



The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program is a Federal Program designed for business owners deemed socially and economically disadvantaged.

Goals are set for DBE certified firms to participate on projects where federal funding is involved.

Only businesses which meet certain criteria can be DBE certified.

All eligible Broward County small businesses are encouraged to apply for certification.



A SERVICE OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services

**BROWARD COUNTY  
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SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**  
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This publication can be made available in large print, tape cassette, or Braille, upon request by contacting the Office of Economic and Small Business Development at **954-357-6400 (voice) or 954-357-5664 (TTY)**.

This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$207.20, or \$0.518 per copy, to inform the public about Small Business Development Programs.

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## Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program



## Increase Your Opportunity!



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[www.broward.org/smallbusiness](http://www.broward.org/smallbusiness)

## What is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, or DBE, is a firm that is owned by an individual who is deemed socially and economically disadvantaged based on guidelines established by the Federal Government. To achieve DBE status, a business must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged person who has day-to-day control of operations.

The disadvantaged owner should have expertise in their work specialty and an investment in the company. To certify as a DBE, the business owner cannot have a personal net worth (PNW) that exceeds \$750,000 (excluding the owner's business and primary residence).

## What is the State of Florida Unified Certification Program (UCP)?

The UCP provides "one-stop shopping" to applicants for DBE certification, such that an applicant need apply only once for a DBE certification that will be honored by all UCP Members in Florida. The UCP maintains an electronic DBE Directory of all firms certified in Florida that is available to the public at:

[www.dot.state.fl.us/equalopportunityoffice](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/equalopportunityoffice)

The Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development promotes small business growth and works to ensure that small businesses can compete fairly on contracts from Broward County government.



For more information on the DBE Program, qualified small business owners should call the Office of Economic and Small Business Development at 954-357-6400 for an appointment. The DBE application is available on-line at:

[www.broward.org/smallbusiness](http://www.broward.org/smallbusiness)

Business owners should bring the completed application and supporting documents to the office to expedite certification.

## DBE Program Facts

- The Office of Economic and Small Business Development certifies DBE firms according to Federal Guidelines.
- The DBE Program is driven by Federal Rule and applies only to U.S. Department of Transportation funded contracts and programs, which include airport and mass transit projects.
- DBE certification allows firms to bid on Department of Transportation projects across Florida and the United States.
- A firm MUST be DBE certified prior to the submission of bids.
- The DBE certification requires a site visit to the applicant's firm by the Office of Economic and Small Business Development staff.
- The Office of Economic and Small Business Development recognizes DBE certifications granted by Florida Department of Transportation and other approved certification agencies.