



How to Access Business Opportunities @ The City of St. Louis St. Louis Lambert International Airport



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Office of Business Opportunities (OBO)
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Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) at a Glance



- OBO administers the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) & Small Business Element (SBE) Certification Programs.
- Performs compliance monitoring & enforcement.
- Ensures work committed to all subcontractors is actually performed and managed by subcontractors.
- Conducts various outreach sessions that assist with the growth, development and sustainability of small businesses.
- Living Wage - Responsible for overseeing the City's Living Wage Program which is mandated by City ordinance for specific City contracts.



Purpose of the DBE/ACDBE Certification



- To ensure that the program benefits bona fide, for-profit, small businesses and concessions that are owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

- The Certification process includes:
 - Meeting Certification Standards outlined in 49 CFR Part 26 and/or Part 23
 - Submitting a USDOT Certification Application
 - Submitting Supporting Documentation
 - Completing a Personal Net Worth Statement and attaching supporting documentation
 - Composing a Personal Narrative



Definition of DBE, ACDBE & SBE



- Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26, a **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise** means a for-profit small business concern.
- Pursuant to 49 (CFR) Part 26, and Part 23 an **Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise** means a firm seeking to operate as a concession that is a **for-profit small business concern**.
 - That is at least 51 percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged or, in the case of a corporation, in which 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals;
 - Whose management and daily operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.



Definition of DBE, ACDBE & SBE Continued



- Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26, A Small Business Element program that ensures Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) shall have an equal opportunity to participate in the performance of USDOT-funded contracts.



DBE Interim Final Rule (IFR) 49 CFR 26 & 23



On 9/30/2025 United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued proposed changes to 49 CFR Part 26 and Part 23 as it relates to both DBE and ACDBE Programs.

Effective 10/3/2025, USDOT issued the DBE IFR Final Rule

The Interim Final Rule requires each Unified Certification Program (UCP) throughout the United States re-evaluate all current DBEs and ACDBEs.

In light of DOT's determination that the DBE program's race-and sex-based presumptions are unconstitutional, DOT issued an interim final rule removing the presumptions from the DBE program regulations.



DBE Interim Final Rule (IFR) 49 CFR 26 & 23 continued



All Certified Firms are required to submit the following:

- Submit a Personal Narrative detailing owners experience of disadvantage.
 - Demonstrate that the owner is socially and economically disadvantaged based on his or her own experiences and circumstances that occurred within American society, and without regard to race or sex.
- Submit an updated Personal Net Worth (PNW) Statement and include Supporting Documentation for all data entered on the PNW Statement.



Upcoming Workshops



- **Interim Final Rule Update Workshop** (April 22, 2026; Location & Time TBD)
- **Virtual Certification Workshop** (July 22, 2026; Location: Zoom, Time TBD)
- **DBE/ACDBE Certification Next Steps** (October 28, 2026; Location & Time TBD)



Business Diversity Development/Locating Contract Opportunities



To access St. Louis Lambert International Airport current and future concession, service or contract opportunities visit [Contract Opportunities - St. Louis Lambert International Airport](#).

If you have questions, please contact Delia Cummings, Contract Supervisor, Airport Properties Division dfcummings@flystl.com.

Construction Opportunities:

Major construction projects are contracted through the City of St. Louis-Board of Public Service. Visit [BPS Projects and RFQs](#).



How to apply on-line



<https://flystl.sbcompliance.com/>

For more information contact our office at

(314) 426-8111

or email us at

ofcbusinessop@flystl.com





flystl.com



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