

LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO
DBE PROGRAM – 49 CFR PART 2

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

Lorain County, owner of **Lorain County Regional Airport**, has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. **Lorain County** has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, **Lorain County** has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26 (hereafter referred to as “Part 26”).

It is the policy of the **County** to ensure that DBEs as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT–assisted contracts. It is also **Lorain County** policy to engage in the following actions on a continuing basis:

1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT- assisted contracts;
2. Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT- assisted contracts;
3. Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. Promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities;
7. Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. Make appropriate use of the flexibility afforded to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Karen Perkins has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, **Karen Perkins** is responsible for implementing 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 the **County** in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

Lorain County has disseminated this policy statement to the **Office of Contract Compliance/Fair Housing Office** and all of the components of our organization. This statement has been distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that may perform work on **Lorain County** DOT-assisted contracts.



Jeff Armbruster, County Administrator, Lorain County

7/15/24
Date

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.1 Objectives

The objectives are elaborated in the policy statement on the first page of this program.

Section 26.3 Applicability

Lorain County is the recipient of Federal airport funds authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47101, *et seq.*

Section 26.5 Definitions

Lorain County will use terms in this program that have their meanings defined in Part 26, § 26.5.

Section 26.7 Non-discrimination Requirements

Lorain County will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR Part 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, **Lorain County** will not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

Section 26.11 Data Collection and Reporting Requirements

Reporting to DOT

Lorain County will provide data about its DBE Program to the Department as directed by DOT and its operating administrations.

DBE participation will be reported to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as follows:

Lorain County will transmit to FAA annually, by or before December 1, the information required for the "Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and

Payments”, as described in Part 26. **Lorain County** will similarly report the required information about participating DBE firms. All reporting for this purpose will be done through the FAA’s designated reporting system.

Bidders List

Lorain County will collect bidders list information as described in § 26.11(c)(2) and enter it into the system designated by DOT. The purpose of the bidders list is to compile as accurate data as possible about the universe of DBE and non-DBE contractors and subcontractors who seek to work on our federally assisted contracts for use in helping you set your overall goals, and to provide the Department with data for evaluating the extent to which the objectives of § 26.1 are being achieved.

Lorain County will obtain the following bidders list information about all DBE and non-DBEs who bid as prime contractors and subcontractors on each of our federally assisted contracts:

- Firm name
- Firm Address including Zip code
- Firm’s status as a DBE or non-DBE
- Race and gender information for the firm’s majority owner
- NAICS code applicable to each scope of work the firm sought to perform in its bid
- Age of the firm
- Annual gross receipts of the firm. The gross receipts can be obtained by asking each firm to indicate into what gross receipts bracket they fit (e.g. less than \$1 million; \$1-3 million; \$3-6 million; \$6-10 million, etc) rather than requesting an exact figure from the firm.

Lorain County will collect the data from all bidders for our federally assisted contracts by requiring the information in paragraph (c)(2) of this section to be submitted with their bids or initial responses to negotiated procurements.

Lorain County will enter this data in the Department’s designated system no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the relevant contract was awarded.

In the case of a “design-build” contracting situation where subcontracts will be solicited throughout the contract period as defined in a DBE Performance Plan pursuant to § 26.53(e), **Lorain County** will enter the data no later than December 1 following the fiscal year in which the design-build contractor awards the relevant subcontract(s).

~~**[The following MAP-21 data reporting requirements are applicable only to state departments of transportation. If you are not a state DOT, exclude the following section.]**~~

The ~~**[state department of transportation]**~~ for the ~~**Ohio**~~ Unified Certification Program (UCP) established pursuant to § 26.81 must report to DOT’s Departmental Office of Civil Rights each year, the following information:

- ~~• The number and percentage of in-state and out-of-state DBE certifications by gender and ethnicity (Black American, Asian-Pacific American, Native American, Hispanic American, Subcontinent Asian Americans, and non-minority);~~
- ~~• The number of DBE certification applications received from in-state and out-of-state firms and the number found eligible and ineligible~~
- ~~• The number of decertified firms:
 - ~~○ Total in-state and out-of-state firms decertified~~
 - ~~○ Names of in-state and out-of-state firms decertified because SEDQ exceeded the personal net worth cap~~
 - ~~○ Names of in-state and out-of-state firms decertified for excess gross receipts beyond the relevant size standard.~~~~
- ~~• The number of in-state and out-of-state firms summarily suspended~~
- ~~• The number of in-state and out-of-state applications received for an individualized determination of social and economic disadvantage status~~
- ~~• The number of in-state and out-of-state firms certified whose owner(s) made an individualized showing of social and economic disadvantaged status.~~

~~[If your agency is not a certifying member of the state UCP, omit references to certification in the paragraph below.]~~

~~[Recipient] will maintain records documenting a firm's compliance with the requirements of this part. At a minimum, [Recipient] will keep a complete application package for each certified firm and all affidavits of no change, change notices, and on-site reviews. These records will be retained in accordance with all applicable record retention requirements of [Recipient] financial assistance agreement. Other certification or compliance related records will be retained for a minimum of three (3) years unless otherwise provided by applicable record retention requirements for the financial assistance agreement, whichever is longer.~~

Section 26.13 Assurances Recipients and Contractors Must Make

Lorain County has signed the following assurances, applicable to all DOT-assisted contracts and their administration:

Assurance: - Each financial assistance agreement **Lorain County** signs with a DOT operating administration (or a primary recipient) will include the following assurance:

The **County** shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any DOT-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. The **County** shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR Part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted

contracts. The **County** DBE program, as required by 49 CFR Part 26 and as approved by DOT, is incorporated by reference in this agreement. Implementation of this program is a legal obligation and failure to carry out its terms shall be treated as a violation of this agreement. Upon notification to the **County** of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanctions as provided for under 49 CFR Part 26 and may, in appropriate cases, refer the matter for enforcement under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*).

Contract Assurance: **Lorain County** will ensure that the following clause is included in each DOT-funded contract it signs with a contractor (and each subcontract the prime contractor signs with a subcontractor):

The contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to:

- 1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- 2) Assessing sanctions;
- 3) Liquidated damages; and/or
- 4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.21 DBE Program Updates

Lorain County is required to have a DBE program meeting the requirements of this part as it will receive grants for airport planning or development and will award prime contracts, cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in FAA funds in a federal fiscal year.

Lorain County is not eligible to receive DOT financial assistance unless DOT has approved this DBE program and **Lorain County** is in compliance with it and Part 26. **Lorain County** will continue to carry out this program until all funds from DOT financial assistance have been expended. **Lorain County** does not have to submit regular updates of the DBE program document, as long as it remains in compliance. However, significant changes in the program, including those required by regulatory updates, will be submitted to the relevant operating administration for approval.

Section 26.23 Policy Statement

The Policy Statement is elaborated on the first page of this DBE Program.

Section 26.25 DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

The following individual has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer for **Lorain County**:

Karen Perkins
Lorain County Commissioners
Deputy Administrator
226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, Ohio 44035
440-328-2499
440-323-3357
kperkins@loraincounty.us

In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that the **County** complies with all provision of 49 CFR Part 26. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the **Lorain County Commissioners** concerning DBE program matters. An organizational chart displaying the DBELO's position in the organization can be found at [Lorain County, OH \(loraincountyohio.gov\) \[Commissioners\]Airport](http://Lorain County, OH (loraincountyohio.gov) [Commissioners]Airport).

The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the DBE program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. The DBELO has a staff to assist in the administration of the program. The duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by DOT.
2. Reviews third party contracts and purchase requisitions for compliance with this program.
3. Works with all departments to set overall annual goals.
4. Ensures that bid notices and requests for proposals are available to DBEs in a timely manner.
5. Identifies contracts and procurements so that DBE goals are included in solicitations (both race-neutral methods and contract specific goals) and monitors results.
6. Analyzes **Lorain County's** progress toward attainment and identifies ways to improve progress.
7. Participates in pre-bid meetings.
8. Advises the CEO/governing body on DBE matters and achievement.
9. Provides DBEs with information and assistance in preparing bids, obtaining bonding and insurance.
10. Provides outreach to DBEs and community organizations to advise them of opportunities.

Section 26.27 DBE Financial Institutions

It is the policy of **Lorain County** to investigate **annually** the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the community, to make reasonable efforts to use these institutions, and to encourage prime contractors on DOT-assisted contracts to make use of these institutions. Availability of such institutions will be investigated on an annual basis. **The County will utilize the State of Ohio Unified Certification Program website, social media, local Chamber of Commerce, and web search to identify these financial institutions.**

To date we are in the process of identifying such institutions.

Section 26.29 Prompt Payment Mechanisms

Lorain County requires that all subcontractors performing work on DOT-assisted contracts shall be promptly paid for work performed pursuant to their agreements, in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and local law. Prompt payment and return of retainage requirements also apply to lower-tier subcontractors.

In accordance with 49 CFR § 26.29, the **County** established a contract clause implementing this requirement and requires prime contractors to pay subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days from the prime contractor's receipt of each payment from the **County**.

Lorain County will include a similar clause in each DOT-assisted prime contract:

The prime contractor agrees to pay each subcontractor under this prime contract for satisfactory performance of its contract no later than 30 days from the receipt of each payment the prime contract receives from the Owner. The prime contractor agrees further to return retainage payments to each subcontractor within 30 days after the subcontractors work is satisfactorily completed. Any delay or postponement of payment from the above referenced time frame may occur only for good cause following written approval of the Owner. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontracts.

Lorain County ensures prompt and full payment of retainage from the prime contractor to the subcontractor within **30** days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Pursuant to § 26.29, **Lorain County** has selected the following method to comply with this requirement:

Lorain County will hold retainage from prime contractors and provide for prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions of the prime contract, pay retainage to

prime contractors based on these acceptances, and require a contract clause obligating the prime contractor to pay all retainage owed to the subcontractor for satisfactory completion of the accepted work within 30 days after **Lorain County** payment to the prime contractor.

For every airport construction project funded under Federal grant assistance programs, **Lorain County** includes the applicable clause from FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10 (Section 90-06) pertaining to the selected retainage method. If state or local prompt payment laws provide for payment in less than 30 days, any reference to “30 days” will be revised accordingly.

90-06 Partial payments. Partial payments will be made to the Contractor at least once each month as the work progresses. Said payments will be based upon estimates, prepared by the RPR, of the value of the work performed and materials complete and in place, in accordance with the contract, plans, and specifications. Such partial payments may also include the delivered actual cost of those materials stockpiled and stored in accordance with paragraph 90-07, Payment for Materials on Hand. No partial payment will be made when the amount due to the Contractor since the last estimate amounts to less than five hundred dollars.

Option 3: The Owner may hold retainage from prime Contractors and provide for prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions of the prime contract, pay retainage to prime Contractors based on these acceptances, and require a contract clause obligating the prime Contractor to pay all retainage owed to the subcontractor for satisfactory completion of the accepted work within 30 days after the Owner’s payment to the prime Contractor. If Option 3 is selected, the percent withheld may range from 0% to 10% but in no case may it exceed 10%. When establishing a suitable retainage value that protects the Owner’s interests, give consideration that the performance and payment bonds also provide similar protection of Owner interests. Owner may elect to incrementally release retainage if owner is satisfied its interest with completion of the project are protected in an adequate manner. If Option 3 is selected, insert the following clause and specify a suitable value where indicated:

a. From the total of the amount determined to be payable on a partial payment, 4% percent of such total amount will be deducted and retained by the Owner for protection of the Owner’s interests. Unless otherwise instructed by the Owner, the amount retained by the Owner will be in effect until the final payment is made except as follows:

(1) Contractor may request release of retainage on work that has been partially accepted by the Owner in accordance with Section 50-14. Contractor must provide a certified invoice to the RPR that supports the value of retainage held by the Owner for partially accepted work.

(2) In lieu of retainage, the Contractor may exercise at its option the establishment of an escrow account per paragraph 90-08.

b. The Contractor is required to pay all subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days after the Contractor has received a partial payment. Contractor must provide the Owner evidence of prompt and full payment of retainage held by the prime Contractor to the subcontractor within 30 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. A subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed when all the tasks called for in the subcontract have been accomplished and documented as required by the Owner. When the Owner has made an incremental acceptance of a portion of a prime contract, the work of a subcontractor covered by that acceptance is deemed to be satisfactorily completed.

c. When at least 95% of the work has been completed to the satisfaction of the RPR, the RPR shall, at the Owner's discretion and with the consent of the surety, prepare estimates of both the contract value and the cost of the remaining work to be done. The Owner may retain an amount not less than twice the contract value or estimated cost, whichever is greater, of the work remaining to be done. The remainder, less all previous payments and deductions, will then be certified for payment to the Contractor.

It is understood and agreed that the Contractor shall not be entitled to demand or receive partial payment based on quantities of work in excess of those provided in the proposal or covered by approved change orders or supplemental agreements, except when such excess quantities have been determined by the RPR to be a part of the final quantity for the item of work in question.

No partial payment shall bind the Owner to the acceptance of any materials or work in place as to quality or quantity. All partial payments are subject to correction at the time of final payment as provided in paragraph 90-09, Acceptance and Final Payment.

The Contractor shall deliver to the Owner a complete release of all claims for labor and material arising out of this contract before the final payment is made. If any subcontractor or supplier fails to furnish such a release in full, the Contractor may furnish a bond or other collateral satisfactory to the Owner to indemnify the Owner against any potential lien or other such claim. The bond or collateral shall include all costs, expenses, and attorney fees the Owner may be compelled to pay in discharging any such lien or claim.

Prompt Payment Monitoring for DBEs and Non-DBEs

Lorain County clearly understands and acknowledges that reliance on complaints or notifications from subcontractors about a contractor's failure to comply with prompt

payment and retainage requirements is not a sufficient monitoring and oversight mechanism. Therefore, **Lorain County** undertakes proactive monitoring and oversight of prime contractors' compliance with subcontractor prompt payment and return of retainage requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. Such monitoring activities will be accomplished through the following method(s):

1. We will bring to the attention of the Department of Transportation any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the program, so that DOT can take the steps (e.g., referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the DOT Inspector General, action under suspension and debarment or Program Fraud and Civil Penalties rules) provided in 26.109.
2. We will consider similar action under our own legal authorities, including responsibility determinations in future contracts. Attachment 1 lists the regulation, provisions, and contract remedies available to us in the events of non-compliance with the DBE regulation by a participant in our procurement activities.
3. We will also provide a monitoring and enforcement mechanism to verify that work committed to DBEs at contract award is actually performed by the DBEs.
4. We will keep a running tally of actual payments to DBE firms for work committed to them at the time of contract award.

Lorain County requires prime contractors to maintain records and documents of payments to subcontractors, including DBEs, for a minimum of three (3) years unless otherwise provided by applicable record retention requirements for the **Lorain County's** financial assistance agreement, whichever is longer. These records will be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized representative of **Lorain County** or DOT. This reporting requirement extends to all subcontractors, both DBE and non-DBE.

- **Lorain County** proactively reviews contract payments to subcontractors including DBEs *on a monthly basis*. Payment reviews will evaluate whether the actual amount paid to DBE subcontractors is equivalent to the amounts reported to **Lorain County** by the prime contractor.

Prompt Payment Dispute Resolution

Lorain County will take the following steps to resolve disputes as to whether timely prompt payment and retainage releases are being made as required by § 26.29.

- Lorain County will conduct meetings between the prime contractor and subcontractor in the presence of the project manager and a representative from the City wherein a resolution shall be made in relation to the prompt payment dispute by the subcontractor.

Lorain County has established, as part of its DBE program, the following mechanism(s) to ensure prompt payment and return of retainage:

A contract clause providing that the prime contractor will not be reimbursed for work performed by subcontractors unless and until the prime contractor ensures that the subcontractors are promptly paid for the work they have performed.

Lorain County shall not accept a submitted pay estimate until the prime contractor has sufficiently paid all subcontractors from work completed under a prior pay estimate.

Prompt Payment Complaints

Complaints by subcontractors regarding the prompt payment requirements are handled according to the following procedure.

- If affected subcontractor is not comfortable contracting prime directly regarding payment or unable to resolve payment discrepancies with prime, subcontractor should contact DBELO to initiate complaint.
- If filing a prompt payment complaint with the DBELO does not result in timely and meaningful action by **Lorain County** to resolve prompt payment disputes, affected subcontractor may contact the responsible **FAA** contact.
- Pursuant to Sec. 157 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, all complaints related to prompt payment will be reported in a format acceptable to the FAA, including the nature and origin of the complaint and its resolution.

Enforcement Actions for Noncompliance of Participants

Lorain County provides appropriate means to enforce the requirements of § 26.29. These means include:

- *In accordance with the contract, assessing liquidated damages against the prime contractor for each day beyond the required time period the prime contractor fails to pay the subcontractor*
- *Advise subcontractors of the availability of the payment and performance bond to assure payment for labor and materials in the execution of the work provided for in the contract*
- *Pay subcontractors directly and deduct this amount from the retainage owed to the prime*
- *Issue a stop-work order until payments are released to subcontractors, specifying in the contract that such orders constitute unauthorized delays for the purposes of calculating liquidated damages if milestones are not met*

Lorain County will actively implement the enforcement actions detailed above.

Section 26.31 Directory of Certified Firms

Lorain County is a ***non-certifying*** member of the **Ohio** Unified Certification Program (UCP). The UCP maintains a directory identifying all firms eligible to participate as DBEs and/or ACDBEs, and it contains all the elements required by §26.31. The directory lists all firms eligible to participate as a DBE and/or ACDBE in the program. In the listing for each firm, the UCP directory includes the following details about the firm:

- Business address
- Business phone number
- Firm website(s)
- The types of work the firm has been certified to perform as a DBE and/or ACDBE.
- The type of work a DBE and/or ACDBE is eligible to perform is listed by using the most specific NAICS code available to describe each type of work the firm performs. Pursuant to § 26.81(n)(1) and (3), the UCP directory allows for NAICS codes to be supplemented with specific descriptions of the type(s) of work the firm performs.
- The UCP directory may include additional data fields of other items readily verifiable in State or locally maintained databases, such as State licenses held, Pre-qualifications, and Bonding capacity.
- The UCP directory is an online system that permits the public to search and/or filter for DBEs by:
 1. Physical location
 2. NAICS code(s)
 3. Work descriptions
 4. All additional data fields of readily verifiable optional information described above.

The directory includes a prominently displayed disclaimer that states the information within the directory is not a guarantee of the DBE's capacity and ability to perform work.

Section 26.33 Over-concentration

Lorain County has not identified that over-concentration exists in the types of work that DBEs perform.

Section 26.35 Business Development and Mentor-Protégé Programs

Lorain County has not established a Business Development Program or a Mentor-Protégé Program as described by 49 CFR Part 26.

Section 26.37 Monitoring Responsibilities

Lorain County implements and carries out appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26 program requirements by all program participants, and describes and sets forth these mechanisms in this DBE program.

Lorain County actively monitors attainment toward overall goals by maintaining running tally that provides for a frequent comparison of cumulative DBE awards/commitments to DOT-assisted prime contract awards to determine whether our implementation of contract goals is projected to be sufficient to meet the annual goal. The running tally for overall goal monitoring will be maintained by **submitting and reviewing DBE Goal Reports**. This mechanism to maintain a running tally of overall goal attainment will be used to inform **Lorain County's** decisions to implement goals on contracts to be advertised, according to our established contract goal-setting process.

Lorain County actively monitors participation with respect to each DBE commitment by using a running tally that provides for a frequent comparison of payments made to each listed DBE relative to the progress of work, including payments for such work to the prime contractor. The running tally for contract goal monitoring will be maintained by **submitting and reviewing DBE Goal Reports**. These contract-specific running tallies will be used to determine whether the contractor is on track with meeting its DBE commitment and whether any projected shortfall exists that requires the prime contractor's good faith efforts to address to meet the contract goal pursuant to § 26.53(g).

Monitoring Contracts and Work Sites

Lorain County reviews contracting records and engages in active monitoring of work sites to ensure that work committed to DBEs at contract award or subsequently (e.g., as the result of modification to the contract) is actually performed by the DBEs to which the work was committed, and such work is counted according to the requirements of § 26.55. Work site monitoring for counting and commercially useful function review is performed by **project inspector or the project manager**. Contracting records are reviewed by **DBELO**. **Lorain County** will maintain written certification that contracting records have been reviewed and work sites have been monitored to ensure the counting of each DBE's participation is consistent with its function on the contract.

Section 26.39 Fostering Small Business Participation

Lorain County has created a Small Business element to structure contracting requirements to facilitate competition by small business concerns, taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to their participation, including unnecessary and unjustified bundling of contract requirements that may preclude small business participation in procurements as prime contractors or subcontractors.

The small business element is incorporated as Attachment **5** to this DBE Program. The program elements will be actively implemented to foster small business participation.

Lorain County acknowledges that implementation of the small business element is required for us to be considered by DOT as implementing our DBE program in good faith.

SUBPART C – GOALS, GOOD FAITH EFFORTS, AND COUNTING

Section 26.43 Set-asides or Quotas

Lorain County does not use quotas or race-conscious set-asides in any way in the administration of this DBE program.

Section 26.45 Overall Goals

Lorain County will establish an overall DBE goal covering a three-year federal fiscal year period if it anticipates awarding DOT-funded prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in DOT funds during any one or more of the reporting fiscal years within the three-year goal period. In accordance with §26.45(f), **Lorain County** will submit its Overall Three-year DBE Goal to **FAA** by August 1st of the year in which the goal is due, as required by the schedule established by **FAA**.

The DBE goals will be established in accordance with the 2-step process as specified in 49 CFR Part 26.45. If **Lorain County** does not anticipate awarding prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in DOT funds during any of the years within the three-year reporting period, an overall goal will not be developed. However, this DBE Program will remain in effect and **Lorain County** will seek to fulfill the objectives outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.1.

Step 1. The first step is to determine a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs in the market area. **Lorain County** will use *a Bidders List, a Disparity Study, the goal of another DOT Recipient, DBE Directory information and Census Bureau Data, or other alternative method that complies with §26.45* as a method to determine the base figure. **Lorain County** understands that the exclusive use of a list of prequalified contractors or plan holders, or a bidders list that does not comply with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26.45(c)(2), is not an acceptable alternative means of determining the availability of DBEs.

Step 2. The second step is to adjust, if necessary, the “base figure” percentage from Step 1 so that it reflects as accurately as possible the DBE participation the recipient would expect in the absence of discrimination. Adjustments may be made based on past participation, information from a disparity study (to the extent it is not already accounted for in the base goal), and/or information about barriers to entry to past competitiveness of DBEs on contracts. **Lorain County** will examine all of the evidence available in its jurisdiction to determine what adjustment, if any, is needed. If the evidence does not suggest an adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.

Any methodology selected will be based on demonstrable evidence of local market conditions and be designed to ultimately attain a goal that is rationally related to the relative availability of DBEs in the **Lorain County** market.

In establishing the overall goal, **Lorain County** will provide for consultation and publication. This includes consultation with minority, women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the efforts by **Lorain County** to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation will include a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange (e.g., a face-to-face meeting, video conference, teleconference) with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the goal setting process, and it will occur before **Lorain County** is required to submit the goal methodology to the operating administration for review pursuant to §26.45(f). The goal submission will document the consultation process in which **Lorain County** engaged. Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of §26.45, the proposed goal will not be implemented until this requirement is met.

In addition to the consultation described above, **Lorain County** will publish a notice announcing the proposed overall goal before submission to the **FAA**. The notice will be posted on **Lorain County's** official internet web site and may be posted in other sources (e.g., minority-focused media, trade association publications). If the proposed goal changes following review by **FAA**, the revised goal will be posted on **Lorain County's** official internet web site. The notice can be found here: [| Lorain County, OH \(loraincountyohio.gov\) |Commissioners|Airport](https://loraincountyohio.gov/Commissioners/Airport).

The Overall Three-Year DBE Goal submission to **FAA** will include any information and comments received, who provided the comment, and how **Lorain County** considered and responded to any comments and information received before finalizing the goal.

Lorain County will begin using the overall goal on October 1 of the relevant period, unless other instructions from **FAA** have been received.

Project Goals

If permitted or required by the **FAA**, an overall goal may be expressed as a percentage of funds for a particular grant or project or group of grants and/or projects, including entire projects. Like other overall goals, a project goal may be adjusted to reflect changed circumstances, with the concurrence of the appropriate operating administration. A project goal is an overall goal, and it must meet all the substantive and procedural requirements pertaining to overall goals. A project goal covers the entire length of the project to which it applies. The project goal will include a projection of the DBE participation anticipated to be obtained during each fiscal year covered by the project goal. The funds for the project to which the project goal pertains are separated

from the base from which the regular overall goal, applicable to contracts not part of the project covered by a project goal, is calculated.

Prior Operating Administration Concurrence

Lorain County understands that prior **FAA** concurrence with the overall goal is not required. However, if the **FAA** review suggests that the overall goal has not been correctly calculated or that the method employed by **Lorain County** for calculating goals is inadequate, **FAA** may, after consulting with **Lorain County**, adjust the overall goal or require that the goal be adjusted by **Lorain County**. The adjusted overall goal is binding. In evaluating the adequacy or soundness of the methodology used to derive the overall goal, the U.S. DOT operating administration will be guided by the goal setting principles and best practices identified by the Department in guidance issued pursuant to § 26.9.

A description of the methodology to calculate the overall goal and the goal calculations can be found in Attachment 2 to this program.

Section 26.47 Failure to meet overall goals

Lorain County cannot be penalized, or treated by the Department as being in noncompliance with Part 26, because DBE participation falls short of an overall goal, unless **Lorain County** fails to administer its DBE program in good faith.

Lorain County understands that to be considered to be in compliance with this part, an approved DBE Program and overall DBE goal, if applicable, must be maintained, and this DBE Program must be administered in good faith.

Lorain County understands that if the awards and commitments shown on the Uniform Report of Awards or Commitments and Payments at the end of any fiscal year are less than the overall goal applicable to that fiscal year, the following actions must be taken in order to be regarded by the Department as implementing this DBE Program in good faith:

- (1) Analyze in detail the reasons for the difference between the overall goal and the awards and commitments in that fiscal year;
- (2) Establish specific steps and milestones to correct the problems identified in the analysis to enable the goal for the new fiscal year to be fully met;

Section 26.51 Means Recipients Use to Meet Overall Goals

Breakout of Estimated Race-Neutral & Race-Conscious Participation

Lorain County will meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating race-neutral DBE participation. Race-neutral DBE participation includes any time a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

Race-neutral means include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.
- (2) Providing assistance in overcoming limitations such as inability to obtain bonding or financing (e.g., by such means as simplifying the bonding process, reducing bonding requirements, eliminating the impact of surety costs from bids, and providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, obtain bonding and financing);
- (3) Providing technical assistance and other services;
- (4) Carrying out information and communications programs on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities (e.g., ensuring the inclusion of DBEs, and other small businesses, on recipient mailing lists for bidders; ensuring the dissemination to bidders on prime contracts of lists of potential subcontractors; provision of information in languages other than English, where appropriate);
- (5) Implementing a supportive services program to develop and improve immediate and long-term business management, record keeping, and financial and accounting capability for DBEs and other small businesses;
- (6) Providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, improve long-term development, increase opportunities to participate in a variety of kinds of work, handle increasingly significant projects, and achieve eventual self-sufficiency;
- (7) Establishing a program to assist new, start-up firms, particularly in fields in which DBE participation has historically been low;
- (8) Ensuring distribution of the DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors; and
- (9) Assisting DBEs, and other small businesses, to develop their capability to utilize emerging technology and conduct business through electronic media.

The breakout of estimated race-neutral and race-conscious participation can be found in Attachment 2 to this program.

Lorain County will arrange solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.

Contract Goals

If the approved projection under paragraph (c) of §26.51 estimates that the entire overall goal for a given year can be met through race-neutral means, contract goals will not be set during that year, unless the use of contract goals becomes necessary in order to meet the overall goal.

Lorain County will use contract goals to meet any portion of the overall goal Lorain County does not project being able to meet using race-neutral means. Contract goals are established so that, over the period to which the overall goal applies, they will cumulatively result in meeting any portion of our overall goal that is not projected to be met through the use of race-neutral means.

Contract goals will be established only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. A contract goal need not be established on every such contract, and the size of contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract (e.g., type and location of work, availability of DBEs to perform the particular type of work).

Contract goals will be expressed as a percentage of ***the total amount of a DOT-assisted contract.***

Section 26.53 Good Faith Efforts Procedures in Situations where there are Contract Goals

Demonstration of good faith efforts (pre-award)

In cases where a contract goal has been established, the contract in question will only be awarded to a bidder/offeror that has made good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder/offeror can demonstrate that it has made good faith efforts by either meeting the contract goal or documenting that it has made adequate good faith efforts to do so. Examples of good faith efforts are found in Appendix A to Part 26.

DBELO is responsible for determining whether a bidder/offeror who has not met the contract goal has documented sufficient good faith efforts to be regarded as ***Responsible.***

Lorain County will ensure that all information is complete and accurate and adequately documents the bidder/offeror's good faith efforts before committing to the performance of the contract by the bidder/offeror.

In all solicitations for DOT-assisted contracts for which a contract goal has been established, the following information will be required of every bidder/offeror:

- (1) Award of the contract will be conditioned on meeting the requirements of this section;
- (2) All bidders or offerors will be required to submit the following information to the recipient, at the time provided in paragraph (3) of this section:
 - a. The names and addresses of DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
 - b. A description of the work that each DBE will perform. To count toward meeting a goal, each DBE firm must be certified in a NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm would perform on the contract;
 - c. The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating;
 - d. Written documentation of the bidder/offeror's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet a contract goal; and
 - e. Written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the prime contractor's commitment. Each DBE listed to perform work as a regular dealer or distributor must confirm its participation according to the requirements of § 26.53 (c)(1).
 - f. If the contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts (as elaborated in Appendix A of Part 26). The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract;
- (3) The bidder/offeror will be required to present the information stipulated in paragraph (2) of this section:
- (4) No later than 5 days after bid opening as a matter of **responsibility**.

Provided that, in a negotiated procurement, such as a procurement for professional services, the bidder/offeror may make a contractually binding commitment to meet the goal at the time of bid submission or the presentation of initial proposals but provide the information required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section before the final selection for the contract is made by **Lorain County**. This paragraph (b)(3)(ii) does not apply to a design-build procurement, which must follow the provisions in paragraph (e) of 49 CFR § 26.53.

For each DBE listed as a regular dealer or distributor **Lorain County** will make a preliminary counting determination to assess its eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively, of the cost of materials and supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor, as defined in §§ 26.55(e)(2)(iv)(A), (B), (C), and (3) under the contract at issue. The preliminary determination will be made based on the DBE's written responses to

relevant questions and its affirmation that its subsequent performance of a commercially useful function will be consistent with the preliminary counting of such participation. Where the DBE supplier does not affirm that its participation will meet the specific requirements of either a regular dealer or distributor, **Lorain County** will make appropriate adjustments in counting such participation toward the bidder's good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder is responsible for verifying that the information provided by the DBE supplier is consistent with the counting of such participation toward the contract goal.

In a design-build contracting situation, in which **Lorain County** solicits proposals to design and build a project with minimal project details at time of letting, **Lorain County** may set a DBE goal that proposers must meet by submitting a DBE Open-Ended DBE Performance plan (OEPP) with the proposal. The OEPP replaces the requirement to provide the information required in paragraph (b) of § 26.53(b). To be considered responsive, the OEPP must include a commitment to meet the goal and provide details of the types of subcontracting work or services (with projected dollar amounts) that the proposer will solicit DBEs to perform. The OEPP must include an estimated time frame in which actual DBE subcontracts would be executed. Once the design-build contract is awarded, **Lorain County** will provide ongoing monitoring and oversight to evaluate whether the design-builder is using good faith efforts to comply with the OEPP and schedule. **Lorain County** and the design-builder may agree to make written revisions of the OEPP throughout the life of the project, e.g., replacing the type of work items the design-builder will solicit DBEs to perform and/or adjusting the proposed schedule, as long as the design-builder continues to use good faith efforts to meet the goal.

Lorain County will apply the requirements of this section to DBE bidders/offers for prime contracts. In determining whether a DBE bidder/offeror for a prime contract has met a contract goal, **Lorain County** will count the work the DBE has committed to performing with its own forces as well as the work that it has committed to be performed by DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers.

Administrative Reconsideration of Good Faith Efforts determinations

Within **30** days of being informed by **Lorain County** that it is **not responsible** because it has not documented adequate good faith efforts, a bidder/offeror may request administrative reconsideration. Bidder/offerors should make this request in writing to the following reconsideration official:

J.D. Tomlinson
Lorain County Prosecutor
225 Court St., 3rd Floor
Elyria, OH 44035
440-329-5389

The reconsideration official will not have played any role in the original determination that the bidder/offeror did not document sufficient good faith efforts.

As part of this reconsideration, the bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to provide written documentation or argument concerning the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to meet in person with the reconsideration official to discuss the issue of whether the goal was met or the bidder/offeror made adequate good faith efforts to do. The bidder/offeror will be sent a written decision on reconsideration, explaining the basis for finding that the bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The result of the reconsideration process is not administratively appealable to the Department of Transportation.

Good Faith Efforts procedural requirements (post-solicitation/award)

Lorain County will include in each prime contract the contract clause required by § 26.13(b) stating that failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of this part is a material breach of the contract and may result in the termination of the contract or such other remedies set forth in that section that **Lorain County** deems appropriate if the prime contractor fails to comply with the requirements of this section.

Lorain County will require the awarded contractor to make available upon request a copy of all DBE subcontracts. The contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials include all required contract provisions and mandate that the subcontractor and all lower tier subcontractors perform in accordance with the provisions of Part 26.

Lorain County will require that a prime contractor not terminate a DBE or any portion of its work listed in response to § 26.53(b)(2) (or an approved substitute DBE firm per § 26.53(g)) without our prior written consent, unless **Lorain County** causes the termination or reduction. A termination includes any reduction or underrun in work listed for a DBE not caused by a material change to the prime contract by the recipient. This requirement applies to instances that include but are not limited to: when a prime contractor seeks to perform work originally designed for a DBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-DBE firm, or with another DBE firm.

Lorain County will include in each prime contract a provision stating that:

- (1) The contractor must utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed unless the contractor obtains **Lorain County's** written consent as provided in § 26.53(f); and
- (2) Unless **Lorain County's** consent is provided under § 26.53(f), the prime contractor must not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

Lorain County may provide such written consent only if it agrees, for reasons stated in our concurrence document, that the prime contractor has good cause to terminate the listed DBE or any portion of its work.

Good cause does not exist if the prime contractor seeks to terminate a DBE or any portion of its work that is relied upon to obtain the contract so that the prime contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE contractor was engaged, or so that the prime contractor can substitute another DBE or non-DBE contractor after contract award. For purposes of § 26.53(f)(3), good cause includes the following circumstances:

- (1) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- (2) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;
- (3) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements;
- (4) The listed DBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit worthiness;
- (5) The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 2 CFR parts 180, 215, and 1200 or applicable state law;
- (6) **Lorain County** has determined that the listed DBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor;
- (7) The listed DBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides to **Lorain County** written notice of its withdrawal;
- (8) The listed DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;
- (9) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract; and
- (10) Other documented good cause that **Lorain County** determines compels the termination of the DBE subcontractor;

Before transmitting to **Lorain County** the request to terminate a DBE subcontractor or any portion of its work, the prime contractor must give notice in writing to the DBE subcontractor, with a copy to **Lorain County** sent concurrently, of its intent to request to terminate and the reason for the proposed request.

The prime contractor's written notice must give the DBE five (5) days to respond, advising **Lorain County** and the prime contractor of the reasons, if any, why it objects to the proposed termination of its subcontract or portion thereof and why **Lorain County** should not approve the prime contractor's request. If required in a particular case as a matter of public necessity (e.g., safety), **Lorain County** may provide a response period shorter than five (5) days.

In addition to post-award terminations, the provisions of this section apply to pre-award deletions or changes to DBEs or their listed work put forward by offerors in negotiated procurements.

When a DBE subcontractor or a portion of its work is terminated by the prime contractor as provided in § 26.53(f), or if work committed to a DBE is reduced due to overestimations made prior to award, the prime contractor must use good faith efforts to include additional DBE participation to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. The good faith efforts shall be documented by the contractor. If **Lorain County** requests documentation under this provision, the contractor shall submit the documentation within seven (7) days, which may be extended for an additional seven (7) days, if necessary, at the request of the contractor. **Lorain County** shall provide a written determination to the contractor stating whether or not good faith efforts have been demonstrated.

Section 26.55 Counting DBE Participation

DBE participation will be counted toward overall and contract goals as provided in § 26.55. The participation of a DBE subcontractor will not be counted toward a contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligations on a contract until the amount being counted has actually been paid to the DBE.

In the case of post-award substitutions or additions, if a firm is not currently certified as a DBE in accordance with the standards of subpart D of this part at the time of the execution of the contract, the firm's participation will not be counted toward any DBE goals, except as provided for in § 26.87(j).

For FAA-funded projects **only**, firms that exceed the business size standard in § 26.65(b) will remain eligible for DBE certification and may be counted for DBE credit toward overall and contract goals on FAA-funded projects as long as they do not exceed the small business size standard, as adjusted by the United States Small Business Administration, for the NAICS code(s) in which they are certified.

SUBPART D – CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Section 26.61 – 26.73 Certification Process

Lorain County is a **non-certifying member** of the **Ohio** Unified Certification Program (UCP) and relies upon the UCP's determinations of certification eligibility. **Ohio** UCP will use the certification standards of Subpart D of Part 26 to determine the eligibility of firms to participate as DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts. To be certified as a DBE, a firm must meet all certification eligibility standards. Certifying **Ohio** UCP members make all certification decisions based on the facts as a whole.

For information about the certification process or to apply for certification, firms should contact:

Ohio Unified Certification Program

614-466-2878

DOT.SDBE@dot.ohio.gov

The Uniform Certification Application form, Personal Net Worth statement, and documentation requirements can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/disadvantaged-business-enterprise/ready-apply>.

Lorain County will recognize certified DBE's as they are listed in the Ohio DBE Uniform Certification Program's directory. See section 26.31 of this program for the website.

SUBPART E – CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Any procedures included here are highlights only. Detailed certification procedures are enumerated in the full **Lorain County Ohio** UCP agreement.

Section 26.81 Unified Certification Programs

Lorain County is a member of a Unified Certification Program (UCP) administered by **Ohio's lead UCP agency**. The UCP will meet all certification standards and procedures requirements of Subparts D and E of Part 26.

Section 26.91 Actions Following DOT Certification Appeal Decisions

If **Lorain County** is a certifier to which a DOT determination under § 26.89 is applicable, we will take any and all required action(s) pursuant to § 26.91.

SUBPART F – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 26.101 Compliance Procedures Applicable to Lorain County

Lorain County understands that if it fails to comply with any requirement of this part, **Lorain County** may be subject to formal enforcement action under § 26.103 or § 26.105 or appropriate program sanctions by the concerned operating administration, such as the suspension or termination of Federal funds, or refusal to approve projects, grants or contracts until deficiencies are remedied. Program sanctions may include, in the case of the FHWA program, actions provided for under 23 CFR 1.36; in the case of the FAA program, actions consistent with 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122;

and in the case of the FTA program, any actions permitted under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or applicable FTA program requirements.

Lorain County understands that, as provided in statute, it will not be subject to compliance actions or sanctions for failing to carry out any requirement of this part because it has been prevented from complying because a Federal court has issued a final order in which the court found that the requirement is unconstitutional.

Section 26.103 Enforcement Actions Applicable to FHWA and FTA Programs

The provisions of this section apply to enforcement actions under FHWA and FTA programs. **ONLY** paragraph (2) of this section is also applicable in FAA programs.

- ~~(1) **Noncompliance complaints.** Any person who believes that a recipient has failed to comply with its obligations under this part may file a written complaint with the concerned operating administration's Office of Civil Rights. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the date of the alleged violation or the date on which the complainant learned of a continuing course of conduct in violation of this part. In response to a complainant's written request, the Office of Civil Rights may extend the time for filing in the interest of justice, specifying in writing the reason for so doing. The Office of Civil Rights may protect the confidentiality of a complainant's identity as provided in § 26.109(b). Complaints under this part are limited to allegations of violation of the provisions of this part.~~
- ~~(2) **Compliance reviews.** The concerned operating administration may review the recipient's compliance with this part at any time, including reviews of paperwork and on-site reviews, as appropriate. The Office of Civil Rights may direct the operating administration to initiate a compliance review based on complaints received.~~
- ~~(3) **Reasonable cause notice.** If it appears, from the investigation of a complaint or the results of a compliance review, that **Lorain County** is in noncompliance with part 26, the appropriate DOT office will promptly send **Lorain County**, return receipt requested, a written notice advising that there is reasonable cause to find **Lorain County** in noncompliance. The notice states the reasons for this finding and directs **Lorain County** to reply within 30 days concerning whether you wish to begin conciliation.~~
- ~~(4) **Conciliation.**~~
 - ~~a. If **Lorain County** requests conciliation, the appropriate DOT office shall pursue conciliation for at least 30, but not more than 120, days from the date of the request. The appropriate DOT office may extend the conciliation period for up to 30 days for good cause, consistent with applicable statutes.~~
 - ~~b. If **Lorain County** and the appropriate DOT office sign a conciliation agreement, then the matter is regarded as closed and **Lorain County** is regarded as complying. The conciliation agreement sets forth the measures **Lorain County** has taken or will take to ensure compliance.~~

~~While a conciliation agreement is in effect, **Lorain County** remains eligible for FHWA or FTA financial assistance.~~

- ~~c. The concerned operating administration shall monitor the implementation of the conciliation agreement and ensure that its terms are complied with. If **Lorain County** fail to carry out the terms of a conciliation agreement, **Lorain County** is in noncompliance.~~
- ~~d. If **Lorain County** does not request conciliation, or a conciliation agreement is not signed within the time provided earlier in this section, then enforcement proceedings begin.~~

~~(5) **Enforcement actions.**~~

- ~~a. Enforcement actions are taken as provided in this subpart.~~
- ~~b. Applicable findings in enforcement proceedings are binding on all DOT offices.~~

Section 26.105 Enforcement Actions Applicable to FAA Programs

Compliance with all requirements of this part by airport sponsors and other recipients of FAA financial assistance is enforced through the procedures of Title 49 of the United States Code, including 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122, and regulations implementing them.

The provisions of § 26.103(b) and this section apply to enforcement actions in FAA programs.

Any person who knows of a violation of this part by a recipient of FAA funds may file a complaint under 14 CFR part 16 with the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Chief Counsel.

Section 26.107 Enforcement Actions Applicable to Participating Firms

If a firm that does not meet the eligibility criteria of subpart D of this part attempts to participate in a DOT-assisted program as a DBE on the basis of false, fraudulent, or deceitful statements or representations or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings against the firm under 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200.

If a firm, in order to meet DBE contract goals or other DBE program requirements, uses or attempts to use, on the basis of false, fraudulent or deceitful statements or representations or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, another firm that does not meet the eligibility criteria of subpart D of this part, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings against you under 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200.

In a suspension or debarment proceeding brought under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the concerned operating administration may consider the fact that a purported

DBE has been certified by a recipient. Such certification does not preclude the Department from determining that the purported DBE, or another firm that has used or attempted to use it to meet DBE goals, should be suspended or debarred.

The Department may take enforcement action under [49 CFR Part 31](#), Program Fraud and Civil Remedies, against any participant in the DBE program whose conduct is subject to such action under [49 CFR part 31](#).

The Department may refer to the Department of Justice, for prosecution under [18 U.S.C. 1001](#) or other applicable provisions of law, any person who makes a false or fraudulent statement in connection with participation of a DBE in any DOT-assisted program or otherwise violates applicable Federal statutes.

Section 26.109 Confidentiality, Cooperation, and Intimidation or Retaliation

In responding to requests for information concerning any aspect of the DBE program, the Department complies with provisions of the Federal Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (5 U.S.C. 552 and 552a). The Department may make available to the public any information concerning the DBE program release of which is not prohibited by Federal law.

Notwithstanding any provision of Federal or state law, information that may reasonably be construed as confidential business information will not be released to any third party without the written consent of the firm that submitted the information, including applications for DBE certification and supporting information. However, this information will be transmitted to DOT in any certification appeal proceeding under § 26.89 or to any other state to which the individual's firm has applied for certification under § 26.85.

All participants in the Department's DBE program (including, but not limited to, recipients, DBE firms and applicants for DBE certification, complainants and appellants, and contractors using DBE firms to meet contract goals) are required to cooperate fully and promptly with DOT and recipient compliance reviews, certification reviews, investigations, and other requests for information. Failure to do so shall be a ground for appropriate action against the party involved (e.g., with respect to recipients, a finding of noncompliance; with respect to DBE firms, denial of certification or removal of eligibility and/or suspension and debarment; with respect to a complainant or appellant, dismissal of the complaint or appeal; with respect to a contractor which uses DBE firms to meet goals, findings of non-responsibility for future contracts and/or suspension and debarment).

Lorain County, contractor, or any other participant in the program will not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual or firm for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this part or because the individual or firm has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an

investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. **Lorain County** understands that it is in noncompliance with Part 26 if it violates this prohibition.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms
Attachment 2	Overall Goal Calculation
Attachment 3	Form 1 & 2 for Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts
Attachment 4	Regulations: 49 CFR Part 26
Attachment 5	Small Business Element

ATTACHMENT 1

Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms

Lorain County has available several remedies to enforce the DBE requirements contained in its contracts, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Breach of contract action, pursuant to the terms of the contract;
2. Breach of contract action, pursuant to the applicable section of the Ohio Revised Code.

In addition, the federal government has available several enforcement mechanisms that it may apply to firms participating in the DBE problem, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Suspension or debarment proceedings pursuant to 49 CFR part 26
2. Enforcement action pursuant to 49 CFR part 31
3. Prosecution pursuant to 18 USC 1001.

ATTACHMENT 2

FY2024 - FY2026 DBE GOAL

LORAIN COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT, LORAIN, OHIO

Lorain County's overall goal for **FY 2024 – FY 2026** is the following: **4.3%** of the Federal Financial assistance we will expend in DOT-assisted contracts for the time period **10-1-24 to 9 30-26**.

Given the amount of DOT-assisted contracts the Airport expects to let during this fiscal year (**FY2024**), which is approximately **\$ 650,000.00** exclusively construction and engineering work, this means that we have set a goal of expending **\$ 27,950.00** with DBEs during this fiscal year (**FY2024**).

METHODOLOGY used to Calculate Overall Goal

Step 1: 26.45(c)

The base figure for the relative availability of DBE's, the substantial money spent, and majority of bidders are in the relevant market area was calculated as follows:

Base figure = Ready, willing, and able DBEs (construction & engineering) / All firms ready, willing and able (construction & engineering)
= **14 / 328**

The data source or demonstrable evidence used in the market area to derive the numerator was: **Ohio DBE Uniform Certification Program 07/10/2024**.

The data source or demonstrable evidence used to derive the denominator was: **2021 Census Bureau County Business Patterns Data for Lorain County and Cuyahoga County**.

When we divided the numerator by the denominator, we arrived at the base figure for our overall goal and that number was **4.3%**.

Step 2: 26.45(d)

After calculating a base figure of the relative availability of DBEs, evidence was examined to determine what adjustment (if any) was needed to the base figure in order to arrive at the overall goal.

It was determined that no adjustment was necessary.

There are no applicable disparity studies for the local market area or recent legal case information available from the State of Ohio Department of Commerce E.O. office to show any evidence of barriers to entry or competitiveness of DBEs in the market area.

Process

Lorain County plans to submit their overall goal to DOT on August 1 of each year in which it expects to award DOT assisted contracts over \$250,000.

Before establishing the overall goal each year, the County will consult with surrounding counties' Chamber of Commerce, the surrounding counties' Public Works Department, Ohio Contractors Association, ODOT, State of Ohio Minority Business Development Office, Women Business Development Council, Airport Minority Business Council without limiting consultation to these persons or groups to obtain information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the County's efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs.

Following the consultation, we will publish a notice in the Elyria Chronicle Telegram (our major local newspaper) of the proposed overall goal, informing the public that the proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at the airport administration building for 30 days following the date of the notice, and informing the public that the County and DOT will accept comments on the goals for 45 days from the date of the notice. Normally, we will issue this notice by June 1 of each year. The notice must include addresses to which comments may be sent and addresses where the proposal may be reviewed.

OR

A notice of the proposed goal will be published on the County's official website before the methodology is submitted to the FAA. The notice can be found here: [| Lorain County, OH \(loraincountyohio.gov\)](https://loraincountyohio.gov/Commissioners/Airport) [|Commissioners|Airport](#).

Our overall goal submission to DOT will include a summary of information and comments received during this public participation process and our responses, if any.

We will begin using our overall goal on October 1 of each year, unless we have received other instructions from DOT.

Race Conscious – Race Neutral

The County will meet the maximum feasible portion of their overall goal by using race neutral means of facilitating DBE participation. The Commissioners uses the following race-neutral means to increase DBE participation:

- Provide DBE directories to all potential prime contractors.
- Offer instructions and clarification on bid specifications, general bidding requirements, and our procurement policy and procedures to all small businesses.
- Maintain a file of successful bid documents from past procurements and permit DBE's and other small business firms to review and evaluate these documents.
- When requested, conduct debriefing sessions to explain why certain bids were unsuccessful.

- Provide DBE's and other small business firms with information on future procurements and contracting schedules.
- Provide information on certification procedures, subcontracting, and bonding requirements to all small businesses.
- Place bid notices in the DBE trade association newsletters, major local newspapers, as well as periodicals of interest to the disadvantaged community.
- Make bid specifications available to DBE contractor associations and technical assistance agencies.
- Provide DBE's and DBE organizations with lists of majority firms bidding as prime contractors.

We estimate that, in meeting our overall goal of **4.3%**, we will obtain 0.00% from race-neutral participation and **4.3%** through race-conscious measures. Lorain County plans to use contract goals to achieve DBE participation.

We will adjust the estimated breakout of race-neutral and race-conscious participation as needed to reflect actual DBE participation and we will track and report race-neutral and race-conscious participation separately. For reporting purposes, race-neutral DBE participation includes, but is not limited to the following: DBE participation through a prime contract a DBE obtains through customary competitive procurement procedures; DBE participation through a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE goal; DBE participation on a prime contract exceeding a contract goal; and DBE participation through a subcontract from a prime contractor that did not consider a firm's DBE status in making the award.

Contract Goals

Lorain County will use contract goals to meet any portion of the overall goal that Lorain County does not project being able to meet using race-neutral means. Contract goals are established so that, over the period to which the overall goals applies, they will cumulatively result in meeting any portion of our overall goal that is not projected to be met through the use of race-neutral means.

We will establish contract goals only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. We need not establish a contract goal on every such contract, and the size of the contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract.

We will express our contract goals as a percentage of the total amount of a DOT-assisted contract.

Karen L Perkins

Karen Perkins, Deputy Administrator
Lorain County Commissioners

Date: July 24, 2024

ATTACHMENT 3

Forms 1 & 2 for Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts

FORM 1: DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) UTILIZATION

The undersigned bidder/offeror has satisfied the requirements of the bid specification in the following manner (please check the appropriate space):

_____ The bidder/offeror is committed to a minimum of _____ % DBE utilization on this contract.

_____ The bidder/offeror (if unable to meet the DBE goal of _____ %) is committed to a minimum of _____ % DBE utilization on this contract a submits documentation demonstrating good faith efforts.

Name of bidder/offeror's firm: _____

State Registration No. _____

By _____
(Signature) Title

FORM 2: LETTER OF INTENT

Name of bidder/offeror's firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of DBE firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Description of work to be performed by DBE firm:

The bidder/offeror is committed to utilizing the above-named DBE firm for the work described above. The estimated dollar value of this work is \$ _____.

Affirmation

The above-named DBE firm affirms that it will perform the portion of the contract for the estimated dollar value as stated above.

By _____
(Signature) (Title)

If the bidder/offeror does not receive award of the prime contract, any and all representations in this Letter of Intent and Affirmation shall be null and void.

(Submit this page for each DBE subcontractor.)

ATTACHMENT 4

Regulations: 49 CFR Part 26

ATTACHMENT 5

Small Business Element

LORAIN COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT, ELYRIA/LORAIN, OH

DBE PROGRAM ATTACHMENT

Section 26.39 Fostering Small Business Participation

The County has created an element to structure contracting requirements to facilitate competition by small business concerns, taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to their participation, including unnecessary and unjustified bundling of contract requirements that may preclude small business participation in procurements as prime contractors or subcontractors. For clarification purposes, 49 CFR Part 26.5 states, "Small business concern means, with respect to firms seeking to participate as DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts, a small business concern as defined pursuant to section 3 of the Small Business Act and Small Business Administration regulations implementing it (13 CFR part 121) that also does not exceed the cap on average annual gross receipts specified in §26.65(b)." 13 CFR 121.402 defines "What size standards are applicable to Federal Government Contracting programs?"

In compliance with this policy, the County's DBE Program in regard to §26.39 Fostering Small Business Participation may include, but is not limited to, the following strategies:

- 1) Notify qualified companies certified with the State of Ohio Encouraging Diversity Growth and Equity program prior to bidding upcoming projects to encourage involvement.
- 2) In multi-year design-build contracts or other large contracts (e.g., for "megaprojects") requiring bidders on the prime contract to specify elements of the contract or specific subcontracts that are of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.
- 3) On prime contracts not having DBE contract goals, requiring the prime contractor to provide subcontracting opportunities of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform, rather than self-performing all the work involved.
- 4) To meet the portion of the overall goal you project to meet through race-neutral measures, ensuring that a reasonable number of prime contracts are of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.

In order to actively implement the County's program elements to foster small business participation and to comply with the requirement of good faith implementation of our DBE program, the County will require that the Prime Contractor(s) for Construction Work Items and for Professional Services Work Items complete the form entitled, Fostering Small Business Participation, located in Attachment of the DBE program.

The Special Conditions of the Contract will encourage small business participation as a component of the bidding process by the County.

Fostering Small Business Participation

Sponsor's Name:	
Airport Name:	
City, State:	
AIP Number:	
Federal Fiscal Year:	

In accordance with Section 26.39 the following detailed list shall be completed by Prime Contractor(s) for Construction Work Items as well as by Prime Contractor(s) for Professional Services Work Items. Note: The firms listed below may or may not be certified DBEs.

Small Business Firms to be Utilized (Name, Address, Phone)		Work to be Performed	Total Estimated Cost of Work
Name			
Address			
City, St, Zip			
Telephone			
Is the firm a Certified DBE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Name			
Address			
City, St, Zip			
Telephone			
Is the firm a Certified DBE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Name			
Address			
City, St, Zip			
Telephone			
Is the firm a Certified DBE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Name			
Address			
City, St, Zip			
Telephone			
Is the firm a Certified DBE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Name			
Address			
City, St, Zip			
Telephone			
Is the firm a Certified DBE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Name			
Address			
City, St, Zip			
Telephone			
Is the firm a Certified DBE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

(Duplicate form as necessary.)

The following notation is for Sponsor Use Only:

Accepted by: _____ **Date:** _____