

## Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation

Application information can be found at  
<http://www.dot.state.ga.us/doingbusiness/dbeprograms/Pages/default.aspx>

### Criteria for DBE Certification

DBE applies to a for-profit small business that is at least 51% owned by one individual or by at least two individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged.

In the case of a corporation, 51% of the stock must be owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. In addition, the business management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

- ✓ **Social and Economic Disadvantage:** A DBE owner must be a U.S. Citizen (or resident alien). Presumptive groups include women, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, or other minorities.
- ✓ **Personal Net Worth:** Disadvantaged persons have a personal net worth (PNW) of less than \$750,000. Items excluded from the calculation of a person's net worth include an individual's ownership interest in the applicant firm, and his or her equity in their primary residence.
- ✓ **Business Size Standard:** The firm must be a small business with annual gross receipts for the three previous fiscal years not exceeding \$22,410,000
- ✓ **Management and Control:** The DBE owner(s) must possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the firm and to make day-to-day decisions as well as long-term decisions on matters of management, policy and operations.

### Georgia Unified Certification Program (UCP)

The Georgia UCP is a cooperative effort in the state of Georgia to provide a one-stop shop of information for all DBE firms and those seeking business opportunities with DBE certified firms. The Georgia UCP is comprised of the **Georgia Department of Transportation** (GDOT) and the **Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority** (MARTA). GDOT and MARTA accept DBE certification applications and conduct certification reviews. Once reviews are completed, eligible firms are DBE certified. Your certification will be valid for all of the agencies in the UCP.

### How to Become DBE Certified

- ✓ File an application with the Georgia DOT Uniform Certification Program (UCP) and go through a review process. Georgia DOT staff decides whether you are eligible after a thorough review of your firm's ownership, control, financial and managerial documents, and whether you have the equipment needed to do the work of a given contract.
- ✓ As part of the review, Georgia DOT staff will conduct a site visit to your firm's office unless the firm is located out of state. In this case, Georgia DOT will contact your home state DOT office to request a copy of the most recent site visit.
- ✓ On average, it takes 90 days to process an application for certification after all required information and documents are submitted. It is helpful if the applicant provides concise and complete answers to all questions.
- ✓ There is no cost for the DBE Certification.
- ✓ CAT will help! We can expedite application process through the transit authority in Atlanta if you bring all of your completed materials to us.