



## **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Policy Statement**

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. SORTA has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, SORTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of SORTA to ensure that DBEs, as 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 DBEs 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 DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program.

The Senior Manager of Supplier Engagement has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Senior Manager of Supplier Engagement is responsible for oversight of 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 SORTA in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

SORTA has disseminated this policy statement to the Board of Directors and all the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. This statement is included in all solicitation packages and has been communicated to local business groups, chambers and community organizations.

Signature of Chief Executive Officer:  Date: 7/14/2025

Signed by: EFA66FC2BEC84C4...