

WSDOT DBE NEWS

MARCH QUARTERLY EDITION

CONSULTANT RATE APPROVAL PROCESS UPDATE

Indirect Cost Rate or the Safe Harbor Overhead Rate

WSDOT offers free training on Basic Timekeeping - available at the following link: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Audit/guides.htm. This free class is a 50 minute webinar, and the slides can be printed for reference as well. WSDOT is planning on providing training for Indirect Cost Rates; more information will be made available shortly.

WSDOT has staff available to answer your consultant rate approval process questions, or to meet with you in person. For more information please contact one of the individual below:

- Martha Roach (360) 705-7006 or RoachMa@wsdot.wa.gov
- Brian Stallman (360) 705-7818 or StallmB@wsdot.wa.gov
- Schatzie Harvey (360) 705-6967 or HarveyS@wsdot.wa.gov

Or visit the Safe Harbor webpage at:

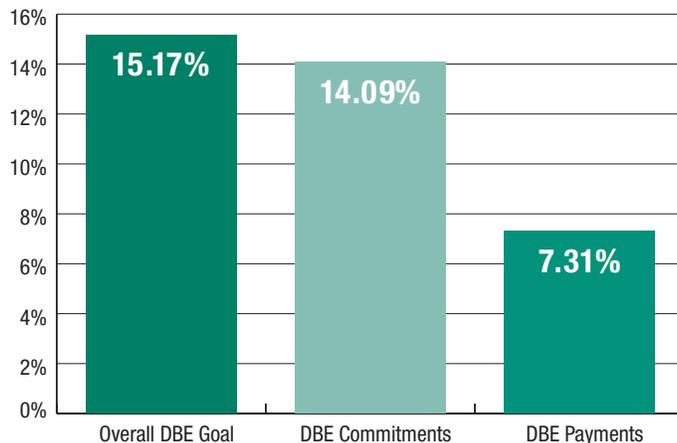
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Audit/SafeHarbor.htm

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION DBE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

WSDOT is developing a plan to increase the DBE participation in our Federal Transit Administration DBE Program. If you have ideas on improving this program, please let us know by emailing the WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity at DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov or call toll free (888) 259-9143.

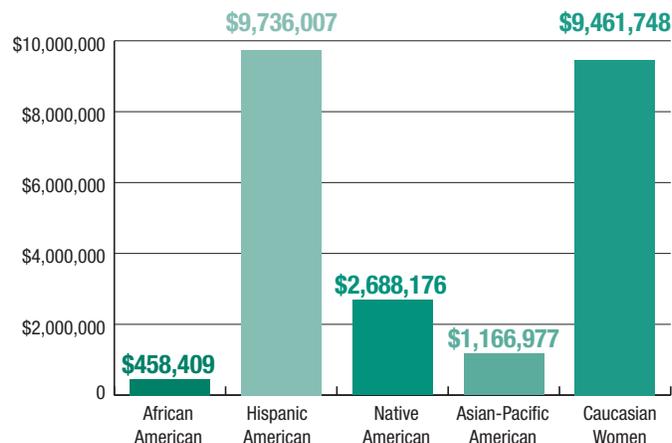
What is WSDOT's DBE utilization?

Federal Fiscal Year 2015 began October 1, 2014. As of February 19, 2015, WSDOT (Local Programs, Consultant Services and HQ Construction) is attaining 14.09% in DBE commitments (goals 13.80% and voluntary participation 0.29%) and 7.31% in payments to DBE firms.



(The DBE payments reflect a Commercially Useful Function review finding, which disqualified approximately \$1,500,000 in DBE participation.)

Of WSDOT's current DBE commitments, what amount goes to specific race, ethnicities and genders?



As represented in the graph above, there is an unequal distribution of DBE dollars going to African American, Asian-Pacific American and Native American owned firms. WSDOT would like your suggestions and ideas on how to achieve more balanced participation by all DBE firms. Please submit your comments and suggestions to DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov.

Does the DBE Program apply only to highway projects?

The DBE Program does not apply only to highway projects. WSDOT has smaller Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) DBE Programs as well. The following chart is an illustration of how much funding we received in recent years from each USDOT mode:

Federal Fiscal Year	USDOT Mode	Total Contracts/ Grants Awarded	Overall Goal	Potential DBE Dollars	DBE Commitments*	DBE Payments Reported*
2014	FHWA	\$706,076,634	15.17%	\$107,111,825	\$99,553,810	\$62,274,278
2013	FHWA	\$404,151,123	15.17%	\$61,309,725	\$66,314,243	\$44,815,518
2012	FHWA	\$353,149,980	15.17%	\$53,572,852	\$53,789,082	\$53,389,088
2014	FTA	\$20,230,447	3.26%	\$659,513	\$62,839	\$0
2013	FTA	\$20,197,679	7.51%	\$1,516,845	\$117,880	\$0
2012	FTA	\$18,518,226	7.51%	\$1,390,719	\$0	\$0

* DBE Commitments are made on contracts awarded during a Federal Fiscal Year, DBE Payments are made on contracts closed that Federal Fiscal Year. The DBE Payments are made on contracts that may have started from one to five years previous.

For Federal Fiscal Years 2015 through 2017, WSDOT has estimated approximately \$3.62 million will be received from FAA. With a race-neutral goal of 6.9%, this equals approximately \$83,260 in potential DBE dollars annually. These comparative funding levels are the reason why current program enhancements are focused more on FHWA and FTA. Nevertheless, we continue to work on making all facets of the DBE program more effective. We are presently focusing our efforts directly around FHWA and FTA, with FAA to follow. Some of the challenges with FTA include:

- Funding goes to Washington State Ferries, which is a difficult market due to the additional bonding requirements of performing work on or near water. However, WSDOT has recently established a “Condition of Award” DBE goal of 12% on the Colman Dock project. This project is estimated to cost over 150 million dollars. Get your life preservers ready! For more information on this project visit: www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/colmanmultimodalterminal/.
- Funding goes to non-urban or rural transit providers primarily for salaries, fuel, administrative and overhead costs, and to Rural Transportation Planning Organizations and Metropolitan Planning Organizations for human service planning studies. This funding is passed through the WSDOT Public Transportation Division (PTD) primarily in the form of grants. PTD is working with the Office of Equal Opportunity to determine where opportunities exist and how to utilize DBEs for these opportunities.

If you need bonding assistance, please contact USDOT’s Northwest Small Business Transportation Resource Center at: www.dot.gov/osdbu/nw-sbtrc or (425) 248-4222.

If you have any suggestions, comments or recommendations on how we can improve these programs, please let us know by calling toll free 888-259-9143 or emailing DBESS@wsdot.wa.gov.

What is the Native Procurement and Technical Assistance Center?

The Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center (Native PTAC) is a free community resource with the mission to assist Native Individuals, Tribal Enterprises, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations to become more successful in contracting with Federal, State, Local and Native governments. Native PTAC is hosted by Two Rivers CDC, a non-profit formed to support economic development in Native American communities.

Among their services, Native PTACs provide one-on-one assistance with government certifications and registrations, classes and workshops, bid match opportunities, interpretation of solicitations, bid/proposal reviews, marketing advice, and contract performance support for designated socio-economic programs.

There are PTACs in every state and six Native American PTACs in the United States. Each Native American PTAC covers approximately two Bureau of Indian Affairs Regions. The Native American PTAC program is unique because, in addition to the regular assistance PTAC provides - Native PTACs help with business opportunities, certifications and programs unique to Native businesses and Tribal governments. To learn more about Native PTAC you can visit: www.NativePTAC.org.

Update on DBE Program Changes

As reported in previous newsletters, WSDOT is working on revising its contract language “General Special Provisions” related to highway construction and the DBE Program. The latest iteration is being reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration. As soon as we have approved DBE General Special Provisions we will provide information on how those changes will affect you.