



For Your Immediate Attention

March 6, 2026

Re: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Certification Reevaluation

To Our DBE and ACDBE Firms:

DBE and ACDBE firms are a vital part of the transportation industry. The Virginia Unified Certification Program (Virginia UCP) - which includes the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), and the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD) - is fully committed to implementing the DBE program in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent DBE Interim Final Rule (IFR) and continuing to maximize opportunities for DBE and ACDBE firms to participate in all types of federally assisted contracts.

To that end, Virginia UCP is implementing new certification reevaluation criteria consistent with the IFR. Virginia UCP will complete reevaluations as soon as practicable and will continue to provide technical and supportive services to DBE and ACDBE firms.

As a result of the IFR, all currently certified DBE and ACDBE firms are required to undergo a reevaluation by the jurisdiction of original certification. Firms must submit documentation to demonstrate eligibility under the new standards in 49 CFR Subpart D, including:

- A personal narrative of social disadvantage, and
- A current Personal Net Worth (PNW) statement.

Virginia UCP urges all DBE and ACDBE firms to apply for recertification. While recertification is not guaranteed, participation by as many firms as possible in the recertification process is necessary to ensure there is a strong and viable DBE program going forward.

While there is no firm timeline established by USDOT, the Virginia UCP can set a date by which submissions are due in order to finalize its process, notify USDOT that the reevaluation process is complete, and resume program activities. **The timeframe for certified firms to submit the required documentation is: May 8, 2026. Firms that do not submit the required documentation by this date will be ineligible for counting towards DBE participation and will be excluded from the DBE directory. Such firms may still submit the required documentation at a later time.**

On completion of the evaluations, DSBSD or MWAA will issue a written decision of “Recertified” or “Decertified”. Firms that are decertified may appeal the decision to DOT under 48 CFR §26.89.

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for additional information at the following links below. If you have further questions, please contact VDOT’s Business Opportunity Workforce Development Center (BOWD), DSBSD’s Transportation Business Development Team, or MWAA. Please refer to our websites for further information:

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

<https://www.mwaa.com/business/small-business-programs>

Department of Small Business Supplier Diversity

<https://sbsd.virginia.gov/certification-division/updates-to-dbe-certifications/>

Virginia Department of Transportation

<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/doing-business/programs-for-businesses/dbe-program/>

Thank you for your continued engagement.

The Virginia Unified Certification Team