

**OKALOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION: TEAM ID 5435
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Proposed Goal and Methodology
Fiscal Years 2012 - 2014**

Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26, hereby announces its Fiscal Year 2012 through 2014 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 1% for participation on US DOT / Federal Transit Administration (FTA) assisted contracts. The entire goal will be obtained through race-neutral means. The purpose of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) overall goal is to achieve a "level playing field" for ready, willing and able DBEs seeking to participate in USDOT-assisted contracts.

The goal is based on demonstrable evidence of the availability of ready, willing and able DBEs relative to all business ready, willing and able to participate in USDOT-assisted contracts. It reflects the level of DBE participation that would be expected absent the effects of discrimination.

Public Participation – Part 26.45(g)(1) and (2)

Goal Publication in Local Media

The BOCC will make the proposed overall goal and methodology available through public notice. The FY 2012-14 DBE proposed goal will be published in the Northwest Florida Daily News on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, which will allow for a 45-day comment period prior to submission of the goal to the FTA Office of Civil Rights. There are no local minority media outlets in the local area. The goals and methodology are available for inspection during normal business hours at the Okaloosa County Transit Building, 600 Transit Way, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547 for a period of 30 days following the date of the published notice. Public comments will be accepted up to 45 days from the date of the published notice.

The proposed goal has also been made available to the public on the www.rideoct.org/dbe/dbe.pdf website.

Public Participation/Consultation During Goal Development

Prior to submitting the goal to FTA, the following local and regional community organizations were contacted via email or letter to determine if they knew of any potential impediments to DBE firm in Okaloosa County:

- Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, 34 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549
- Eglin Air Force Base, AAC/Small Business Office, 96 CEG/CEV, 501 DeLeon St, Suite 101, Building 696, Eglin AFB, FL 32542
- Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, P.O. Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549
- Small Business Administration, Jacksonville District Office, 7825 Baymeadows Way Suite 100B, Jacksonville, FL 32256

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- Florida Women's Business Center, 401 W. Atlantic Ave. #09, Delray Beach, FL 33444
- Florida Black Business Investment Board, Inc., 2019 Centre Pointe Blvd., Suite 101, Tallahassee, FL 32308
- Florida Black Business Investment Board, Inc., 2019 Centre Pointe Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32308
- Florida Black Chamber of Commerce, 945 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 12B, Pensacola, FL 32505

Method (Part 26.45)

Step One: Develop a Base Figure for the Relative Availability of DBEs

The base figure for the relative availability of DBE's is the ratio of certified DBE's relative to the total firms available in the relevant region. The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has adopted the State of Florida as its relevant region. The BOCC has also narrowly tailored its ratio calculation to services and industries likely to benefit from federally funded projects. During the next 3 fiscal years, Okaloosa County plans to award a contract for automated passenger county equipment and installation (\$50,000) and shelter construction and install (\$52,500), and contracts totaling (\$695,500) for the listed services in the attached spreadsheet.

The BOCC applied the number of relevant certified DBE's listed in the Florida Department of Transportation's business directory in the numerator of the calculation below. There are no registered DBEs offering preventive maintenance (auto parts & repair) in FDOT District Three, none offering shop equipment, computer equipment is purchased from a State contract, and no registered DBEs offer shelters, bike racks, signage or automated passenger counters. Service vehicles are also purchased from a State contract. This data is derived from the Florida Unified Certification Program database which certifies member agencies as DBEs.

The BOCC then applied the total number of Florida firms of the same relevant industries noted above according to the Census Bureau's County Business Patterns (CBP) database in the denominator of the calculation below. There are 7,304 auto parts suppliers/auto repair shops, 6,387 firms offering concrete/site construction services and 4,993 electrical (APC installation) firms in Florida as of the most current reported CBP database in the State of Florida.

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Contracting Opportunity	NAICS Codes	Census Bureau Data: County Business Patterns	UCP Relevant Industries	Percentage DBE Availability
Auto Parts and Repair	81111 44131	7,304	0	0%
Shelter Construction	23899 23811 23891	3,194 1,373 1,820	49	0.8%
Automated Passenger Count (APC) Install	23821	4,999	3	0.06%

Source: Census Bureau County Business Patterns (www.census.gov/econ/cbp/).

Weighting each of the percentages calculated above by the value of the relevant contract yields a first-step DBE goal of 0.86%

Step Two: Adjustment of the Base Figure for the Overall Goal

The second step in this process is to adjust the base figure based upon regional availability of DBE's. The programmed projects for the upcoming three years will be limited in Okaloosa County due to the current economic condition that has not promoted growth to the public transit system. There is no indication that the economic situation will improve therefore no large capital projects are programmed during the proposed period. For FY2012-2014 the focus will be to obtain Operating Assistance funding. After calculating a base figure of the relative availability of DBE's, we examined evidence to determine what adjustment if any was needed to the base figure in order to arrive at the overall goal. Past participation will not be utilized as contracting opportunities differ from prior years and opportunities change every year. The 0.86% goal will be adjusted up to 1% for the BOCC's FY 2012- 2014 overall DBE goal.

There are currently no disparity studies related to the proposed transit projects and disadvantaged business enterprise participation.

Means Used to Meet BOCC Overall DBE Goal (Part 26.51)

The overall FY 2012-14 DBE goal of 1% will be obtained entirely through race-neutral measures. Okaloosa County's transit system is a small urban transit system (located in an urbanized area with a population less than 200,000), and very rarely has a large contract with sub-contracting opportunities. No such upcoming contract(s) is/are

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anticipated for FY 2012-14. The BOCC anticipates meeting its DBE goal entirely through race-neutral measures, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Arranging all possible aspects of solicitations, including delivery
- schedules, in ways that facilitate DBE participation;
- Unbundling of contracts;
- Reducing bonding requirements when possible;
- Providing guidance on obtaining business assistance in areas such as business management, record keeping, and technical assistance;
- Ensuring inclusion of DBEs on BOCC's mailing list for bidders;
- Providing guidance on obtaining assistance for start-up businesses; and
- Ensuring the widest possible distribution of the BOCC's DBE Directory – which is the Florida DOT state-wide DBE Listing.