

HILLSBOROUGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY (HART)

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 26.1, 26.23

Objectives/Policy Statement

HART has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. HART receives Federal financial assistance from DOT and, as a condition of receiving this assistance, HART has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

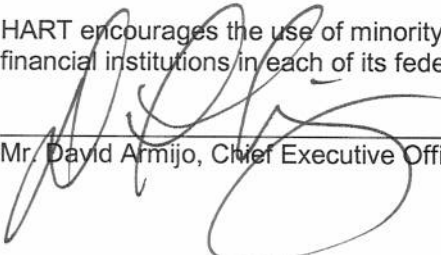
It is the policy of the HART to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT – assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

The Chief Administrative Officer has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Chief Administrative Officer 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 HART in its financial assistance agreements with DOT..

HART will disseminate this policy statement to the Board of Directors of HART and all of the components of our organization. We will distribute this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts by publishing this statement in a newspaper, or other media, of general circulation focused on minority readers, annually. Also, the policy statement will be posted on the HART website under Purchasing.

HART encourages the use of minority financial institutions. HART will provide a notice of minority financial institutions in each of its federally assisted procurements.


Mr. David Armijo, Chief Executive Officer

2/20/09
Date