



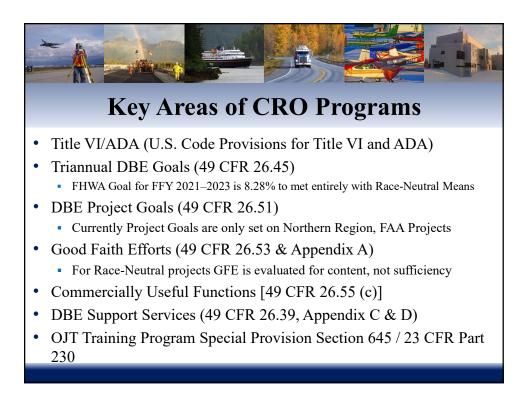


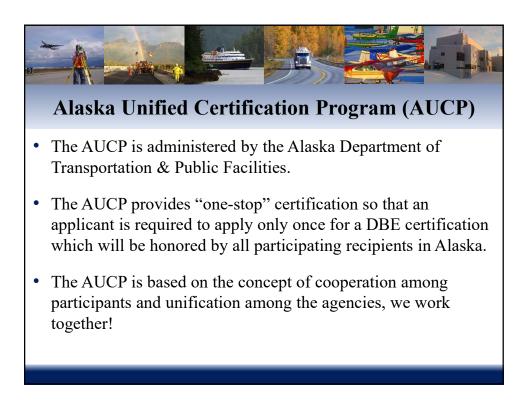
U.S. Department of Transportation

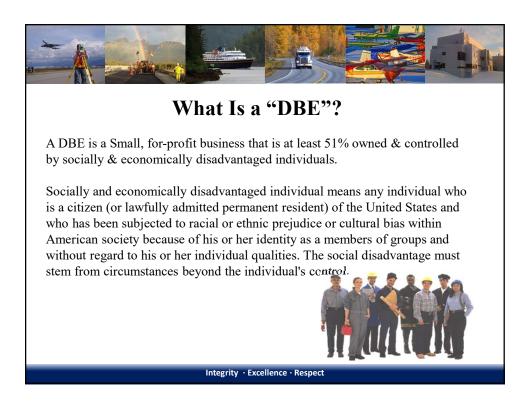
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (DBE)

The DBE program is designed to remedy ongoing discrimination and the continuing effects of past discrimination in federally-assisted highway, transit, airport, and highway safety financial assistance transportation contracting. The primary remedial goal and objective of the DBE program is to level the playing field by providing small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals a fair opportunity to compete for federally funded transportation contracts.

In 1983, Congress enacted the first Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) statutory provision. This provision required the Department to ensure that at least 10% of the funds authorized for the highway and transit Federal financial assistance programs be expended with DBEs. The Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Transit Administration are the Operating Administration involved in the DBE program. The DBE program is carried out by state and local transportation agencies under the rules and guidelines in the Code of Federal Regulations. (Title 49, Part 26). The FAA also maintains a separate DBE program for concessions in airports under (Title 49, Part 23).







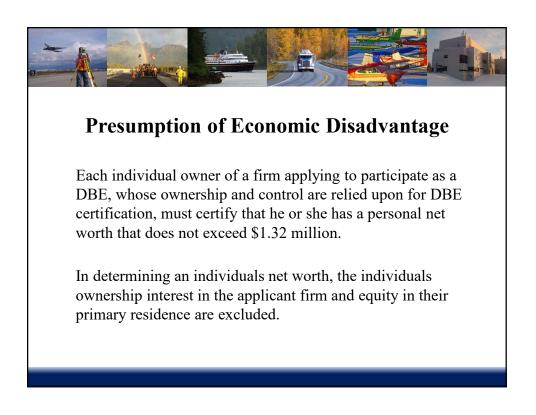


Group Membership

Individuals belonging to the following groups are rebuttably presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged: Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, and Women

Additionally under 49 CFR Part 26 Appendix E a recipient may find an individual to be socially and economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis.

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Requirements for DBE Participation

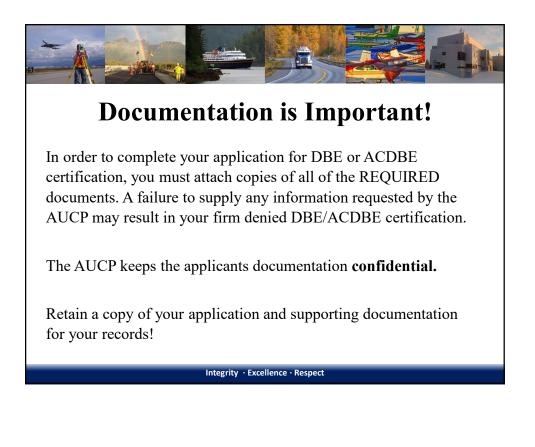
To participate in the DBE program, a small business owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals must receive DBE certification from the relevant state– generally through the state Unified Certification Program (UCP).

To be regarded as economically disadvantaged, an individual must have a personal net worth that does not exceed \$1.32 million. To be seen as a small business, a firm must meet SBA size criteria AND must not have average annual gross receipts, over the previous 3 years, in excess of the DBE size limit - \$30.40 million. Size limits for the airport concessions DBE program are higher: www.transportation.gov/DBEsizestandards

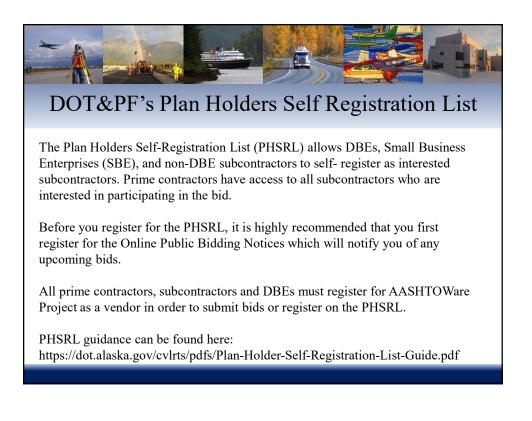
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Thank You for Participating!

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