



New Jersey Department of Transportation Notice to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

On October 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued [an Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#) that makes changes to the operation of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

Under the IFR, the race- and gender-based presumptions have been removed from the programs. In its place, DOT has mandated that every firm, whether newly applying or currently certified, demonstrate social and economic disadvantage on an individualized basis and without regard to race or gender as outlined in the IFR.

The IFR requires each State's Unified Certification Program (UCP), which in New Jersey, includes the certifying partners, NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to reevaluate all current DBEs and ACDBEs, to recertify any DBE that meets the new certification standards, and to decertify any DBE that does not meet the new certification standards.

The IFR provides that until a UCP completes this reevaluation, its members may not: (1) include DBE contract goals in new procurements; or (2) count any participation toward overall DBE goals.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation and its UCP (NJUCP) certifying partners remain dedicated to supporting disadvantaged businesses. We are adhering to the process outlined in the new Interim Federal Regulation and actively monitoring for any updates. Further details about the reevaluation process will be shared at a later time.