

## **Policy Statement Expressing RTS's Commitment to Utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises**

In accordance with the requirements of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) 49 CFR, Part 26, dated March 4, 1999, Regional Transit Service (RTS) is committed to the development and implementation of an effective and Federally-compliant Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program applies to all USDOT-assisted RTS procurement activities where reasonably feasible. This will include all USDOT-assisted capital, construction and professional service contracts.

The primary objective for establishing a DBE Program is to facilitate the participation of firms owned and controlled by known socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in obtaining procurement contracts. To this end, RTS's goals include the following:

- i To assist firms owned and/or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals so they may equitably compete for contracts and subcontracts;
- ii To assure that all contracts and procurements are administered without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or gender; and
- iii To assist firms owned and/or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in overcoming barriers to program participation.

RTS has received Federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Transportation, and, as a condition of receiving this assistance, RTS has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR, Part 26.

It is the policy of RTS to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts. RTS's DBE Program was established to meet the following objectives:

- i To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of USDOT-assisted contracts;
- ii To create a "level playing field" on which DBE's can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts;
- iii To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- iv To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR, Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- v To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in USDOT-assisted contracts; and
- vi To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program

RGRTA has proposed a goal of 2.27% for Federal Fiscal Years 2020-2022 pending Federal Transit Administration review and approval.

Obtaining Certification as a USDOT-certified DBE:

- i The New York Unified Certification Program (UCP) provides "one stop shopping" to applicants for DBE certification within New York State. This DBE certification will be honored by all participating New York State UCP agencies.
- ii To obtain information on DBE Certification, please contact the New York State Department of Transportation at [nysdot.gov](http://nysdot.gov) or 518-457-3180.

Please direct questions or comments related to RTS's DBE Program and Policies to our Liaison for Civil Rights and Diversity Programs at the Procurement and Contract Administration Department.