



## Mandatory Federal-Aid Professional Services RFP Provisions

1. It is the policy of the Virginia Department of Transportation and the **City of Falls Church** that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of federally funded consultant contracts. A list of Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise certified DBE firms is maintained on their web site (<http://www.dmb.e.virginia.gov/>) under the **DBE Directory of Certified Vendors**. Consultants are encouraged to take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that DBE firms have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform services on the contract, including participation in any subsequent supplemental contracts. If the consultant intends to subcontract a portion of the services on the project, the consultant is encouraged to seek out and consider DBE firms as potential subconsultants. The consultant is encouraged to contact DBE firms to solicit their interest, capability and qualifications. Any agreement between a consultant and a DBE firm whereby the DBE firm promises not to provide services to other consultants is prohibited. **[Include the following wording on federally funded projects with stated DBE goals: The DBE contract goal for this procurement is 12%.] [Include the following wording on federally funded projects without a stated DBE goal: The Department believes that these services support 12% DBE participation.]**
    - Written documentation of the prime's commitment to the DBE or SWaM firm to subcontract a portion of the services, a description of the services to be performed and the percent of participation.
    - Written confirmation from the DBE or SWaM firm that it is participating, including a description of the services to be performed and the percent of participation.
  3. 49 CFR Part 26 requires VDOT to collect certain data about firms attempting to participate in VDOT contracts. This data must be provided on the enclosed Firm Data Sheet.
  4. VDOT is also required to capture DBE and SWaM payment information on all professional services contracts. The successful prime consultant will be required to complete C- 63 form for both state and federally funded projects on quarterly basis.
  5. Any DBE or SWaM firm must become certified (with the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise) prior to your response being submitted. If DBE or SWaM firm is the prime consultant, the firm will receive full credit for planned involvement of their own forces, as well as the work that they commit to be performed by DBE or SWaM subconsultants. DBE or SWaM prime consultants are encouraged to make the same outreach efforts as other consultants. DBE or SWaM credit will be awarded only for work actually being performed by them. When a DBE or SWaM prime consultant subcontracts work to another firm, the work counts toward DBE or SWaM goals only if the other firm is itself a DBE or SWaM. A DBE or SWaM prime consultant must perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30% of the total cost of its contract with its own force.
- FOR PROJECTS WITH DBE GOALS SET,  
PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 5 APPLY:**
2. **Include the following wording and two bullets on state or federally funded projects with a DBE or SWaM goal. In the following sentence and these two bullets, remove references to SWaM on federally funded projects and DBE on a state funded project.** If portions of the services are to be subcontracted to a DBE or SWaM, the following needs to be submitted with your EOI and both must reference the project number(s) for the services:
    - Written documentation of the prime's commitment to the DBE or SWaM firm to subcontract a portion of the services, a description of the services to be performed and the percent of participation.
    - Written confirmation from the DBE or SWaM firm that it is participating, including a description of the services to be performed and the percent of participation.
- FOR PROJECTS WITH NO DBE GOAL  
PARAGRAPH 6 APPLIES**

6. DBE or SWaM certification entitles consultants to participate in VDOT's DBE and SWaM programs. However, this certification does not guarantee that the firm will obtain VDOT work nor does it attest to the firm's abilities to perform any particular work.
7. Prior to the time of submittal of the EOI, all business entities, except for sole proprietorships, are required to register with the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Information about business registration can be found at <https://www.scc.virginia.gov/default.aspx>. Foreign Professional corporations and Foreign Professional Limited Liability Companies (i.e., organized or existing under the laws of a state or jurisdiction other than Virginia) must possess a Commonwealth of Virginia Certificate of Authority from the State Corporation Commission to render professional services. Any business entity other than a professional corporation, professional limited liability company or sole proprietorships that do not employ other individuals for which licensing is required must be registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia with the Department of Professional & Occupational Regulation <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/>, Virginia Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (Board). Board regulations require that all branch offices of professional corporations and business entities located in Virginia, which offer or render any professional services relating to the professions regulated by the Board shall be registered as separate branch office with the Board. All offices, including branches, which offer or render any professional service, must have at least one full-time resident professional in responsible charge who is licensed in the profession offered or rendered at that office. All firms involved that are to provide professional services must meet these criteria prior to submitting an Expression of Interest to the **City of Falls Church**. Individual engineers shall meet the requirements of Chapter 4, Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.
8. The **City of Falls Church** assures compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. The consultant and all subconsultants selected for this project will be required to submit a Title VI Evaluation Report (EEO-D2) within 10 work days of notification of selection when requested by the Department. This requirement applies to all consulting firms when the contract amount equals or exceeds \$10,000.
9. The City of Falls Church will not consider for award any cost proposals submitted by any consultants and will not consent to subcontracting any portions of the contract to any subconsultants in violation of the provisions of the Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which prohibits employment of illegal aliens.
10. All firms submitting EOI (prime consultants, joint ventures and subconsultants) must have internal control systems in place that meet federal requirements for accounting. These systems must comply with requirements of 48CFR31, "Federal Acquisition Regulations, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures," and 23CFR172, "Administration of Negotiated Contracts." All firms selected for a project (prime consultants, joint ventures and subconsultants) must submit their FAR audit data to the City of Falls Church within ten work days of being notified of their selection. Should any firm on the consultant team fail to submit the required audit data within the ten work days, negotiations may be terminated by the City of Falls Church and the next most qualified team invited to submit a proposal.
11. The City of Falls Church assures compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. The consultant and all subconsultants selected for this project will be required to submit a Title VI Evaluation Report (EEO-D2) within ten work days of notification of selection when requested by VDOT. This requirement applies to all consulting firms when the contract amount equals or exceeds \$10,000.
12. The City of Falls Church does not discriminate against an offeror because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment.
13. All firms shall complete and include the following completed forms:
  - Certification Regarding Debarment – Primary Covered Transactions (Prime Consultant)
  - Certification Regarding Debarment - Lower Tier Covered Transactions (Sub-Consultant)

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT**  
**PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS**  
**(To be completed by a Prime Consultant)**

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
  - a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.
  - b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgement rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; and have not been convicted of any violations of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
  - c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph 1) b) of this certification; and
  - d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
2. Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

The undersigned makes the foregoing statements to be filed with the proposal submitted on behalf of the offeror for contracts to be let by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Firm

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT**  
**LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS**  
**(To be completed by a Sub-consultant)**

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

The undersigned makes the foregoing statements to be filed with the proposal submitted on behalf of the offeror for contracts to be let by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Firm

## **GOOD FAITH EFFORT**

(Include with federal-aid project with DBE Goal)

The Department will accept what consultants submit in their EOI regarding good faith efforts. If a firm that has submitted good faith effort documentation makes the short list, the procuring Division Administrator (cannot be delegated unless he/she will be out of the office for more than five work days) along with a representative of the EO Division will determine if the good faith effort is acceptable.

When there is a contract goal, a consultant must make good faith efforts to meet it. The consultant can do so either through obtaining enough DBE participation to meet the goal or documenting the good faith efforts it made to do so. These means of meeting contract goal requirements are fully equivalent. 49 CFR Part 26 (the Rule) explicitly provides that the Department must not disregard showings of good faith efforts, and it gives consultants the right to have the Department reconsider a decision that their good faith efforts were insufficient. The Department is prohibited from denying a contract to a consultant simply because it did not obtain enough DBE participation to meet the goal. The Department must seriously consider consultants' documentation of good faith efforts. To make certain that consultants' showings are taken seriously, the Rule requires the Department to offer administrative reconsideration to consultants whose good faith efforts showings are initially rejected.

The Rule also ensures flexibility for consultants by requiring that any contract goal be waived entirely for a prime consultant that demonstrates that it made good faith efforts but was still unable to meet the goal.

When the Department sets a contract goal, the basic obligation of consultants is to make good faith efforts to meet it. They can demonstrate these efforts in either of two ways, which are equally valid. First, they can meet the goal, by documenting that they have obtained commitments for enough DBE participation to meet the goal. Second, even though they have not met the goal, they can document that they have made good faith efforts to do so. A refusal by the Department to accept valid showings of good faith is not acceptable under the Rule.

The Rule makes clear that the Department is not to use a "conclusive presumption" approach, in which the apparent successful consultant is summarily found to have failed to make good faith efforts simply because another consultant was able to meet the goal. However, the performance of other consultants in meeting the contract can be a relevant factor in a good faith effort determination, in more than one way. For example, when the apparent successful consultant fails to meet the contract goal, but others meet it, you may reasonably raise the question of whether, with additional reasonable efforts, the apparent successful consultant could have met the goal. It does not, by itself, prove that the apparent successful consultant did not make a good faith effort to get DBE participation, however. On the other hand, if the apparent successful consultant fails to meet the goal, but meets or exceeds the average DBE participation obtained by other consultants, the Department may view this, in conjunction with other factors, as evidence of the apparent successful consultant having made good faith efforts.

The fact that some additional costs may be involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a consultant's failure to meet a DBE contract goal, as long as such costs are reasonable.

If the Department determines that the apparent successful consultant has failed to meet the

requirements of a good faith effort, the Department must, before awarding the contract, provide the consultant an opportunity for administrative reconsideration. The Department intends that the process be informal and timely. The Department will ensure that the process is completed within a brief period (e.g., 5-10 days) to minimize any potential delay in procurements. The consultant will have an opportunity to meet with the reconsideration official, but a formal hearing is not required. As part of this reconsideration, the consultant must 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 Department's decision on reconsideration will be made by an official who did not take part in the original determination that the consultant failed to meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The consultant must have the opportunity to meet in person with the reconsideration official to discuss the issues of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The Department will send the consultant a written decision on reconsideration, explaining the basis for finding that the consultant did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The Department's reconsideration personnel consists of the Commissioner's DBE Review Panel.

It is up to the Department to make a fair and reasonable judgment whether a consultant that did not meet the goal made adequate good faith efforts. It is important for the Department to consider the quality, quantity, and intensity of the different kinds of efforts that the consultant has made. The efforts employed by the consultant should be those that one could reasonably expect a consultant to take if the consultant were actively and aggressively trying to obtain DBE participation sufficient to meet the DBE contract goal. Mere pro forma efforts are not good faith efforts to meet the DBE contract requirements. The Department's determination concerning the sufficiency of the firm's good faith efforts is a judgment call: meeting quantitative formulas is not required.

If DBE is prime, they will be allowed to count toward goals the work they commit to performing with their own forces, as well as the work that they commit to be performed by DBE subcontractors. DBE consultants on prime contracts will be expected to make the same outreach efforts as other consultants.

When a DBE participates in a contract, the Department will count only the value of the work actually performed by the DBE toward DBE goals. When a DBE subcontracts part of the work of its contract to another firm, the value of the subcontracted work may be counted toward DBE goals only if the DBE's subcontractor is itself a DBE. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE firm does not count toward DBE goals. Count expenditures to a DBE contractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE is performing a commercially useful function on that contract. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, or the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved, you must presume that it is not performing a commercially useful function. If a DBE firm loses certification, its work no longer counts toward the DBE goal.

All consultants will be required to submit the following information to the Department with the EOI:

- The names and addresses of DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
- A description of the work that each DBE will perform;
- The percentage amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating;
- Written documentation of the prime consultant's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet a contract goal;
- Written confirmation from the DBE that it is participating in the contract as provided in the prime contractor's commitment; and

- If the contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts.

The Department has prepared a list based on Federal Regulations of some of the kinds of efforts that consultants may make in obtaining DBE participation. It is not intended to be a mandatory checklist. The Department does not require that a consultant do any one, or particular combination, of the things on the list, nor is the list intended to be exclusive or exhaustive; it merely offers examples. Other factors or types of efforts may be relevant in appropriate cases. In determining whether a consultant has made good faith efforts, it will usually be important for the Department to look not only at the different kinds of efforts that the Consultant has made, but also of the timeliness, quantity, and intensity of these efforts.

The Department offers the following examples of efforts that may be considered:

A. Soliciting through all reasonable and available means (e.g., attendance at project showings, advertising and/or written notices) the interest of all certified DBEs who have the capability to perform the work of the contract. The consultant must solicit this interest within sufficient time to allow the DBEs to participate effectively. The consultant must determine with certainty if the DBEs are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow up initial solicitations.

B. Selecting portions of the work to be performed by DBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the DBE goals will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units to facilitate DBE participation, even when the prime consultant might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces.

C. Providing interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract.

D. (1) Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs. It is the consultant's responsibility to make a portion of the work available to DBE subcontractors and suppliers and to select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available DBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate DBE participation. Evidence of such negotiation includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of DBEs that were considered; a description of the information provided regarding the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting; and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for DBEs to perform the work.

D. (2) A consultant using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including DBE subcontractors, and would take a firm's costs, qualifications and capabilities as well as contract goals into consideration. However, the fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a consultant's failure to meet the contract DBE goal, as long as such costs are reasonable. Also, the ability or desire of a prime consultant to perform the work of a contract with its own organization does not relieve the consultant of the responsibility to make good faith efforts. Prime consultants are not, however, required to accept higher quotes from DBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable.

E. Not rejecting DBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities. The contractor's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups, organizations, or associations and political or social affiliations (for example union vs. non-union employee status) are not legitimate causes for the rejection or non-solicitation of bids in the contractor's efforts to meet the project goal.

F. Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by the recipient or contractor.

G. Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services.

H. Effectively using the services of available minority community organizations; minority contractors' groups; local, state, and Federal minority business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs.