



**Department of  
Transportation**  
transportation.ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor  
Pamela Boratyn, Director

August 3, 2026

Dear DBE Community,

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement with our program. We are reaching out to provide an update on the current status of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and next steps as we undergo the [federally required reevaluation](#).

As shared previously, per the DBE Interim Final Rule (IFR), the program is currently paused while we await the completion of the re-evaluation of all in-state DBE firms and the finalization of the updated DBE goal-setting requirements.

At this time, we have received personal narratives (PNs) from around 10% of the DBE firms based in Ohio. We have determined that a recommended submission date will be necessary to advance the program.

**We are asking firms that were certified prior to October 3, 2025, that desire to submit a personal narrative, to please submit a PN through the certification system using the 2025 Re-evaluation Application by September 4, 2026. PNs received by that date will receive priority in the review process.**

Previously certified firms can continue submitting after the deadline. Not submitting by this date **does not** impact your ability to submit in the future.

Based on the number of personal narratives received thus far, the anticipated workload associated with the priority submission date, and to ensure we can dedicate the appropriate resources to this effort, **new applications for the DBE program will not be accepted until January 1, 2027.**

This pause in new applications will allow us to process the workload as quickly as feasible. This is important to help transit agencies and airports statewide reopen their DBE and ACDBE goal-setting processes. It will also allow us to process decisions in a timely manner to assist DBE certified firm in obtaining interstate certification if they choose to do so.

Our SBE certification program application remains open as we continue to set SBE goals on projects. We do not anticipate that the DBE Program in Ohio will reopen until mid-2027 **at the earliest**.

We encourage firms to continue connecting with their local [Outreach Manager](#) to understand the requirements for remaining certified as a DBE firm. [Personal Narrative guidance](#) is available and [workshops](#) are still ongoing.

To support a successful review, please avoid the following common issues when drafting your PN:

- Not describing the economic harm associated with the disadvantage.
- Discussing general small business hardships rather than specific individual experiences.
- Using race and gender. This is strictly prohibited as a factor of disadvantage.
- Not submitting all required documents for the PNW form.

We look forward to our continued partnership and remain committed to supporting your business throughout this process. If you have specific questions, please contact [DOT.SDBE@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:DOT.SDBE@dot.ohio.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah M. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Deborah Green  
Deputy Director  
Division of Small Business & External Workforce Development