



## Northwest Commission DBE Policy Statement

The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (Northwest Commission) 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 Northwest Commission has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Northwest Commission has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

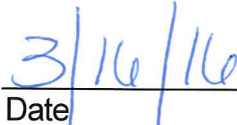
It is the policy of the Northwest Commission to ensure that DBEs as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

- To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT – assisted contracts;
- To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
- To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
- To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

The Regional Planning Manager, has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the DBE Liaison Officer 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 Northwest Commission in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The Northwest Commission has disseminated this policy statement to its Board Members 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 and this statement will be posted on the Northwest Commission's website.

  
Jill Foys, Executive Director

  
Date