



Important Information!!!

DBE's, Prime Contractors and Consultants

The U.S. Department of Transportation [USDOT] now requires that all recipients of FAA, FTA and FHWA Federal funds participate in a Unified Certification Program [UCP] within their respective states. Florida's UCP has been approved and is fully operational.

What is the UCP?

- The UCP provides "one stop shopping" for all firms seeking certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise [DBE] in Florida.
- The DBE certification of a firm will be accepted by all USDOT recipients in Florida.
- The standards and criteria utilized in the certification process are uniform and thus reduce the temptation and opportunity for a firm to "forum" shop for certification.

What does this mean to you?

- When you utilize DBE's on your Federal Aid projects you need only require a single DBE certification letter or certificate from a **Certifying Member** of the UCP.
- You will be able to access a single DBE Directory that will allow you to identify and locate every firm authorized to participate in Florida's DBE Program.

<https://www3.dot.state.fl.us/EqualOpportunityOffice/biznet/mainmenu.asp>

How does this benefit DBEs?

- There is a significant reduction in the paper work required to maintain DBE certification with the numerous recipient programs in Florida. From now on, you need only establish and maintain your DBE certification with one Certifying Member.

Points To Remember:

- Some DBE certifications are accompanied by an annual DBE certification letter or certificate, while other recipients, for example FDOT, do not issue annual renewal letters. The DBE Directory is updated in “real time,” and is the single source for establishing eligibility.
- There are many small and minority owned business programs throughout the State (MBE, WBE, CSBE, HBE, SDBE, 8a etc.) Most of these programs are governed by State and/or local laws, and as such they are NOT part of the DBE Program or the UCP certification process. The DBE Program is driven by Federal Rule, and applies only to USDOT assisted contracts and programs.
- State, County and Municipal Programs may or may not accept the UCP’s DBE certification, whereas USDOT’s Florida recipients do NOT accept any of the other certifications for its program. You should contact individual agencies regarding their policies.
- A DBE firm MUST be certified prior to the submission of bids.
- Every state must have its own UCP. However, at this time Florida’s UCP has no reciprocal agreements with other states. This simply means that Florida does not accept a DBE certification from another state and visa versa.
- There is a “Home State Rule” requiring that a DBE applicant to Florida’s UCP, domiciled in another state, must be DBE certified in and by its “home state” before it can be considered for DBE certification in Florida.

Simplicity and efficiency for prime contractors, consultants and DBE firms in Florida are the net result of the Unified Certification Program.

If you are interested in viewing the DBE Directory, you may access an electronic version:
www3.dot.state.fl.us/equalopportunityoffice

Florida UCP Members

*Florida Department of Transportation**
Melbourne Airport Authority
*Hillsborough County Aviation Authority**
Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority
Council on Aging of St. Lucie County
St. Lucie County
City of Ocala
*Broward County**
Panama City MPO
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
*Miami-Dade County**
LYNX/Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority
*City of Tallahassee**
*Lee County Port Authority**
Jacksonville Airport Authority
*Volusia County (Votran, Transit Only)**
Escambia Country Area Transit
Collier Area Transit
Charlotte County Transit
*Jacksonville Transportation Authority**
Lakeland Area Mass Transit District
Sarasota County Transportation Authority
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
City of St. Petersburg

*Greater Orlando Aviation Authority**
St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport
Lee County Transit
Okaloosa County
Indian River County Council on Aging
*Key West International & Florida Keys Marathon Airport**
City of Umatilla
City of Leesburg
Manatee County Area Transit
Lee County
Space Coast Area Transit
Palm Beach International Airport
Palm Tran
Panama City-Bay County Airport & Industrial District
City of Key West – DOT
Hillsborough Transit Authority
City of Gainesville
City of Naples Airport Authority
Boca Raton Airport Authority
Lake County
St. Johns County
City of Miramar

**Certifying Members*