

### October 10, 2025

# Public Comment Period on DBE Interim Final Rule Open Through November 3, 2025

<u>Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and Disadvantaged Business</u> <u>Enterprise in Airport Concessions Program: Implementation Modifications</u>

You may submit comments to the U.S. DOT on the Interim Final Rule (IFR) until November 3, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST. The full text and comment portal can be found at the link above.

Key modifications of the IFR include:

- Removal of race- and sex-based presumptions in DBE qualifications.
- Requirement for agencies to reevaluate DBE applicants based on evidence of social and economic disadvantage.
- Suspension of DBE reporting and compliance during the reevaluation process.
- Suspension of DBE project goals on existing contracts.
- No new project goals until all reevaluations are completed.

## How to Prepare for Reevaluation with the TUCP

Review and update contact information in the <u>TUCP DBE Directory</u> now to ensure notifications are received by the appropriate person.

Document submissions will be time sensitive. A submission deadline has not been set at this time; however, DBEs are encouraged to prepare now. As stated in the revised 49 CFR 26.67, the following documents are required:

1. Personal narrative\* establishing the existence of disadvantage with individualized evidence. This includes specific instances of economic

hardship, systemic barriers, and denied opportunities that have impeded the owner's progress or success in education, employment, or business. Evidence should also highlight difficulties in obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated, non-disadvantaged individuals.

#### 2. Personal Net Worth Statement

\*If your DBE or ACDBE firm is 8(a) Certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and has previously submitted a personal narrative to the SBA, you may use the same narrative for reevaluation of your DBE certification for review.

## All other certification-related activities are halted until further notice.

The TUCP will not process new DBE applications or annual declarations of eligibility submitted after today, October 10, 2025, until further notice. All new DBE applications submitted prior to October 10, 2025, will be processed; however, a personal narrative and a current personal net worth statement are required for all firms.

More information, including informational webinars, will come soon. For questions, please email <a href="mailto:IFR@txdot.gov">IFR@txdot.gov</a>.