



**DBE PROGRAM FACT SHEET**  
**TENNESSEE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/  
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM**  
**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**What is the program?**

This program was developed by the Federal Highway Administration and is administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to encourage minority, female, and other disadvantaged firms to work in the highway/bridge industry. Both state and federal construction projects and monies are included in it.

**Who can qualify as a DBE?**

There are several eligibility criteria for certification. As these conditions are met certification can be granted:

1. Your firm must be an existing "for-profit" business that is currently operational.
2. Your firm must be an independent business. If it is a subsidiary of a corporation, your firm must still operate in a self-sufficient manner.
3. Your firm must meet the federal definition of a small business concern.
4. Owners must meet the federal definition of "socially and economically disadvantaged." Women and certain minorities are presumed to fit the definition.
5. Owners must possess the expertise to control the daily operations and management of the firm.
6. Owners must be able to show ownership of at least 51% of the firm through real and substantial investments of capital.
7. Owners' net worth must not be over \$1.32 million (excluding personal residence and stock/ownership in the potential DBE firm).

Call the Small Business Development Program in Nashville at (615) 741-3681 or 1-888-370-3647 for further information or check our web-site at:

[www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program](http://www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program)

**What happens once I am a DBE?**

Once certified, your firm is placed on a statewide list of firms showing contractors that you are certified and listing your work areas. **You must be certified at the time that the prime contractor submits a bid to TDOT.**

DBE certification does not guarantee that you will get TDOT work. But if you perform good work at competitive prices, you have an advantage on projects with DBE goals.

As a TDOT DBE you are eligible to receive group and individualized training and technical assistance to increase your efficiency and profits. The Small Business Development Program headquartered in Nashville provides this without cost to you.

The following member agencies process DBE applications. Please forward your completed application packet to one of the agencies serving the area where your firm has its principal place of business:

Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Small Business Development Program  
Suite 1800, James K. Polk Building  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-0347  
(888)370-3647  
(615)741-3681  
[www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program](http://www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program)

Memphis Area Transit Authority  
1370 Levee Road  
Memphis, TN 38108-1011  
(901)722-7138  
[www.matatransit.com](http://www.matatransit.com)

Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation  
Authority  
1617 Wilcox Blvd.  
Chattanooga, TN 37406  
(423)629-1411  
[www.gocarta.org](http://www.gocarta.org)

Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority/  
Regional Transportation Authority [Middle TN]  
430 Myatt Drive  
Nashville, TN 37115  
(615)880-3977  
[www.nashvillemta.org](http://www.nashvillemta.org)

If you wish to be considered for ACDBE certification, you will need to complete the Airport Concession DBE certification application package, which can be accessed at:

Memphis/Shelby County Airport Authority  
3505 Tchulahoma Road  
Memphis, TN 38118-2718  
(901)922-0255  
[www.flymemphis.com](http://www.flymemphis.com)

Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority  
One Terminal Drive, Suite 501  
Nashville, TN 37214-4114  
(615)275-1620  
[www.flynashville.com](http://www.flynashville.com)

Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport Authority  
1001 Airport Road, Suite 14  
Chattanooga, TN 37421  
(423)855-2214  
[www.chattairport.com](http://www.chattairport.com)

Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority  
P.O. Box 15600  
Knoxville, TN 37901-5600  
(865)342-3062  
[www.flyknoxville.com](http://www.flyknoxville.com)

The following member agencies can be accessed for your information:

Smyrna Airport Authority – (615)459-2651	<a href="http://www.smyrnaairport.com">www.smyrnaairport.com</a>
Tri-Cities Airport Commission – (423)325-6044	<a href="http://www.triflight.com">www.triflight.com</a>
Jackson Airport Authority – (731)423-0995	<a href="http://www.mckellarsipes.com">www.mckellarsipes.com</a>
Jackson Transit Authority – (731)423-0200	<a href="http://www.ridejta.com">www.ridejta.com</a>
Clarksville Transit System – (932)553-2430	<a href="http://www.cityofckarkville.com">www.cityofckarkville.com</a>
Knoxville Area Transit – (865)215-7830	<a href="http://www.katbus.com">www.katbus.com</a>
Johnson City Transit – (423)434-6269	<a href="http://www.johnsoncitytransit.org">www.johnsoncitytransit.org</a>
Bristol Tennessee Transit – (423)989-5519	<a href="http://www.bristoltn.org">www.bristoltn.org</a>
Murfreesboro Rover Public Transit – (615)893-6441	<a href="http://www.murfreesborotn.gov">www.murfreesborotn.gov</a>
Kingsport Area Transit Authority – (423)224-2613	<a href="http://www.kingsporttransit.org">www.kingsporttransit.org</a>