

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SBE/DBES ON FASTTRACKS?

A: Visit the FasTracks Web site at www.RTD-FasTracks.com and click on Business Center to view Current Solicitations. It is best to check this site regularly. This list includes invitations for bids, requests for proposals, upcoming solicitations, awarded contracts and other pertinent information on participating projects and contracts.

Q: HOW DO I GET CERTIFIED AS AN SBE AND/OR DBE?

A: To become an RTD-certified SBE, complete an SBE Certification Application and Personal Financial Statement, available on the Business Center Web site or by calling the Small Business Opportunity Office at 303-299-2111. To apply for DBE certification, contact one of the two certifying agencies in Colorado – the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) or the City and County of Denver Office of Economic Development (CCD/OED). CDOT – 303.512.4140, www.dot.state.co.us CCD/OED – 720.913.1999, www.milehigh.com

Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PROCESS MY APPLICATION?

A: Every effort is made to process your application within 45 business days.

Q: IF I'M CERTIFIED AS A DBE, WHY DO I NEED TO BE CERTIFIED AS AN SBE?

A: DBE certified firms are eligible for subcontracting opportunities on federally funded projects, while SBE certified firms are eligible for locally funded projects. Having both certifications increases your opportunity to participate on both types of projects since many FasTracks projects include both.

Q: IF I AM DBE CERTIFIED, AM I AUTOMATICALLY CERTIFIED WITH RTD?

A: No. RTD recognizes the Unified Certification Program (UCP) for DBE firms. These are firms that are certified by either of Colorado's two certifying agencies – Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) or the City and County of Denver Office of Economic Development (CCD/OED). However, RTD administers its own Small Business SBE Certification Program to certify firms for work on locally funded projects.

Q: HOW LONG IS MY CERTIFICATION VALID?

A: SBE certification is valid for three years. Once it expires, you will need to renew it by filling out a new application and Personal Financial Statement for processing. DBE certification is valid for three years as well, but requires annual updated documentation to be submitted.

Q: WHO SEES MY APPLICATION AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT?

A: Your application and Personal Financial Statement will only be available to the Business Opportunity and Outreach Officer and the Certification Officer assigned to your certification.

Q: WHAT KIND OF RESOURCES DOES THE SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY OFFICE OFFER?

A: The Small Business Opportunity Office is committed to the success of the small business community. Several resources are available, including the NetWORK Newsletter, a semi-quarterly publication that includes advice and tips for SBE/DBEs, as well as upcoming networking opportunities. Networking events are key marketing opportunities for SBE/DBEs and an up-to-date listing of upcoming events can be found on the Business Center Web site. In addition, the team is always available to answer any questions or concerns about the SBE/DBE program, certification, etc.

Q: HOW DO I GET ASSESSED?

A: The assessment program is one of many valuable tools for SBE/DBEs to maximize their contracting potential. The process focuses on evaluating businesses capacity, capabilities and financial stability in order to help small businesses grow and improve their competitive edge. The program also assists prime contractors in identifying capable SBE/DBE firms. For more information on how to get assessed, contact the Small Business Opportunity Office at 303-299-2111.

Small Business Opportunities



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: RTD-FasTracks.com

FasTracks Information Line: 303-299-2111

Empower, Advance, Succeed



Workers begin construction on the West Corridor.



Networking with the SBOO office.

By creating public, private and community partnerships that advance the Denver metro region's transit infrastructure system, the FasTracks Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Small Business Enterprise (DBE/SBE) Program aims to empower small and disadvantaged businesses, help them advance in the industry and watch as they succeed. Through workforce creation, training and more contract opportunities, the FasTracks DBE/SBE program helps build a stronger Colorado economy.

What the program is

The FasTracks DBE/SBE Program was established by RTD to foster equal opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses by reducing unnecessary obstacles that prevent growth and continued development of small and disadvantaged businesses.

RTD has set goals for DBE/SBE participation on the FasTracks program and ensures compliance with these goals. In addition to compliance, the DBE/SBE Program tracks performance to ensure desirable and measurable results.

What the program does

The program is designed to ensure that the greatest number of DBE/SBE-certified consultants, contractors, community organizations in the area are given the opportunity to compete for RTD and FasTracks contracts. The program provides business development and mentoring resources, training opportunities, networking opportunities and information about upcoming contracting opportunities. These valuable tools help the small and disadvantaged business community learn, grow and thrive in a very competitive industry.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

- Goals set for federally funded projects with subcontracting potential
- Established to accommodate historically under-utilized businesses
- Certification granted through the State of Colorado

Small Business Enterprise (SBE)

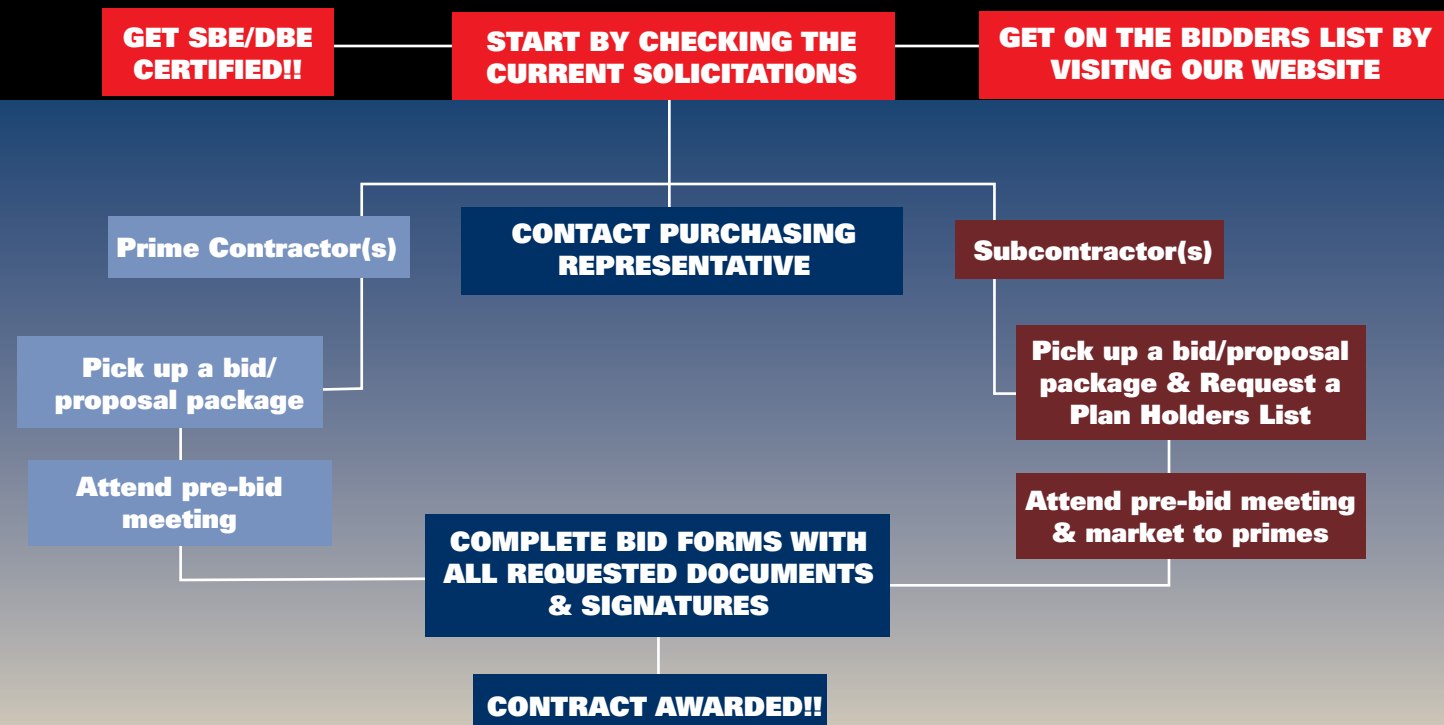
- Goals set for locally funded projects with subcontracting potential
- Established to accommodate small businesses in a race- and gender- neutral framework
- Certification granted through RTD

Certification is the key for small businesses to gain an edge when competing for contracts on the FasTracks program. The SBE and DBE certification programs have separate qualification and application requirements. Firms should seek certification for all programs they qualify for, as individual contracting opportunities may have established goals for either SBEs, DBEs or both.

FASTTRACKS CONTRACT AMOUNTS AWARDED TO DBE AND SBEs

2005	Total Amount Awarded for the year	\$62,311,509
	Total Amount Awarded to DBE/SBE's	\$8,026,366
2006	Total Amount Awarded for the year	\$21,277,437
	Total Amount Awarded to DBE/SBE's	\$6,398,095
2007	Total Amount Awarded for the year	\$31,184,717
	Total Amount Awarded to DBE/SBE's	\$6,599,928
2008	Total Amount Awarded for the year	\$87,689,315
	Total Amount Awarded to DBE/SBE's	\$16,669,398

How to do Business with RTD



Certification Requirements

Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Certification:

Open to all businesses regardless of race or gender of the owner(s) of the business.

- Gross income of the business may not exceed \$19.57 million annually
- Owner's/stockholder's personal net worth may not exceed \$750,000 (not including investment in their primary residence or investment in the business)

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification:

- Must be at least 51 percent owned by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s) who also controls the firm
- Disadvantaged owner must be a U.S. citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States
- Must be a small business that meets the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) size standard and does not exceed \$19.57 million in gross annual receipts
- Must be organized as a for-profit business

Compliance

RTD's Small Business Opportunity Office team is responsible for monitoring the performance of contractors and subcontractors working on all projects with SBE and DBE participation goals. The team has implemented a comprehensive compliance monitoring program to confirm information submitted by prime contractors regarding payments made to DBEs and SBEs. The team also monitors SBEs and DBEs in the field to ensure they are adequately performing the services committed to them.



SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY OFFICE