

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Policy Statement

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. As a condition of receiving FTA funding, the GCRTA signed an assurance agreement that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26. The requirements of the DBE Program are accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Authority in its financial assistance agreements.

It therefore is the policy of GCRTA that DBEs have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in federally-assisted contracts. In accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, it also GCRTA's policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federally-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for federally-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 federally-assisted contracts;
6. To promote the use of DBEs in all contracting activities conducted by GCRTA; and
7. To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

In accordance 49 CFR Part 26 – Section 26.7, GCRTA will never exclude any person(s) from participation in, deny any person(s) 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, the GCRTA also 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.

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This policy statement has been distributed to GCRTA's Board of Trustees and all components of the organization. GCRTA further has and will distribute the statement to DBE and non-DBE contractors that respond to our procurement solicitations or perform work on our DOT-assisted contracts and through DBE Program workshops, seminars and other procurement related events that GCRTA may host or participate. The Deputy General Manager of Finance and Administration has been designated DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO) and is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program as per 49 CFR 26 Section 26.25.


India L. Birdsong Terry, General Manager/CEO

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