



## **CATS DBE Policy Statement**

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Capital Area Transit System (CATS) has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Capital Area Transit System (CATS) has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of CATS to ensure that DBEs as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT- assisted contracts. It is also our policy to:

1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT - transit assisted contracts;
2. Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT- transit 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; and
7. Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

Capital Area Transit System (CATS) has disseminated this policy statement to the CATS Board of Commissioners and all of the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts.

For more information, please contact the DBE Liaison Officer at:

Pearlina Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer  
Capital Area Transit System (CATS)  
2250 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.3262  
pthomas@brcats.com

## How to Become a Certified DBE Firm

Certification Eligibility:

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise is defined as a for-profit small business concern:

- That is at least 51% owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged or, in the case of a corporation, in which 51% of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals; and
- Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

Other criteria includes, but is not limited to:

- Membership in a protected class;
- The owners' Personal Net Worth not including their primary place of residence or ownership in the business, cannot exceed \$1.32 million in compliance with the 49 CFR Part 26.67.;
- The business must be for-profit and must not exceed the annual gross receipts cap of \$23.98 million per year as defined in 49 CFR Part 26; and
- Firm meets SBA small business guidelines.

For information on the DBE Program and how to become a Certified DBE firm, and/or small business technical assistance and resources, please visit the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development DBE Certification website:

[http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside\\_LaDOTD/Divisions/Administration/Compliance/Pages/DBE\\_Certification.aspx](http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Administration/Compliance/Pages/DBE_Certification.aspx)

For information on how to become certified as a certified Small Business Enterprise (non-DBE) through the LADOTD SBE Certification program, click here:

[http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside\\_LaDOTD/Divisions/Administration/Compliance/Pages/SBE\\_Certification.aspx](http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Administration/Compliance/Pages/SBE_Certification.aspx)

## Become a Vendor with CATS

CATS periodically hires local and national businesses to assist us in improving services to riders. These items are listed as "Open Bids" posted on our Procurement web page. If you would like to become a vendor to CATS, please complete and mail in the Vendor Data Profile form. Upon submittal and approval, you may be eligible to submit responses to open bids.

- To complete our Vendor Data Profile form online, [click here](#).
- Or you can download the form [here](#).

## **CATS DBE Goal**

49 CFR, Part 26, requires a two-step process for setting the overall DBE goal, which should reflect the expected level of DBE participation in CATS contracts in absence of discrimination. In accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.45, CATS invites public participation and solicits comments regarding the DBE goal. Furthermore CATS invites the submission of evidence and methodology to achieve the overall goal.

CATS has established its DBE overall goal for Federal Fiscal years 2021-2023 at 11%. With a race-neutral goal of 5%, and a race-conscious goal of 6%.

## **DBE Guidance for Prime Contractors**

CATS encourages prime contractors to include DBE subcontractors in their bids/proposals on CATS projects. Many CATS projects include a DBE participation goal in the bid documents. Including DBE subcontractor(s) in your bid/proposal may improve your chances of being a successful bidder on CATS projects.

For a directory of certified DBE Suppliers/Vendors, please click on the following link:  
<http://www8.dotd.la.gov/UCP/UCPSearch.aspx>