

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

March 10, 2026

On December 2, 2025, the Allegheny County Equity & Inclusion Department sent a notice of the re-evaluation requirements set forth by the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Interim Final Rule (IFR). The notice informed certified firms of the changes to the Code of Federal Regulations and communicated the requirements for the reevaluation process for all firms certified as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and or Airport Concession DBEs (ACDBEs) by the federal government before October 3, 2025.

The Federal IFR has only affected Allegheny County's contracts that are federally funded by USDOT. For any projects not receiving federal funding, Allegheny County's Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) Program has not been affected.

Changes to this DBE Program occur on a federal level, and it is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PAUCP) to ensure that all certifying agencies comply with the Code of Federal Regulations in a uniform manner.

Please be advised that the DBE Program is NOT mandated by Allegheny County but by USDOT. All states are required to have a Unified Certification Program (UCP) that certifies DBEs for federal procurement purposes, and all states must adhere to the DBE Program regulations for all USDOT assisted/funded contracts.

The Federal IFR has only affected Allegheny County's contracts that are federally funded by USDOT. For any projects not receiving federal funding, Allegheny County's Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) Program has not been affected. Prospective County vendors should review solicitations on the Bonfire procurement site for information about Allegheny County's MWDBE program and goals for specific procurement opportunities.

The following resources are available to provide additional information:

PAUCP Webinar

On December 10th the PAUCP held a webinar to provide information about how to complete a personal narrative as is required for each socially and economically disadvantaged owner (SEDO) as part of the re-evaluation process. For those unable to attend, a copy of the video can be viewed here: [PA UCP DBE Program IFR Certification Reevaluation - Creating a Personal Narrative Statement](#)

Allegheny County Solicitations & MWDBE Program

Please note Allegheny County's MWDBE contract language:

MINORITY, WOMEN AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

a. The Allegheny County Department of Equity and Inclusion (MBE/WBE/DBE) has established in connection with this contract, the goals of thirteen (13) percent of the original amount for the utilization of MBEs and two (2) percent of the original contract amount for the utilization of WBEs. These goals remain in effect throughout the life of the contract. When the County awards the contract with less participation than the contract goals, good faith efforts should continue throughout the life of the contract to increase the MWDBE participation to meet the contract goals.

b. MWDBE firms certified through the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PA UCP) must be used for all County contracts funded by PennDOT or US DOT. Firms certified by the PA UCP or the PA DGS may be used on non-DOT funded contracts. ***MWDBE firms certified by entities other than the PA UCP or the PA DGS will be reviewed for acceptance on a case-by-case basis for non-DOT funded contracts.***

c. Once a bid or proposal is determined to be the apparent winning bid or proposal, an MWDBE plan must be provided within seven calendar days after notification. If the plan is not acceptable or not submitted, the County will deem the bid or proposal non-responsive. The County will then request that the next apparent winning bidder or selected proposer provide an MWDBE plan. Thus, it behooves all proposers and bidders to formulate its MWDBE plan before submitting a bid or proposal.

A list of certified DBEs may be found at www.paucp.com.

Additional Certification Programs

Allegheny County's MWDBE requirements for non-federally funded projects may also be fulfilled by firms certified through other (non-federal) programs. Other certifications that have been accepted on non-federally funded projects are as follows:

- Pennsylvania Department of General Services (PA DGS), Bureau of Diversity Inclusion, and Small Business Opportunities
 - [Small Diverse Businesses with MBE or WBE designations only](#)
- Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council (EMSDC)
 - [MBE Certification](#)
- National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)
 - [MBE Certification](#)
- The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)
 - [WBE Certification](#)

- Women's Business Enterprise Center East (WBEC EAST)
 - [WBE Certification](#)
- Small Business Administration
 - [Women-Owned Small Business \(WOSB\)](#)
 - [8 a Certification](#) (MBE or WBE ownership only)

Further questions regarding the requirements for the IFR and MWDBE participation in Allegheny County contracts may be directed to 412-350-4309 or DEI@alleghenycounty.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa L. Edmonds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa L. Edmonds
Director