

HARRIS COUNTY DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE POLICY STATEMENT

Harris County has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. Harris County has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, Harris County has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26. Harris County has chosen to adopt the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) DBE Program for the purpose of implementing a DBE Program that is federally approved and compliant with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of Harris County to ensure that DBE's, which are defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBE's can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBE's;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBE's in DOT-assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

The Director of the Harris County Community and Economic Development Department (HCCEDD) or his/her designee has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Director of HCCEDD or his/her designee is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by Harris County in its financial assistance agreements with the DOT.

Harris County will disseminate this policy statement to the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, and all of the components of our organization. We will distribute this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. A copy of this policy statement is available on our website: <http://www.harriscountytransit.com>.

HARRIS COUNTY

By Ed Emmett
Ed Emmett
County Judge

NOV 20 2007
Date