

## **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM**

The Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) makes every effort to seek qualified businesses to purchase goods and/or services. It is our policy not to discriminate and to encourage disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) participation wherever possible in contracts and programs funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). It is the policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation that DBE's (minority and women-owned firms) shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or in part with federal funds.

WRTA will ensure that all contractors providing goods, services, or construction will take positive steps toward the utilization of disadvantaged business enterprises, to the maximum extent possible.

WRTA's overall goal, just reviewed and projected, for FFY 2016-2018 is 5.75% and will be reviewed on a three (3) year basis. The overall goal is divided into race-conscious and race-neutral means. This goal is a percentage of federal financial assistance that will be expended in DOT-assisted contracts awarded by WRTA (excluding transportation vehicles). The goal is calculated after reviewing WRTA's past goal history, adjusting for availability of DBE's ready and willing to participate in the specific projects WRTA will be undertaking.

DBE's are certified under the Unified Certification Program (UCP) by the Ohio Department of Transportation, as required by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49, Part 26. The State has developed a Unified Certification Program to provide "one-stop shopping" for DBE firms. An applicant is required to apply only once for a DBE certification within the state as long as an annual affidavit is submitted before the certification expiration. That certification will be honored by all agencies who receive federal transportation funding in the state and by other states that have a reciprocal UCP.

An application may be obtained by contacting the Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Contracts-DBE Section, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223, or by logging onto the website <https://www.dot.state.oh.us/dbe/PAGES/UCP.aspx> Telephone: 614-728-9598.

Other certifying agencies in Ohio are:

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), 1240 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, OH 44113, (216) 566-5002

City of Dayton, 130 W. Second Street, Suite 730, Dayton, OH 45402, (937)228-7277

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, 5300 Riverside Drive, Cleveland, OH 44135, (216)265-6137