

**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program  
Wiscasset Municipal Airport  
Wiscasset Maine  
FY24 – FY26**

This program covers the period from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

This report is prepared under USC, Title 49, Part 26



Prepared for:  
Town of Wiscasset  
51 Bath Road  
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

Prepared by:  
Stantec Consulting Services  
2211 Congress Street, Suite 380  
Portland, ME 04102  
(207) 883-3355

**Updated August 2024**

**Wiscasset Municipal Airport  
Wiscasset, Maine  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program  
Updated August, 2024**

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## POLICY STATEMENT

### Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

The Town of Wiscasset, owner of Wiscasset Municipal Airport, has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Town of Wiscasset has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Town of Wiscasset has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26 (hereafter referred to as "Part 26").

It is the policy of the Town of Wiscasset to ensure that DBEs as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also the Town of Wiscasset's policy to engage in the following actions on a continuing basis:

1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT- assisted contracts;
2. Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. Promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities;
7. Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. Make appropriate use of the flexibility afforded to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Dennis Simmons, Town Manager, has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Dennis 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 Town of Wiscasset in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The Town of Wiscasset has disseminated this policy statement to the Board of Selectmen and all the components of our organization. This statement has been distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that may perform work on Town of Wiscasset's DOT-assisted contracts. The distribution was accomplished by publishing to Town of Wiscasset's website and having a copy available for public viewing at the Wiscasset Municipal Airport.



Dennis Simmons, Town Manager

08.28.2024

Date

## **SUBPART A – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 26.1 Objectives**

The objectives are elaborated in the policy statement on the first page of this program.

### **Section 26.3 Applicability**

The Town of Wiscasset is the recipient of Federal airport funds authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47101, *et seq.*

### **Section 26.5 Definitions**

The Town of Wiscasset uses terms in this program that has the meaning defined in Part 26, § 26.5.

### **Section 26.7 Non-discrimination Requirements**

The Town of Wiscasset will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person 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 Town of Wiscasset 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.

### **Section 26.11 Data Collection and Reporting Requirements**

#### **Reporting to DOT**

The Town of Wiscasset will provide data about its DBE Program to the Department as directed by DOT and its operating administrations.

DBE participation will be reported to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as follows:

The Town of Wiscasset will transmit to FAA annually, by or before December 1, the information required for the “Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and Payments”, as described in Part 26. The Town of Wiscasset will similarly report the required information about participating DBE firms. All reporting for this purpose will be done through the FAA’s designated reporting system.

#### **Bidders List**

The Town of Wiscasset will collect bidders list information as described in § 26.11(c)(2) and enter it into the system designated by DOT. The purpose of the bidders list is to compile as accurate data as possible about the universe of DBE and non-DBE contractors and subcontractors who seek to work on our federally assisted contracts for use in helping you set your overall goals, and to provide the Department with data for evaluating the extent to which the objectives of § 26.1 are being achieved.

The Town of Wiscasset will obtain the following bidders list information about all DBE and non-DBEs who bid as prime contractors and subcontractors on each of our federally assisted contracts:

- Firm name
- Firm Address including Zip code
- Firm's status as a DBE or non-DBE
- Race and gender information for the firm's majority owner
- NAICS code applicable to each scope of work the firm sought to perform in its bid
- Age of the firm
- Annual gross receipts of the firm. The gross receipts can be obtained by asking each firm to indicate into what gross receipts bracket they fit (e.g. less than \$1 million; \$1-3 million; \$3-6 million; \$6-10 million, etc) rather than requesting an exact figure from the firm.

The Town of Wiscasset will collect the data from all bidders for our federally assisted contracts by requiring the information in paragraph (c)(2) of this section to be submitted with their bids or initial responses to negotiated procurements.

The Town of Wiscasset will enter this data in the Department's designated system no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the relevant contract was awarded.

In the case of a "design-build" contracting situation where subcontracts will be solicited throughout the contract period as defined in a DBE Performance Plan pursuant to § 26.53(e), the Town of Wiscasset will enter the data no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the design-build contractor awards the relevant subcontract(s).

### **Section 26.13 Assurances Recipients and Contractors Must Make**

The Town of Wiscasset has signed the following assurances, applicable to all DOT-assisted contracts and their administration:

Assurance: - Each financial assistance agreement the Town of Wiscasset signs with a DOT operating administration (or a primary recipient) will include the following assurance:

The Town of Wiscasset shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any DOT-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements of 49 CFR part 26. The Town of Wiscasset shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. The Town of Wiscasset's DBE program, as required by 49 CFR part 26 and as approved by DOT, is incorporated by reference in this agreement. Implementation of this program is a legal obligation and failure to carry out its terms shall be treated as a violation of this agreement. Upon notification to the Town of Wiscasset, of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanctions as provided for under 49 CFR part 26 and may, in appropriate cases, refer the matter for enforcement under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*).

Contract Assurance: – The Town of Wiscasset will ensure that the following clause is included in each DOT-funded contract it signs with a contractor (and each subcontract the prime contractor signs with a subcontractor):

The contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor 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 part 26 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 the recipient 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.

## **SUBPART B - ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 26.21 DBE Program Updates**

The Town of Wiscasset is required to have a DBE program meeting the requirements of this part as it will receive grants for airport planning or development and will award prime contracts, cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in FAA funds in a federal fiscal year.

The Town of Wiscasset is not eligible to receive DOT financial assistance unless DOT has approved this DBE program and the Town of Wiscasset is in compliance with it and Part 26. The Town of Wiscasset will continue to carry out this program until all funds from DOT financial assistance have been expended. The Town of Wiscasset does not have to submit regular updates of the DBE program document, as long as it remains in compliance. However, significant changes in the program, including those required by regulatory updates, will be submitted to the relevant operating administration for approval.

### **Section 26.23 Policy Statement**

The Policy Statement is elaborated on the first page of this DBE Program.

### **Section 26.25 DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)**

The following individual has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer for the Town of Wiscasset:

Dennis Simmons  
Town of Wiscasset  
51 Bath Road  
Wiscasset, Maine 04578  
(207) 882-8200  
[townmanager@wiscasset.org](mailto:townmanager@wiscasset.org)

In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that the Town of Wiscasset complies with all provision of 49 CFR Part 26. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the Board of Selectmen concerning DBE program matters. An organization chart displaying the DBELO's position in the organization is found in **Attachment 2** to this program.

The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the DBE program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. The DBELO has a staff of one plus the Town's

aviation consultant to assist in the administration of the program. The duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by DOT.
2. Reviews third party contracts and purchase requisitions for compliance with this program.
3. Works with all departments to set overall annual goals.
4. Ensures that bid notices and requests for proposals are available to DBEs in a timely manner.
5. Identifies contracts and procurements so that DBE goals are included in solicitations (both race-neutral methods and contract specific goals) and monitors results.
6. Analyzes the Town's progress toward attainment and identifies ways to improve progress.
7. Participates in pre-bid meetings.
8. Advises the Board of Selectmen on DBE matters and achievement.
9. Determine contractor compliance with good faith efforts.
10. Provides DBEs with information and assistance in preparing bids, obtaining bonding and insurance.
11. Plans and participates in DBE training seminars.

### **Section 26.27 DBE Financial Institutions**

It is the policy of the Town of Wiscasset to investigate the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the community, to make reasonable efforts to use these institutions, and to encourage prime contractors on DOT-assisted contracts to make use of these institutions. Availability of such institutions will be investigated on an annual basis.

Maine Department of Transportation (MEDOT) has not identified any minority owned financial institutions in the state.

The Town of Wiscasset will reinvestigate the availability of DBE Financial Institutions on an annual basis.

### **Section 26.29 Prompt Payment Mechanisms**

The Town of Wiscasset requires that all subcontractors performing work on DOT-assisted contracts shall be promptly paid for work performed pursuant to their agreements, in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and local law. Prompt payment and return of retainage requirements also apply to lower-tier subcontractors.

In accordance with 49 CFR §26.29, the Town of Wiscasset established a contract clause implementing this requirement and requires prime contractors to pay subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days from the prime contractor's receipt of each payment from the Town of Wiscasset.

The Town of Wiscasset ensures prompt and full payment of retainage from the prime contractor to the subcontractor within 30 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed.



Pursuant to §26.29, the Town of Wiscasset has selected the following method to comply with this requirement:

- The Town of Wiscasset will hold retainage from prime contractors and provide for prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions of the prime contract, pay retainage to prime contractors based on these acceptances, and require a contract clause obligating the prime contractor to pay all retainage owed to the subcontractor for satisfactory completion of the accepted work within 30 days after the Town of Wiscasset payment to the prime contractor.

Additionally, for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Recipients include the following:

For every airport construction project funded under Federal grant assistance programs, the Town of Wiscasset includes the applicable clause from FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10 (Section 90-06) pertaining to the selected retainage method. The applicable clause will be included verbatim. However, if state or local prompt payment laws provide for payment in less than 30 days, any reference to “30 days” will be revised accordingly.

#### Prompt Payment Monitoring for DBEs and Non-DBEs

The Town of Wiscasset clearly understands and acknowledges that reliance on complaints or notifications from subcontractors about a contractor’s failure to comply with prompt payment and retainage requirements is not a sufficient monitoring and oversight mechanism. Therefore, the Town of Wiscasset undertakes proactive monitoring and oversight of prime contractors’ compliance with subcontractor prompt payment and return of retainage requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. Such monitoring activities will be accomplished through the following method(s):

- With each pay requisition submitted by a prime contractor, a form shall be submitted documenting dollar value of work completed by a DBE, including attached DBE invoices and a signature from the DBE firm certifying the form.

The Town of Wiscasset requires prime contractors to maintain records and documents of payments to subcontractors, including DBEs, for a minimum of three (3) years unless otherwise provided by applicable record retention requirements for the Town of Wiscasset’s financial assistance agreement, whichever is longer. These records will be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized representative of the Town of Wiscasset or DOT. This reporting requirement extends to all subcontractors, both DBE and non-DBE.

- The Town of Wiscasset proactively reviews contract payments to subcontractors including DBEs on a quarterly basis. Payment reviews will evaluate whether the actual amount paid to DBE subcontractors is equivalent to the amounts reported to the Town of Wiscasset by the prime contractor.

#### Prompt Payment Dispute Resolution

The Town of Wiscasset will take the following steps to resolve disputes as to whether timely prompt payment and retainage releases are being made as required by §26.29.

- Hold a meeting with prime, subs, sponsor and project manager to resolve disputes concerning timely prompt payment and retainage releases.

The Town of Wiscasset has established, as part of its DBE program, the following mechanism(s) to ensure prompt payment and return of retainage:

- A contract clause providing that the prime contractor will not be reimbursed for work performed by subcontractors unless and until the prime contractor ensures that the subcontractors are promptly paid for the work they have performed. The following is the contract clause:

“The prime contractor agrees to pay each subcontractor under this prime contract for satisfactory performance of its contract no later than 30 days from the receipt of each payment the prime contractor receives from the Town of Wiscasset. The prime contractor agrees further to return retainage payments to each subcontractor within 30 days after the subcontractor’s work is satisfactorily completed. Any delay or postponement of payment from the above-referenced time frame may occur only for good cause following written approval of the Town of Wiscasset. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontracts.”

#### Prompt Payment Complaints

Complaints by subcontractors regarding the prompt payment requirements are handled according to the following procedure:

- If affected subcontractor is not comfortable contacting prime directly regarding payment or unable to resolve payment discrepancies with prime, subcontractor should contact DBELO to initiate complaint.
- If filing a prompt payment complaint with the DBELO does not result in timely and meaningful action by the Town of Wiscasset to resolve prompt payment disputes, affected subcontractor may contact the responsible FAA contact.
- Pursuant to Sec. 157 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, all complaints related to prompt payment will be reported in a format acceptable to the FAA, including the nature and origin of the complaint and its resolution.

#### Enforcement Actions for Noncompliance of Participants

The Town of Wiscasset will provide appropriate means to enforce the requirements of §26.29. These means include:

- In accordance with the contract, assessing liquidated damages against the prime contractor for each day beyond the required time period the prime contractor fails to pay the subcontractor.
- Advise subcontractors of the availability of the payment and performance bond to assure payment for labor and materials in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

- Issue a stop-work order until payments are released to subcontractors, specifying in the contract that such orders constitute unauthorized delays for the purposes of calculating liquidated damages if milestones are not met.

The Town of Wiscasset will actively implement the enforcement actions detailed above.

### **Section 26.31 Directory of Certified Firms**

The Town of Wiscasset is a non-certifying member of the ME Unified Certification Program (UCP). The UCP maintains a directory identifying all firms eligible to participate as DBEs and/or ACDBEs, and it contains all the elements required by §26.31. The directory lists all firms eligible to participate as a DBE and/or ACDBE in the program. In the listing for each firm, the UCP directory includes the following details about the firm:

- Business address
- Business phone number
- Firm website(s)
- The types of work the firm has been certified to perform as a DBE and/or ACDBE.
- The type of work a DBE and/or ACDBE is eligible to perform is listed by using the most specific NAICS code available to describe each type of work the firm performs. Pursuant to § 26.81(n)(1) and (3), the UCP directory allows for NAICS codes to be supplemented with specific descriptions of the type(s) of work the firm performs.
- The UCP directory may include additional data fields of other items readily verifiable in State or locally maintained databases, such as State licenses held, Pre-qualifications, and Bonding capacity.
- The UCP directory is an online system that permits the public to search and/or filter for DBEs by:
  1. Physical location
  2. NAICS code(s)
  3. Work descriptions
  4. All additional data fields of readily verifiable optional information described above.

The directory includes a prominently displayed disclaimer that states the information within the directory is not a guarantee of the DBE's capacity and ability to perform work.

### **Section 26.33 Over-concentration**

The Town of Wiscasset has not identified that over-concentration exists in the types of work that DBEs perform.

### **Section 26.35 Business Development and Mentor-Protégé Programs**

The Town of Wiscasset has not established a business development program or a Mentor-Protégé Program as described by 49 CFR Part 26.

### **Section 26.37 Monitoring Responsibilities**

The Town of Wiscasset implements and carries out appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26 program requirements by all program participants, and describes and set forth these mechanisms in this DBE program.

The Town of Wiscasset actively monitors attainment toward overall goals by maintaining running tally that provides for a frequent comparison of cumulative DBE awards/commitments to DOT-assisted prime contract awards to determine whether our implementation of contract goals is projected to be sufficient to meet the annual goal. The running tally for overall goal monitoring will be maintained by a spreadsheet that calculates the percentage using the DBE payments against the DBE contract amount. This mechanism to maintain a running tally of overall goal attainment will be used to inform the Town of Wiscasset decisions to implement goals on contracts to be advertised, according to our established contract goal-setting process.

The Town of Wiscasset actively monitors participation with respect to each DBE commitment by using a running tally that provides for a frequent comparison of payments made to each listed DBE relative to the progress of work, including payments for such work to the prime contractor. The running tally for contract goal monitoring will be maintained by a spreadsheet that calculates the percentage using the DBE payments against the DBE contract amount. These contract-specific running tallies will be used to determine whether the contractor is on track with meeting its DBE commitment and whether any projected shortfall exists that requires the prime contractor's good faith efforts to address to meet the contract goal pursuant to § 26.53(g).

#### Monitoring Contracts and Work Sites

The Town of Wiscasset reviews contracting records and engages in active monitoring of work sites to ensure that work committed to DBEs at contract award or subsequently (e.g., as the result of modification to the contract) is actually performed by the DBEs to which the work was committed, and such work is counted according to the requirements of § 26.55. Work site monitoring for counting and commercially useful function review is performed by either Consultant or a Subcontractor for Construction Monitoring. Contracting records are reviewed by Consultant. The Town of Wiscasset will maintain written certification that contracting records have been reviewed and work sites have been monitored to ensure the counting of each DBE's participation is consistent with its function on the contract.

#### **Section 26.39 Fostering small business participation.**

The Town of Wiscasset has created a Small Business element to structure contracting requirements to facilitate competition by small business concerns, taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to their participation, including unnecessary and unjustified bundling of contract requirements that may preclude small business participation in procurements as prime contractors or subcontractors.

The small business element is incorporated as Attachment 10 to this DBE Program. The program elements will be actively implemented to foster small business participation. The Town of Wiscasset acknowledges that implementation of the small business element is required for us to be considered by DOT as implementing our DBE program in good faith.

### **SUBPART C – GOALS, GOOD FAITH EFFORTS, AND COUNTING**

#### **Section 26.43 Set-asides or Quotas**

The Town of Wiscasset does not use quotas or race-conscious set-asides in any way in the administration of this DBE program.

### **Section 26.45 Overall Goals**

The Town of Wiscasset will establish an overall DBE goal covering a three-year federal fiscal year period if we anticipate awarding DOT/FAA funded prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 during any one or more of the reporting fiscal years within the three-year goal period. In accordance with Section 26.45(f) the Town of Wiscasset will submit its Overall Three-year DBE Goal to FAA by August 1st of the year in which the goal is due, as required by the schedule established by the FAA.

The DBE goals will be established in accordance with the 2-step process as specified in 49 CFR Part 26.45. If the Town of Wiscasset does not anticipate awarding DOT/FAA funded prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 during any of the years within the three-year reporting period, we will not develop an overall goal; however, this DBE Program will remain in effect and the Town of Wiscasset will seek to fulfill the objectives outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.1.

Step 1. The first step is to determine a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs in the market area. The Town of Wiscasset will use DBE Directory information and Census Bureau Data as a method to determine the base figure. The Town of Wiscasset understands that the exclusive use of a list of prequalified contractors or plan holders, or a bidders list that does not comply with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26.45(c)(2), is not an acceptable alternative means of determining the availability of DBEs.

Step 2. The second step is to adjust, if necessary, the “base figure” percentage from Step 1 so that it reflects as accurately as possible the DBE participation the recipient would expect in the absence of discrimination. Adjustments may be made based on past participation, information from a disparity study (to the extent it is not already accounted for in the base goal), and/or information about barriers to entry to past competitiveness of DBEs on contracts. The Town of Wiscasset will examine all of the evidence available in its jurisdiction to determine what adjustment, if any, is needed. If the evidence does not suggest an adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.

Any methodology selected will be based on demonstrable evidence of local market conditions and be designed to ultimately attain a goal that is rationally related to the relative availability of DBEs in the Town of Wiscasset’s market.

In establishing the overall goal, the Town of Wiscasset will provide for consultation and publication. This includes consultation with minority, women’s and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the efforts by the Town of Wiscasset to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation will include a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange (e.g., a face-to-face meeting, video conference, teleconference) with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the goal setting process, and it will occur before the Town of Wiscasset is required to submit the goal methodology to the operating administration for review pursuant to §26.45(f). The goal submission will document the consultation process in which the Town of Wiscasset engaged. Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of §26.45, the proposed goal will not be implemented until this requirement is met.

In addition to the consultation described above, the Town of Wiscasset will publish a notice announcing the proposed overall goal before submission to the FAA on August 1st. The notice will be posted on the Town of Wiscasset's official internet web site and may be posted in other sources (e.g., minority-focused media, trade association publications). If the proposed goal changes following review by the FAA, the revised goal will be posted on the official internet web site.

***[The following physical publication procedure is optional. If a Recipient chooses to follow the procedure below, it must be in addition to the web site notification stated above and is not a substitute thereof.]***

The public will also be informed that the proposed overall goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at the principal office of the Town of Wiscasset. This notice will provide that the Town of Wiscasset will accept comments on the goals for 30 days from the date of the notice. Notice of the comment period will include the addresses to which comments may be sent (including offices and websites) and the location(s) where the proposed goal may be reviewed. **The public comment period will not extend the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.**

The Overall Three-Year DBE Goal submission to FAA will include any information and comments received, who provided the comment, and how the Town of Wiscasset considered and responded to any comments and information received before finalizing the goal.

The Town of Wiscasset will begin using the overall goal on October 1 of the relevant period, unless other instructions from FAA have been received.

#### Project Goals

If permitted or required by the FAA Administrator, an overall goal may be expressed as a percentage of funds for a particular grant or project or group of grants and/or projects, including entire projects. Like other overall goals, a project goal may be adjusted to reflect changed circumstances, with the concurrence of the appropriate operating administration. A project goal is an overall goal, and must meet all the substantive and procedural requirements of this section pertaining to overall goals. A project goal covers the entire length of the project to which it applies. The project goal will include a projection of the DBE participation anticipated to be obtained during each fiscal year covered by the project goal. The funds for the project to which the project goal pertains are separated from the base from which the regular overall goal, applicable to contracts not part of the project covered by a project goal, is calculated.

If a goal is established on a project basis, the goal will be used by the time of the first solicitation for a DOT-assisted contract for the project.

#### Prior Operating Administration Concurrence

The Town of Wiscasset understands that prior FAA concurrence with the overall goal is not required. However, if the FAA review suggests that the overall goal has not been correctly calculated or that the method employed by the Town of Wiscasset for calculating goals is inadequate, FAA may, after consulting with the Town of Wiscasset, adjust the overall goal or require that the goal be adjusted by the Town of Wiscasset. The adjusted overall goal is binding. In evaluating the adequacy or soundness of the methodology used to derive the overall goal, the U.S. DOT operating administration will be guided by the goal setting principles and best practices identified by the Department in guidance issued pursuant to §26.9.

A description of the methodology to calculate the overall goal and the goal calculations can be found in Attachment 5 to this program.

**Section 26.47 Failure to meet overall goals.**

The Town of Wiscasset cannot be penalized, or treated by the Department as being in noncompliance with Part 26, because DBE participation falls short of an overall goal, unless the Town of Wiscasset fails to administer its DBE program in good faith.

The Town of Wiscasset understands that to be considered to be in compliance with this part, an approved DBE Program and overall DBE goal, if applicable, must be maintained, and this DBE Program must be administered in good faith.

The Town of Wiscasset understands that if the awards and commitments shown on the Uniform Report of Awards or Commitments and Payments at the end of any fiscal year are less than the overall goal applicable to that fiscal year, the following actions must be taken in order to be regarded by the Department as implementing this DBE Program in good faith:

- (1) Analyze in detail the reasons for the difference between the overall goal and the awards and commitments in that fiscal year;
- (2) Establish specific steps and milestones to correct the problems identified in the analysis to enable the goal for the new fiscal year to be fully met;
- (3) The Town of Wiscasset will prepare, within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year, the analysis and corrective actions developed under paragraphs (1) and (2) above to the FAA for approval. We will retain copy of analysis and corrective actions in records for a minimum of three years and will make it available to FAA upon request.

**Section 26.51 Means Recipients Use to Meet Overall Goals**

**Breakout of Estimated Race-Neutral & Race-Conscious Participation**

The Town of Wiscasset will meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating race-neutral DBE participation. Race-neutral DBE participation includes any time a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

Race-neutral means include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.
2. Providing assistance in overcoming limitations such as inability to obtain bonding or financing (e.g., by such means as simplifying the bonding process, reducing bonding requirements, eliminating the impact of surety costs from bids, and providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, obtain bonding and financing);
3. Providing technical assistance and other services;

4. Carrying out information and communications programs on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities (e.g., ensuring the inclusion of DBEs, and other small businesses, on recipient mailing lists for bidders; ensuring the dissemination to bidders on prime contracts of lists of potential subcontractors; provision of information in languages other than English, where appropriate);
5. Implementing a supportive services program to develop and improve immediate and long-term business management, record keeping, and financial and accounting capability for DBEs and other small businesses;
6. Providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, improve long-term development, increase opportunities to participate in a variety of kinds of work, handle increasingly significant projects, and achieve eventual self-sufficiency;
7. Establishing a program to assist new, start-up firms, particularly in fields in which DBE participation has historically been low;
8. Ensuring distribution of the DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors; and
9. Assisting DBEs, and other small businesses, to develop their capability to utilize emerging technology and conduct business through electronic media.

The breakout of estimated race-neutral and race-conscious participation can be found in Attachment 5 to this program.

The Town of Wiscasset will arrange solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.

### Contract Goals

If the approved projection under paragraph (c) of §26.51 estimates that the entire overall goal for a given year can be met through race-neutral means, contract goals will not be set during that year, unless the use of contract goals becomes necessary in order meet the overall goal.

Contract goals will be established only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. A contract goal need not be established on every such contract, and the size of contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract (e.g., type and location of work, availability of DBEs to perform the particular type of work).

**Contract goals will be expressed as a percentage of the Federal share of a DOT-assisted contract.**

### **Section 26.53 Good Faith Efforts Procedures in Situations where there are Contract Goals**

#### Demonstration of good faith efforts (pre-award)

In cases where a contract goal has been established, the contract in question will only be awarded to a bidder/offeror that has made good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder/offeror can demonstrate that it has made good faith efforts by either meeting the contract goal or documenting that it has made adequate good faith efforts to do so. Examples of good faith efforts are found in Appendix A to Part 26.



Consultant is responsible for determining whether a bidder/offeror who has not met the contract goal has documented sufficient good faith efforts to be regarded **Responsible**.

The Town of Wiscasset will ensure that all information is complete and accurate and adequately documents the bidder/offeror's good faith efforts before committing to the performance of the contract by the bidder/offeror.

In all solicitations for DOT-assisted contracts for which a contract goal has been established, the following information will be required of every bidder/offeror:

- (1) Award of the contract will be conditioned on meeting the requirements of this section;
- (2) All bidders or offerors will be required to submit the following information to the recipient, at the time provided in paragraph (3) of this section:
  - a. The names and addresses of DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
  - b. A description of the work that each DBE will perform. To count toward meeting a goal, each DBE firm must be certified in a NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm would perform on the contract;
  - c. The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating;
  - d. Written documentation of the bidder/offeror's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet a contract goal; and
  - e. Written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the prime contractor's commitment. Each DBE listed to perform work as a regular dealer or distributor must confirm its participation according to the requirements of § 26.53 (c)(1).
  - f. If the contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts (as elaborated in Appendix A of Part 26). The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract;
- (3) The bidder/offeror will be required to present the information stipulated in paragraph (2) of this section:

No later than 5 days after bid opening as a matter of **responsibility**.

Provided that, in a negotiated procurement, such as a procurement for professional services, the bidder/offeror may make a contractually binding commitment to meet the goal at the time of bid submission or the presentation of initial proposals but provide the information required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section before the final selection for the contract is made by the Town of Wiscasset. This paragraph (b)(3)(ii) does not apply to a design-build procurement, which must follow the provisions in paragraph (e) of 49 CFR § 26.53.

For each DBE listed as a regular dealer or distributor the Town of Wiscasset will make a preliminary counting determination to assess its eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively, of the cost of materials and supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor, as defined in §§ 26.55(e)(2)(iv)(A), (B), (C), and (3) under the contract at issue. The preliminary determination will be made based on the DBE's written responses to relevant questions and its affirmation that its subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the preliminary counting of such participation. Where the DBE supplier does not affirm that its participation will meet the specific requirements of either a regular dealer or distributor, the Town of Wiscasset will make appropriate adjustments

in counting such participation toward the bidder's good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder is responsible for verifying that the information provided by the DBE supplier is consistent with the counting of such participation toward the contract goal.

In a design-build contracting situation, in which the Town of Wiscasset solicits proposals to design and build a project with minimal project details at time of letting, the Town of Wiscasset may set a DBE goal that proposers must meet by submitting a DBE Open-Ended DBE Performance Plan (OEPP) with the proposal. The OEPP replaces the requirement to provide the information required in paragraph (b) of § 26.53(b). To be considered responsive, the OEPP must include a commitment to meet the goal and provide details of the types of subcontracting work or services (with projected dollar amounts) that the proposer will solicit DBEs to perform. The OEPP must include an estimated time frame in which actual DBE subcontracts would be executed. Once the design-build contract is awarded, the Town of Wiscasset will provide ongoing monitoring and oversight to evaluate whether the design-builder is using good faith efforts to comply with the OEPP and schedule. The Town of Wiscasset and the design-builder may agree to make written revisions of the OEPP throughout the life of the project, e.g., replacing the type of work items the design-builder will solicit DBEs to perform and/or adjusting the proposed schedule, as long as the design-builder continues to use good faith efforts to meet the goal.

The Town of Wiscasset will apply the requirements of this section to DBE bidders/offerors for prime contracts. In determining whether a DBE bidder/offeror for a prime contract has met a contract goal, the Town of Wiscasset **will count** the work the DBE has committed to performing with its own forces as well as the work that it has committed to be performed by DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers.

#### Administrative reconsideration (26.53(d))

Within 30 business days of being informed by the Town of Wiscasset that it is not responsible because it has not documented adequate good faith efforts, a bidder/offeror may request administrative reconsideration. Bidder/offerors should make this request in writing to the following reconsideration official: Rick Tetrev, Airport Manager, Wiscasset Municipal Airport, 96 Chewonki Neck Rd, Wiscasset, ME 04578, phone: 207-882-5475, email: [airport@wiscasset.org](mailto:airport@wiscasset.org). The reconsideration official will not have played any role in the original determination that the bidder/offeror did not document sufficient good faith efforts.

As part of this reconsideration, the bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to provide written documentation or argument concerning the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to meet in person with the reconsideration official to discuss the issue of whether the goal was met or the bidder/offeror made adequate good faith efforts to do. The bidder/offeror will be sent a written decision on reconsideration, explaining the basis for finding that the bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The result of the reconsideration process is not administratively appealable to the Department of Transportation.

#### Good Faith Efforts procedural requirements (post-solicitation)

The Town of Wiscasset will include in each prime contract the contract clause required by § 26.13(b) stating that failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of this part is a material breach of the contract and may result in the termination of the contract or such other

remedies set forth in that section that the Town of Wiscasset deems appropriate if the prime contractor fails to comply with the requirements of this section.

The Town of Wiscasset will require the awarded contractor to make available upon request a copy of all DBE subcontracts. The contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials include all required contract provisions and mandate that the subcontractor and all lower tier subcontractors perform in accordance with the provisions of Part 26.

The Town of Wiscasset will require that a prime contractor not terminate a DBE or any portion of its work listed in response to § 26.53(b)(2) (or an approved substitute DBE firm per § 26.53(g)) without our prior written consent, unless the Town of Wiscasset causes the termination or reduction. A termination includes any reduction or underrun in work listed for a DBE not caused by a material change to the prime contract by the recipient. This requirement applies to instances that include but are not limited to: when a prime contractor seeks to perform work originally designed for a DBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-DBE firm, or with another DBE firm.

The Town of Wiscasset will include in each prime contract a provision stating that:

- (1) The contractor must utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed unless the contractor obtains the Town of Wiscasset's written consent as provided in § 26.53(f); and
- (2) Unless the Town of Wiscasset's consent is provided under § 26.53(f), the prime contractor must not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

The Town of Wiscasset may provide such written consent only if it agrees, for reasons stated in our concurrence document, that the prime contractor has good cause to terminate the listed DBE or any portion of its work.

Good cause does not exist if the prime contractor seeks to terminate a DBE or any portion of its work that is relied upon to obtain the contract so that the prime contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE contractor was engaged, or so that the prime contractor can substitute another DBE or non-DBE contractor after contract award. For purposes of § 26.53(f)(3), good cause includes the following circumstances:

- (1) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- (2) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;
- (3) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements;
- (4) The listed DBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit worthiness;
- (5) The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 2 CFR parts 180, 215, and 1200 or applicable state law;
- (6) The Town of Wiscasset has determined that the listed DBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor;
- (7) The listed DBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides to the Town of Wiscasset written notice of its withdrawal;

- (8) The listed DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;
- (9) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract; and
- (10) Other documented good cause that the Town of Wiscasset determines compels the termination of the DBE subcontractor;

Before transmitting to the Town of Wiscasset the request to terminate a DBE subcontractor or any portion of its work, the prime contractor must give notice in writing to the DBE subcontractor, with a copy to the Town of Wiscasset sent concurrently, of its intent to request to terminate and the reason for the proposed request.

The prime contractor's written notice must give the DBE five (5) days to respond, advising the Town of Wiscasset and the prime contractor of the reasons, if any, why it objects to the proposed termination of its subcontract or portion thereof and why the Town of Wiscasset should not approve the prime contractor's request. If required in a particular case as a matter of public necessity (e.g., safety), the Town of Wiscasset may provide a response period shorter than five (5) days.

In addition to post-award terminations, the provisions of this section apply to pre-award deletions or changes to DBEs or their listed work put forward by offerors in negotiated procurements.

When a DBE subcontractor or a portion of its work is terminated by the prime contractor as provided in § 26.53(f), or if work committed to a DBE is reduced due to overestimations made prior to award, the prime contractor must use good faith efforts to include additional DBE participation to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. The good faith efforts shall be documented by the contractor. If the Town of Wiscasset requests documentation under this provision, the contractor shall submit the documentation within seven (7) days, which may be extended for an additional seven (7) days, if necessary, at the request of the contractor. The Town of Wiscasset shall provide a written determination to the contractor stating whether or not good faith efforts have been demonstrated.

***[Note: The provisions of the foregoing section apply only when a contract goal is established.]***

### **Section 26.55 Counting DBE Participation**

DBE participation will be counted toward overall and contract goals as provided in § 26.55. The participation of a DBE subcontractor will not be counted 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.

In the case of post-award substitutions or additions, if a firm is not currently certified as a DBE in accordance with the standards of subpart D of this part at the time of the execution of the contract, the firm's participation will not be counted toward any DBE goals, except as provided for in § 26.87(j).

For FAA-funded projects **only**, firms that exceed the business size standard in § 26.65(b) will remain eligible for DBE certification and may be counted for DBE credit toward overall and contract goals on FAA-funded projects as long as they do not exceed the small business size standard, as adjusted by the United States Small Business Administration, for the NAICS code(s) in which they are certified.

## **SUBPART D – CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

### **Section 26.61 – 26.73 Certification Process**

The Town of Wiscasset is a non-certifying member of the Maine Unified Certification Program (UCP). Maine UCP will use the certification standards of Subpart D of Part 26 to determine the eligibility of firms to participate as DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts. To be certified as a DBE, a firm must meet all certification eligibility standards. Certifying Maine UCP members make all certification decisions based on the facts as a whole.

For information about the certification process or to apply for certification, firms should contact:

Mary Bryant  
Equal Employment Opportunity Program Specialist  
Civil Rights Office  
Legal Services Division  
Maine Department of Transportation  
16 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0016  
Work Cell: 207-446-2453  
Office: 207-624-3056  
Fax: 207-624-3090  
E-mail: [mary.bryant@maine.gov](mailto:mary.bryant@maine.gov)

The Uniform Certification Application form, Personal Net Worth statement, and documentation requirements can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/disadvantaged-business-enterprise/ready-apply>.

## **SUBPART E – CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

Any procedures included here are highlights only. Detailed certification procedures are enumerated in the full Maine UCP agreement. The full UCP agreement can be found in Attachment 9. There is no link available to provide for ME UCP Agreements.

### **Section 26.81 Unified Certification Programs**

The Town of Wiscasset is the member of a Unified Certification Program (UCP) administered by MEDOT. The UCP will meet all certification standards and procedures requirements of Subparts D and E of Part 26.

### **Section 26.91 Actions Following DOT Certification Appeal Decisions**

If the Town of Wiscasset is a certifier to which a DOT determination under § 26.89 is applicable, we will take any and all required action(s) pursuant to § 26.91.

## **SUBPART F – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **Section 26.101 Compliance Procedures Applicable to Town of Wiscasset**

The Town of Wiscasset understands that if it fails to comply with any requirement of this part, the Town of Wiscasset may be subject to formal enforcement action under §26.103 or §26.105

or appropriate program sanctions by the concerned operating administration, such as the suspension or termination of Federal funds, or refusal to approve projects, grants or contracts until deficiencies are remedied. Program sanctions may include, in the case of the FHWA program, actions provided for under 23 CFR 1.36; in the case of the FAA program, actions consistent with 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122; and in the case of the FTA program, any actions permitted under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or applicable FTA program requirements.

The Town of Wiscasset understands that, as provided in statute, it will not be subject to compliance actions or sanctions for failing to carry out any requirement of this part because it has been prevented from complying because a Federal court has issued a final order in which the court found that the requirement is unconstitutional.

### **Section 26.103 Enforcement Actions Applicable to FHWA and FTA Programs**

The provisions of this section apply to enforcement actions under FHWA and FTA programs. **ONLY** paragraph (2) of this section is also applicable in FAA programs.

- (2) **Compliance reviews.** The concerned operating administration may review the recipient's compliance with this part at any time, including reviews of paperwork and on-site reviews, as appropriate. The Office of Civil Rights may direct the operating administration to initiate a compliance review based on complaints received.

### **Section 26.105 Enforcement Actions Applicable to FAA Programs**

Compliance with all requirements of this part by airport sponsors and other recipients of FAA financial assistance is enforced through the procedures of Title 49 of the United States Code, including 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122, and regulations implementing them.

The provisions of § 26.103(b) and this section apply to enforcement actions in FAA programs.

Any person who knows of a violation of this part by a recipient of FAA funds may file a complaint under 14 CFR part 16 with the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Chief Counsel.

### **Section 26.107 Enforcement Actions Applicable to Participating Firms**

If a firm that does not meet the eligibility criteria of subpart D of this part attempts to participate in a DOT-assisted program as a DBE on the basis of false, fraudulent, or deceitful statements or representations or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings against the firm under 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200.

If a firm, in order to meet DBE contract goals or other DBE program requirements, uses or attempts to use, on the basis of false, fraudulent or deceitful statements or representations or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, another firm that does not meet the eligibility criteria of subpart D of this part, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings against you under 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200.

In a suspension or debarment proceeding brought under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the concerned operating administration may consider the fact that a purported DBE has been certified by a recipient. Such certification does not preclude the Department from determining that the purported DBE, or another firm that has used or attempted to use it to meet DBE goals, should be suspended or debarred.

The Department may take enforcement action under [49 CFR Part 31](#), Program Fraud and Civil Remedies, against any participant in the DBE program whose conduct is subject to such action under [49 CFR part 31](#).

The Department may refer to the Department of Justice, for prosecution under [18 U.S.C. 1001](#) or other applicable provisions of law, any person who makes a false or fraudulent statement in connection with participation of a DBE in any DOT-assisted program or otherwise violates applicable Federal statutes.

### **Section 26.109      Confidentiality, Cooperation, and Intimidation or Retaliation**

In responding to requests for information concerning any aspect of the DBE program, the Department complies with provisions of the Federal Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (5 U.S.C. 552 and 552a). The Department may make available to the public any information concerning the DBE program release of which is not prohibited by Federal law.

Notwithstanding any provision of Federal or state law, information that may reasonably be construed as confidential business information will not be released to any third party without the written consent of the firm that submitted the information, including applications for DBE certification and supporting information. However, this information will be transmitted to DOT in any certification appeal proceeding under § 26.89 or to any other state to which the individual's firm has applied for certification under § 26.85.

All participants in the Department's DBE program (including, but not limited to, recipients, DBE firms and applicants for DBE certification, complainants and appellants, and contractors using DBE firms to meet contract goals) are required to cooperate fully and promptly with DOT and recipient compliance reviews, certification reviews, investigations, and other requests for information. Failure to do so shall be a ground for appropriate action against the party involved (e.g., with respect to recipients, a finding of noncompliance; with respect to DBE firms, denial of certification or removal of eligibility and/or suspension and debarment; with respect to a complainant or appellant, dismissal of the complaint or appeal; with respect to a contractor which uses DBE firms to meet goals, findings of non-responsibility for future contracts and/or suspension and debarment).

The Town of Wiscasset, contractor, or any other participant in the program will not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual or firm for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this part or because the individual or firm has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. The Town of Wiscasset understands that it is in noncompliance with Part 26 if it violates this prohibition.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 Regulations: Link to 49 CFR Part 26 (eCFR)
- Attachment 2 Organizational Chart
- Attachment 3 Bidders List Collection Form
- Attachment 4 Link to UCP Directory of Certified Firms
- Attachment 5 Overall Goal Methodology
- Attachment 6 Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts Forms
- Attachment 7 DBE Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms
- Attachment 8 Link to Certification Application Form and Personal Net Worth Statement
- Attachment 9 State's UCP Agreement
- Attachment 10 Small Business Element Program

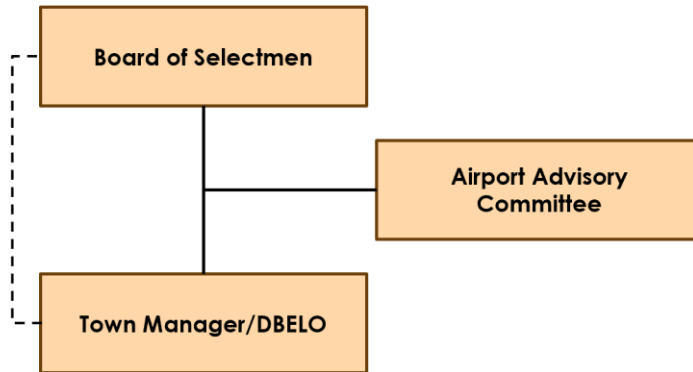


**ATTACHMENT 1**

DBE program regulations are codified in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26. They can be retrieved using the following link to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-A/part-26>

ATTACHMENT 2  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**ATTACHMENT 3**  
Bidder's List Collection Form

**[Note: § 26.11(c) requires Recipients to collect bidders list information from all bidders at the time of bid submittal, and to enter it into USDOT's designated system. The data must be collected for all firms who bid as prime contractors or subcontractors (successfully or not). The form below is NOT mandatory. If you use an electronic system to collect this information, you may instead provide a screenshot or other example showing how the system collects all the required data.]**

Firm Name	Firm Address (including ZIP code)	DBE or Non-DBE Status	NAICS Code(s) of Scope(s) Bid	Race/Gender of Majority Owner	Age of Firm	Annual Gross Receipts
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontinent Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Non-minority Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-3 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$3-6 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$6-10 million <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10 million
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontinent Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Non-minority Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-3 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$3-6 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$6-10 million <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10 million
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Subcontinent Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Non-minority Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-3 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$3-6 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$6-10 million <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10 million

**ATTACHMENT 4**

Maine UCP Directory may be found here:

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/civilrights/dbe/>

**ATTACHMENT 5**

Overall DBE Three-Year Goal Methodology

**Name of Recipient:** Town of Wiscasset, Wiscasset Municipal Airport

**Goal Period:** FY-2024-2025-2026 – October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026

<b>DOT-assisted contract amount:</b>	FY-2024	\$ 423,000
	FY-2025	\$ 513,000
	FY-2026	\$ 405,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,341,000</b>

**Overall Three-Year Goal: 1.99%**, to be accomplished through 0% RC and **1.99%** RN. (Note: the goal may be reflected as (1) an average of the three years; (2) three-year Median; or (3) weighted percentage).

**Total dollar amount to be expended on DBE's:** \$26,700

**Describe the Number and Type of Contracts that the airport anticipates awarding:**

**Contracts Fiscal Year 2024**

- Design Reconstruction for Apron
- Hangar Renovations Including Door Replacement and Bldg Improvements

**Contracts Fiscal Year 2025**

- Reconstruction for Apron

**Contracts Fiscal Year 2026**

- Relocate Electrical Vault

**Market Area:** The 16 counties in Maine are considered the market area for the Town. They are Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, Washington, and York.

**STEP 1. 26.45(c) Actual relative availability of DBE's**

Weighted Average of Availability of DBE firms:

***Fiscal Year #1 - For FY-2024, we anticipate the award of the following***

Contract Name	Trade Description	NAICS Code	Trade (\$)	NAICS #	DBEs #	DBE (%)	DBE (\$)
Contract #1 – Design Reconstruction for Apron	Consulting Engineering	541330	\$27,000	304	15	4.93%	\$1,332
	Surveying	541370	\$81,000	87	6	6.90%	\$5,586
<b>Total Contract #1</b>			<b>\$108,000</b>			<b>6.41%</b>	<b>\$6,918</b>

Contract Name	Trade Description	NAICS Code	Trade (\$)	NAICS #	DBEs #	DBE (%)	DBE (\$)
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**WISCASSET MUNICIPAL AIRPORT  
DBE PROGRAM**

Revised AUGUST 2024

Contract #2 – Hangar Renovations Including Door Replacement and Bldg Improvements	Consulting Engineering	541330	\$47,250	304	15	4.93%	\$2,331
	Site Preparation Contractors	238910	\$94,500	580	5	0.86%	\$815
	Electrical Contracting	238210	\$31,500	622	4	0.64%	\$203
	Prefabricated metal building and component manufacturing	238120	\$141,750	7	0	0.00%	\$0
<b>Total Contract #2</b>			<b>\$315,000</b>			<b>1.06%</b>	<b>\$3,349</b>

***Fiscal Year #2 - For FY-2025, we anticipate the award of the following***

Contract Name	Trade Description	NAICS Code	Trade (\$)	NAICS #	DBEs #	DBE (%)	DBE (\$)
Contract #1 – Reconstruction for Apron	Consulting Engineering	541330	\$35,100	304	15	4.93%	\$1,732
	Site Preparation Contractors	238910	\$105,300	580	5	0.86%	\$908
	Electrical	238210	\$11,700	622	4	0.64%	\$75
	Asphalt Paving	237310	\$81,900	67	2	2.99%	\$2,445
<b>Total Contract #1</b>			<b>\$234,000</b>			<b>2.20%</b>	<b>\$5,160</b>

Contract Name	Trade Description	NAICS Code	Trade (\$)	NAICS #	DBEs #	DBE (%)	DBE (\$)
Contract #2 – Reconstruction for Apron	Consulting Engineering	541330	\$41,850	304	15	4.93%	\$2,065
	Site Preparation Contractors	238910	\$125,550	580	5	0.86%	\$1,082
	Electrical	238210	\$13,950	622	0	0.00%	\$0
	Asphalt Paving	237310	\$97,650	67	2	2.99%	\$2,915
<b>Total Contract #2</b>			<b>\$279,000</b>			<b>2.17%</b>	<b>\$6,062</b>

***Fiscal Year #3 - For FY-2026, we anticipate the award of the following***

Contract Name	Trade Description	NAICS Code	Trade (\$)	NAICS #	DBEs #	DBE (%)	DBE (\$)
Contract #1 – Relocate Electrical Vault	Consulting Engineering	541330	\$60,750	304	15	4.93%	\$2,998
	Electrical Contracting	238210	\$344,250	622	4	0.64%	\$2,214
<b>Total Contract #1</b>			<b>\$405,000</b>			<b>1.29%</b>	<b>\$5,211</b>

<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,341,000</b>			<b>1.99%</b>	<b>\$26,700</b>
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The base goal projection after weighting is as follows:

- Total Weighted DBE Availability
- Total for All Trades

$$\text{Weighted Base Goal} = \frac{\text{Total FY24 DBE \$} + \text{Total FY25 DBE \$} + \text{Total FY26 DBE \$}}{\text{FY24 Trade \$} + \text{FY25 Trade \$} + \text{FY26 Trade \$}}$$

$$DBE \text{ Weighted Base Goal} = \frac{\$26,700}{\$1,341,000} = 1.99\%$$

The data source or demonstrable evidence used to derive the numerator was: **MaineDOT D/WBE Directory of Businesses** [WeeklyDBEVendorList.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#)

The data source or demonstrable evidence used to derive the denominator was the **United States Census Bureau** <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

**STEP 2. 26.45(d):** Adjustments to Step 1 base figure (using Weighted DBE Base Goal).

We feel the DBE Weighted Base Goal of **1.99%** accurately reflects the Airport's ability to attain the goal, and no further adjustments are necessary.

Furthermore, there are no applicable disparity studies, recent legal case information from the relevant jurisdictions, or evidence from related fields, that indicates evidence of barriers to entry or competitiveness of DBEs in the market area that is sufficient to warrant making any further adjustment.

### **Breakout of Estimated "Race and Gender Neutral" (RN) and "Race and Gender Conscious" (RC) Participation**

The Town of Wiscasset will meet the maximum feasible portion of the overall goal by using RN means of facilitating DBE participation.

1. Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitates DBE, and other small businesses, participation;
2. Ensuring distribution of DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors;

The Town of Wiscasset estimates that in meeting the established overall goal of 1.99%, it will obtain 1.99% from RN participation and 0% through RC measures.

The breakout is based on prime contractors historically having subcontractor DBE participation.

The Town of Wiscasset will adjust the estimated breakout of RN and RC DBE participation as needed to reflect actual DBE participation [see §26.51(f)] and track and report RN and RC participation separately. For reporting purposes, RN DBE participation includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: DBE participation through a prime contract obtained through customary competitive procurement procedures; DBE participation through a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE goal, DBE participation on a prime contract exceeding a contract goal, and DBE participation through a subcontract from a prime contractor that did not consider a firm's DBE status in making the award.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Consultation:** Section 26.45(g)(1).

In establishing the overall goal, the Town of Wiscasset provided for consultation and publication. This process included consultation with minority, women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the Town's efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation included a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the goal setting process and was conducted before the goal methodology was submitted to the operating administration for review. Details of the consultation are as follows.

The consultation engaged in was a Teams video meeting, which was held on March 5, 2024 at 11:00 am

The following comments were received during the course of the consultation:  
No comments were received.

A notice of the proposed goal was published on the Town's official website [Town of Wiscasset, Maine](#) before the methodology was submitted to FAA.

If the proposed goal changes following review by FAA, the revised goal will be posted on the Town of Wiscasset's official website.

Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of §26.45, the Town of Wiscasset's proposed goals will not be implemented until this requirement has been met.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Town of Wiscasset hereby announces its proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goal of 1.99% for FAA-funded contracts/agreements. The proposed goal pertains to federal fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

A Teams meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 11:00 am for the purpose of consulting with stakeholders to obtain information relevant to the goal-setting process. If you are interested in attending the Teams meeting, please join using the following link:

#### **Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 827 650 622

Passcode: 5pC7Wv

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

#### **Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 587-414-2460,,976626544#](#) Canada, Edmonton

[\(833\) 266-3861,,976626544#](#) Canada (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 976 626 544#

(833) 436-6264

Comments on the DBE goal will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this publication and can be sent to the following:



Dennis Simmons  
Town of Wiscasset  
51 Bath Road  
Wiscasset, Maine 04578  
(207) 882-8200  
Email: [townmanager@wiscasset.org](mailto:townmanager@wiscasset.org)

and

Kimberly Robinson Harris  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Office of Civil Rights  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591  
Ph: (202) 267-8747  
Email: [kimberly.l.robinson.harris@faa.gov](mailto:kimberly.l.robinson.harris@faa.gov)

ATTACHMENT 6

Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts - Forms 1 & 2

[Forms 1 and 2 will be provided as part of the solicitation documents.]

FORM 1  
INTENTION FOR PROPOSED  
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) UTILIZATION

To meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation Regulations Part 26, all bidders will provide evidence of the methods they have used to meet the disadvantaged owned and controlled business goal as published in the Owner's disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) program and approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**The Airport's Overall DBE Program goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise utilization is \_\_\_% of the total value of all prime contracts. The Airport encourages the Bidder to meet or exceed the goal on this project.**

---

Bidders are encouraged to submit the attached DBE Letter of Intent/Schedule of Participants:

This firm proposes that it will utilize \_\_\_\_\_% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation towards the Airport's Overall Program Goal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Bidder)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature and Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

---

For each Disadvantaged Business Enterprise proposed to be utilized under the contract, the bidder shall submit with the bid the following information:

1. Name of DBE.
2. Description of work to be performed by the DBE on the project.
3. Dollar value of the work to be performed by the DBE on the project.
4. Evidence of current DBE certification by the Maine Department of Transportation, or another State's Highway/Transportation department in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. The contractor can locate possible disadvantaged businesses at one of the following organizations:

Maine Department of Transportation  
Civil Rights Office  
#16 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0016  
Telephone: (207)-624-3066  
<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/civilrights/>

**FORM 2: LETTER OF INTENT**

*Note: The authorized representative (AR) named below must be an individual vested with the authority to make contracting decisions on behalf of the firm.*

Name of bidder/offeror's firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & title of firm's AR: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of DBE firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & title of DBE firm's AR: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work to be performed by DBE firm:

<i>Description of Work</i>	<i>NAICS</i>	<i>Dollar Amount / %*</i>	<i>Manufacturer/Regular Dealer/Distributor/Broker**</i>

*\*Percentage is to be used only in negotiated procurements*

*\*\*For DBE suppliers only, state how the DBE will perform. For dealer/distributor/broker, Form 3 must be included.*

The undersigned bidder/offeror is committed to utilizing the above-named DBE firm for the work described above. The total expected dollar value of this work is \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The bidder/offeror understands that if it is awarded the contract/agreement resulting from this procurement, it must enter into a subcontract with the DBE firm identified above that is representative of the type and amount of work listed. Bidder/offeror understands that upon submitting this form with its bid/offer, it may not substitute or terminate the DBE listed above without following the procedures of 49 CFR Part 26, §26.53.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Bidder/Offeror's Authorized Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned DBE affirms that it is ready, willing, and able to perform the amount and type of work as described above, and is properly certified to be counted for DBE participation therefore.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of DBE's Authorized Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If the bidder/offeror does not receive award of the prime contract, all representations in this Letter of Intent shall be null and void.**

**Submit this page for each DBE subcontractor.**

Form 3: DBE Regular Dealer/Distributor Affirmation Form

OMB Approval Pending 04/17/2024



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

DBE Regular Dealer/Distributor  
Affirmation Form

Bidder Name:

Contract Name/Number:

Sections 26.53(c)(1) of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations requires recipients to make a preliminary counting determination for each DBE listed as a regular dealer or distributor to assess its eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively, of the cost of materials and supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor, as defined in section 26.55(e)(2)(iv)(A),(B),(C), and (3) under the contract at issue. The regulation requires the recipient's preliminary determination to be made based on the DBE's written responses to relevant questions and its affirmation that its subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the preliminary counting of such participation. The U.S. Department of Transportation is providing this form as a tool for recipients, prime contractors, regular dealers, and distributors to use to carry out their respective responsibilities under this regulation. The form may be used by each DBE supplier whose participation is submitted by a bidder for regular dealer or distributor credit on a federally-assisted contract with a DBE participation goal. The form may also be used by prime contractors in connection with DBE regular dealer or distributor participation submitted after a contract has been awarded provided such participation is subject to the recipient's prior evaluation and approval. If this form is used, it should be accompanied by the bidder's commitment, contract, or purchase order showing the materials the DBE regular dealer or distributor is supplying. Use of this tool is not mandatory. If a recipient chooses a different method for complying with Section 26.53(c)(1), it must include that method in its DBE Program Plan. **DISCLAIMER: This form has not yet received OMB/PRA approval and is subject to change. We are making it available for your voluntary use.**

DBE Name:

Authorized DBE Representative (Name and Title):

Total Subcontract/Purchase Order Amount:

NAICS Code(s) Related to the Items to be Sold/Leased:

1. Will all items sold or leased be provided from the on-hand inventory at your establishment?  YES  NO

(If "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the regular dealer requirements and may be counted at 60%. STOP here. Read and sign the affirmation below. If "NO" Continue.)

a) Are you selling bulk items (e.g., petroleum products, steel, concrete, concrete products, sand, gravel, asphalt, etc.) or items not typically stocked due to their unique characteristics (aka specialty items)?

YES  NO (If "YES," Go to Question 2. If "NO" Continue.)

b) Will at least 51% of the items you are selling be provided from the inventory maintained at your establishment, and will the minor quantities of items delivered from and by other sources be of the general character as those provided from your inventory?

YES  NO\* (If "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the regular dealer requirements and may be counted at 60%. STOP here. Read and sign the affirmation below.

\*If 1., 1.a), and 1. b) above are "NO," your performance on the whole will not satisfy the regular dealer requirements; therefore, only the value of items to be sold or leased from inventory can be counted at 60%. (Go to Question 3. to determine if the items delivered from and by other sources are eligible for Distributor credit.)

2. Will you deliver all bulk or specialty items using distribution equipment you own (or under a long-term lease) and operate?

YES  NO<sup>1</sup>

(If "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the requirements for a regular dealer of bulk items and may be counted at 60%. STOP here. Read and sign the affirmation below.)

<sup>1</sup> If "NO," your performance will not satisfy the requirements for a regular dealer of bulk items; the value of items to be sold or leased cannot be counted at 60%. (Go to Question 3.)

3. Will the written terms of your purchase order or bill of lading from a third party transfer responsibility, including risk for loss or damage, to your company at the point of origin (e.g. a manufacture's facility)?

YES<sup>2</sup>  NO<sup>3</sup>

a) Will you be using sources other than the manufacturer (or other seller) to deliver or arrange delivery of the items sold or leased ?

YES<sup>2</sup>  NO<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> If your responses to 3 and 3.a) are "YES," you have indicated that your performance will satisfy the requirements of a distributor; therefore, the value of items sold or leased may be counted at 40%.

<sup>3</sup> If you responded "NO" to either 3 or 3.a), counting of your participation is limited to the reasonable cost of fees or commissions charged, including transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies; the cost of materials or supplies may not be counted.

I affirm that the information that I provided above is true and correct and that my company's subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the above responses. I further affirm that my company will independently negotiate price, order specified quantities, and pay for the items listed in the bidder's commitment. This includes my company's responsibility for the quality of such items in terms of necessary repairs, exchanges, or processing of any warranty claims for damaged or defective materials.

Printed Name and Signature of DBE Owner/Authorized Representative:

The bidder acknowledges its responsibility for verifying the information provided by the DBE named above and ensuring that the counting of the DBE's participation is accurate. Any shortfall caused by errors in counting are the responsibility of the bidder.

Printed Name and Signature of Bidder's Authorized Representative:

## ATTACHMENT 7

### Administrative Enforcement Mechanisms

The Town of Wiscasset has available several remedies to enforce the DBE requirements contained in its contracts, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Breach of contract action, pursuant to the terms of the contract, as follows:  
Prime contracts contain the FAA provision for Breach of Contract Terms which states “Any violation or breach of terms of this contract on the part of the Contractor or its subcontractors may result in the suspension or termination of this contract or such other action that may be necessary to enforce the rights of the parties of this agreement.”
2. Breach of contract action, pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 13, §2284
3. In addition, the Federal government has available several enforcement mechanisms that it may apply to firms participating in the DBE program, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) Suspension or debarment proceedings pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26
  - b) Enforcement action pursuant to 49 CFR Part 31
  - c) Prosecution pursuant to 18 USC 1001.

**ATTACHMENT 8**

DBE Certification Application Form and Personal Net Worth Statement:

<https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/disadvantaged-business-enterprise/ready-apply>

**ATTACHMENT 9**  
State's UCP Agreement  
**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE**  
**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**AND**  
**WISCASSET MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made this 19th day of January 2024, by and between the State of Maine, through the Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), with an address of 16 State House Station, Augusta, Maine and Wiscasset Municipal Airport, with an address of 96 Chewonki Neck Road, Maine.

**I. AGREEMENT**

MaineDOT and the named party hereby agree as follows:

1. The named party agrees that as a recipient of the USDOT financial assistance it will cooperate fully with the Maine Department of Transportation in the certification of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.
2. The named party agrees that it shall utilize the MaineDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification Program.
3. The named party agrees to refer potential applicants for DBE Certification to MaineDOT.
4. The named party agrees to honor the decisions made by MaineDOT with respect to certification decisions made in accordance with 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26 Subpart E, Certification Procedures
5. MaineDot will accept, review and make determinations about DBE Certification for those entities referred to it by the named party.

**II. TERMS**

This Agreement remains in place indefinitely.

**SEEN AND AGREED TO BY:**

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DocuSigned by:



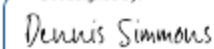
By: Sherry Tompkins  
Its: Director, Civil Rights Office

1/19/2024

Date

**WISCASSET MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

DocuSigned by:



By: Dennis Simmons  
Its: Town Manager

1/19/2024

Date

**ATTACHMENT 10**  
Small Business Element

**1. Objective/Strategies**

- Prime contracts will be limited to the FAA minimum requirements for general provisions, contract provisions, and bonding.
- In multi-year design-build contracts or other large contracts (e.g., for “megaprojects”) requiring bidders on the prime contract to specify elements of the contract or specific subcontracts that are of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.
- On prime contracts not having DBE contract goals, breaking out the contract work into smaller units of work to provide subcontracting opportunities of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.
- To meet the portion of the overall goal projected to be met through race-neutral measures, ensuring that a reasonable number of prime contracts are of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.

**2. Definition**

- DBE firms should be identified in the Small Business element of the recipient’s DBE program as eligible for the program unless there is a DBE micro-Small Business Program element in place.
- Size standard should be consistent with 49 CFR 26.5 and must be no larger than the Small Business Administration’s size standards. DBE firms and small firms eligible for the program should be similarly sized to reduce competitive conflict between DBE and non-DBE firms.
- Personal Net Worth standards – should be consistent with 49 CFR Part 26 thresholds.

**3. Verification**

- Should diligently attempt to minimize fraud and abuse in the SB element of its DBE program by verifying program eligibility of firms.

**4. Monitoring/Record Keeping**

- The Town of Wiscasset will track the amount of prime contracts and subcontracts awarded to small businesses as a percentage of overall contracts.

**5. Assurance**

- The program is permitted under state law;
- Certified DBEs that meet the size criteria established under the program are presumptively eligible to participate in the program;



- No limits are placed on the number of contracts awarded to firms participating in the program, but every effort will be made to avoid creating barriers to the use of new, emerging, or untried businesses; and
- Aggressive steps will be taken to encourage those minority and women owned firms that are eligible for DBE certification to become certified.
- The program is open to small businesses regardless of their location (i.e., there is no local or other geographic preference).