of advertisement should:

- Provide the name, email address, telephone, and fax number of the company contact who will be available to discuss and/or receive quotes.
- Offer assistance to DBEs in interpreting plans; quantities; expected overtime; project scheduling; pit and batch plan locations, length of haul, type of road; method of measurement (seeding by the mile or acre, hauling by hour or by ton-mile) or other issues that may affect a price quote.

Indicate your intention to bid and/or receive quotes on specific jobs by using the Department's Bid Opening Sign in System

- The **Bid Opening Sign-In** web application located at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm>. Sign-In opens at 8 AM 7 calendar days prior to the bid opening and closes at 11 AM the day before the bid opening.
- Fill in the online form fields as required.
- Log in to download the "Bid Opening Contact Report" at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/public/listBidOpenings.htm>

RECEIVE & EVALUATE ALL QUOTES GIVEN

All prime contractors and all subcontractors over \$500,000 should receive and evaluate all quotes offered.

All quotes given for each job should be faxed or emailed to prime contractors or subcontractors no later than the day before the bid opening. DBE subcontractors interested in work on the advertised jobs are encouraged to quote all contractors on the Sign-In report.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

FEDERAL AUTHORITY

The following paragraph must be included in all subcontracts of all tiers in accordance with 49 CFR § 26.13(b):

The contractor or all tiers of subcontractors 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 § 26.13 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 NDDOT 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

It is the prime contractors' responsibility to ensure all tiers of subcontractors, brokers, manufacturers, suppliers, vendors, and regular dealers comply with the requirements of this special provision. In addition, the prime contractor has the responsibility to monitor DBE performance on the project.

PRIME CONTRACTOR'S MONITORING, RESPONSIBILITIES, REPORTING

For the life of the project, the prime contractor is responsible for the DBEs listed on Form C and for the specific spec/code items or products that the prime committed to during the award process.

The prime contractor is responsible to:

- Report payments to DBEs used to meet the project goal.
 - Monthly audits are required through the Certification and Compliance System (CCS) on all federally funded projects, regardless of DBE goal. Once the prime receives progress payments from NDDOT they will be required to report DBE payments every month for the life of the project, including reporting zeros on months when no payments are made. The DBE will either confirm the payment amount and date paid is correct or they will open a discrepancy if the information the prime submitted differs from their records. The prime and DBE are encouraged to find resolution to the discrepancy on their own. If resolution cannot be attained, the project engineer and CRD will become involved in the process.
 - See DBE Program Manual for further information about CCS and prompt pay requirements
- Invite and encourage all subcontractors and all DBEs listed on Form C to the pre-construction conference.
- Provide minutes to any DBE not in attendance at the pre-construction conference.
- Ensure their firm as well as any subcontractors, manufacturers, and regular dealers/suppliers comply with the requirements of this special provision.
- Provide all subcontractors with Proposed Project Schedules and any necessary updates.
- Maintain project records and documentation of payments to DBEs for three years following acceptance of the final payment from NDDOT (per FHWA-1273, Section II Nondiscrimination #11).
 - This reporting requirement also applies to any certified DBE.
 - NDDOT may perform interim audits of contract payments to DBEs to ensure that the actual amount paid to DBEs equals or exceeds the dollar amount stated on Form C.
 - Make these records available for inspection, upon request, by an authorized representative of the NDDOT or USDOT.

If any requirements are not met, progress payments will be withheld from the prime until completed.

NDDOT MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

The Department will bring any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the DBE program to the attention of USDOT. USDOT may pursue action as provided in 49 CFR § 26.107. Actions include referral to the Department of

Justice for criminal prosecution or referral to the USDOT Inspector General for action under suspension and debarment, or Program Fraud and Civil Remedies rules. The Department will also consider similar action under its own legal authority, including responsibility determination in future contracts.

COMMERCIALLY USEFUL FUNCTION

DBEs are required to perform a commercially useful function (CUF). CUF refers to those services the DBE is certified to perform. Certified services for each DBE are listed in the online DBE Directory. It is a DBE's responsibility to immediately notify the prime contractor in writing if the DBE is unable to perform a CUF.

The Department counts participation to a DBE contractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE is performing a CUF on that contract.

- A. A DBE performs a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a CUF, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, installation and paying for the material itself. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(1)
- B. A DBE does not perform a CUF if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(2)
- C. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, the Department must presume that it is not performing a CUF. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(3)
- D. When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a CUF as provided in paragraph C (above), the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(4)
- E. The Department's decisions on CUF matters are subject to review by Federal Highway Administration, but are not administratively appealable to USDOT. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(5)

COUNTING RACE/GENDER NEUTRAL DBE PARTICIPATION - 49 CFR § 26.55

The Department does not count the participation of a DBE subcontractor toward a contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligations on a contract until the amount being counted has actually been paid to the DBE. 49 CFR § 26.55 (h)

The Department will count DBE participation toward our overall annual goal as noted below.

Manufacturer: Manufacturer credit is appropriate when the DBE maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications. Alterations or customization of a "stock" product would be eligible for manufacturer credit. DBE credit is awarded at 100% for this type of work. Delivery type is not relevant in this type of credit.

Broker Credit (Manufacture Representative, Procurement Specialist, Leasing): Broker credit is appropriate when the DBE arranges or expedites the transaction of materials or supplies that it does not manufacture or deliver and is never in possession of the products. In this type of transaction, a DBE would serve as a third-party intermediary between the manufacturer and the contractor providing project driven sales. The DBE assumes little to no risk in this transaction and is awarded DBE credit for the "mark-up" of the product only. Drop ship transactions would only be eligible for broker credit. There is no maintained facility where inventory is kept on a regular basis for sale. For direction on how a specialty item can be eligible for supplier credit, see the information provide below. A specialty item that does not fully meet these requirements can only be credited at brokerage rates.

Regular Dealers/Suppliers: Supplier credit is appropriate when the DBE owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business sells to the general public with inventory on hand. If a legitimate public warehouse exists, that regularly stocks, deals and sells to the walk-in public, then the method of delivery of the goods is not examined. Supplier credit would be awarded at 60% of the cost of the materials. 49 CFR 26.55 (e)(ii).

Bulk Items 49 CFR 26.55 (e)(ii)

A DBE may be eligible for supplier credit in regard to non-specialty bulk items (i.e. petroleum, steel, asphalt, aggregate) without a warehouse or storefront. If bulk items are purchased directly from the manufacturer the DBE must both own and operate its own distribution equipment. The DBE may supplement its own distribution equipment through a long-term lease (defined as more than one year) but the DBE must demonstrate unimpeded access to the leased equipment and operate the equipment with the DBE's own employees. If all these circumstances do not exist, the DBE is only eligible for broker credit.

Specialty Products

Specialty products are those products that are ordered contract-specific for a job. Examples may include, but are not limited to, steel beams, concrete beams, box culverts or piping. Supplier credit is available in two different scenarios:

- Supplier credit would be available if the DBE owns its own facility and is in the business of selling products and materials to the public and sells products of similar nature to the specialty item and the DBE must take possession of the specialty item to determine quality and quantity of the specialty item(s). To be eligible for supplier credit, the DBE must deliver the specialty item with its own distribution equipment and employees.
- Supplier credit would be available if the DBE does not own its own facility but does own its own distribution equipment which it uses to pick up the specialty item(s) and deliver to the job site with the DBE's own employees

Any other scenario dealing with specialty products would only be eligible for broker credit.

Regular Dealers vs. Brokers/Expeditors/Facilitators: On a case-by-case basis, DBE regular dealers may count only the fees/commissions charged for providing procurement assistance as a manufacturer's representative or expeditor of transactions. The key factor in this determination is whether the prime and/or its subcontractors could have ordered the materials without the DBE's assistance. If a non-DBE contractor could have procured the materials or supplies without the intervention of the DBE, the DBE is not performing a regular dealer capacity. To assist in determining the difference, the Department may poll each regular dealer to request their ordering and delivery process.

Trucking: The Department counts DBE trucking on a one-for-one basis. A DBE, on each of its contracts, must first own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck. A DBE may then supplement its fleet using lease/broker agreements. Only trucks leased from a reputable dealer count towards the firm's DBE participation. Full credit is given for the transportation value of leased/brokered trucks owned, operated and insured by other DBEs.

- Example: DBE A owns/operates 2 trucks and subcontracts to DBE B who owns/operates 3 DBE trucks. All 5 DBE owned/operated trucks count towards the DBE participation on the project.

A DBE trucking firm may subcontract to non-DBE trucking firms. If a DBE subcontracts trucks from non-DBEs, the total value of trucking services provided by non-DBEs cannot exceed the value of trucking services provided by DBEs. This is referred to as the 1:1 DBE Trucking Ratio (Ratio).

- Example: DBE owns 2 trucks and subcontracts 2 non-DBE match trucks. The total number of trucks that may be counted towards DBE participation is the amount paid for all 4 trucks (100%)
- Example: DBE owns 5 trucks and subcontracts 5 trucks from non-DBE(s). The total number of trucks that may be counted towards DBE participation is the amount paid for 5 of the 10 trucks (100%)
- Example: DBE owns 1 truck and subcontracts 4 non-DBE trucks. 1 of the non-DBE trucks acts as a match truck and the other 3 are non-DBE non-match trucks. The amount of the total subcontract with the DBE that may be counted is 40%.

When a DBE leases more non-DBE than DBE trucks, only the fee or commission the DBE trucker receives is credited for the extra non-DBE trucks.

- Example: DBE owns 2 trucks and subcontracts 4 trucks from non-DBE(s). Total DBE participation is amount paid for 4 of the 6 trucks plus the brokerage or other fee may also be counted toward DBE participation for the 2 non-DBE non-match trucks.

No DBE participation is given for the use of DBE trailers without DBE trucks and DBE employed drivers. A DBE trucking firm cannot count the materials they are hauling unless they are a legitimate DBE supplier or manufacturer of the materials (see Regular Dealer/Supplier and Manufacturer sections).

A legitimate subcontract must be in place between the DBE and non-DBE trucking firm to count participation. The non-DBE trucking firm must be added to the Utilization Plan/Contract in CCS under the DBE and the DBE is required to report

payments to the non-DBE trucking firm for the participation to be counted. Additional reporting lines under the DBE on the contract within CCS may also be necessary to report non-DBE non-match payments and/or brokerage/fees for non-DBE non-match trucks if applicable. Certified payroll requirements also apply.

A DBE trucker is responsible for identifying the number of trucks to be used on a project for DBE participation credit. If a DBE trucking firm utilizes the Ratio and is used by a Prime contractor that was the apparent low bidder, the number of trucks (DBE, non-DBE Match & non-DBE non-Match) must be identified on the Form C as well as the total dollar amount allocated to each and the non-DBE firm(s) the DBE intends to use. SFN 60781 DBE Weekly Trucking Report is required to be completed and submitted to the project engineer weekly when the Ratio is being utilized, which will indicate the number of DBE-owned trucks and the number of non-DBE trucks the DBE has provided for use on the contract. DBE trucking firms that are utilizing the 1:1 DBE Trucking Ratio must also display signage in the non-DBE match trucks on the job site that identify them as subcontracting to the DBE as part of the overall project DBE participation. The signage must be clear enough for project personnel to easily identify them while on site.

The CUF form includes a section for 1:1 DBE Trucking that must also be completed by the project engineer.

If you have any further questions about counting DBE participation, please contact the DBE Program Administrator.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions specified below apply only to this Special Provision and may contain differences from NDDOT Standard Specifications.

Apparent low bidder (ALB) means the bidder whose bid is read as low bid at the bid opening.

Bid Opening Sign-In System means the Department's online system to which all prime contractors and subcontractors must register to indicate their interest in quoting or bidding prior to each bid opening.

Bidder means a contractor intending to serve as the prime contractor for highway construction projects.

Commercially Useful Function (CUF) describes a DBE's responsibilities and involvement in a project, see section Commercially Useful Function of this SP.

Contractor means all DBE and non-DBE firms, including prime contractors, brokers, vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers at any tier.

DBE Goal means a percentage of the total contract targeted for the hiring of DBE subcontractors to do specific bid items for which the DBE has been certified to perform. Project goals are set by assessing the project's bid items, location, whether DBEs are available to do the work.

DBE Participation means the percentage achieved when the dollar amount committed to the DBE is divided by the dollar amount of all contract items.

Department means the project owner regardless of whether the owner is NDDOT, a city or a county project.

Disadvantaged business enterprise or DBE means a for-profit small business concern that is certified by the Department and listed in the DBE Directory available on the Department's web site. DBEs must first be certified in the work intended before any DBE achievement may be counted toward the project goal.

Manufacturer means a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications. See Counting DBE Participation section.

NAICS Codes means industry codes assigned by North American Industry Classification System. When certified, DBE businesses are assigned NAICS codes which are identified in the DBE Directory.

NDDOT Certification & Compliance System (CCS) refers to the online compliance reporting system whereby contractors report/submit job related payments, commitments, and Utilization Plan documentation.

Prime contractor means bidders who are submitting proposals on this project, regardless of the size of the project.

Quoter means DBE or a non-DBE subcontractors, brokers, vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers at any tier who submits quotes to another contractor.

Race/Gender Neutral (RGN) means a zero (0) percent goal that is used to assist all small businesses.

Responsible Bid Proposal means a bidder's proposal in which the project goal has been achieved, or the bidder demonstrates Good Faith Efforts (GFE) as outlined in this Special Provision timely.

Subcontractor means any firm intending to perform work, or intending to perform work and supply the materials, which were intended for their work on the project.

Broker means an agent who, without having custody of the property, a) negotiates contracts of purchase, work, lease, or sale; b) buys and sells goods; or c) negotiates between buyers and sellers. See Counting DBE Participation section.

Regular Dealer/Supplier means a DBE firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials supplies, articles, or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. See Counting DBE Participation section.

Tier means various levels of contractors on the job. For example a prime contractor's subcontractor (B) is referred to as the second tier. When B subcontracts with C, C becomes the third tier, etc.

Tied quote means the quote will be considered only if all of the bid items are included.

Untied quote means that any item or group of items quoted may be used for price noted on the quote whether one or all are used.