# DBE ACCESS



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Deputy Governor & Commissioner of Transportation

#### **JESSICA STARLING**

Director, TDOT Civil Rights Division

#### **DAVID NEESE**

Director, Small Business Development Program

## DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Tyler Construction Engineers,





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## **NEW DBE REGULATIONS**

**DAVID NEESE** 

Small Business Development Program Director

Greek philosopher Heraclitus once stated that "the only constant in life Is change." If you are like me, you are not a big fan of change. I would rather have a workday where I can plan everything out, budget my time and gauge what can be accomplished for the day. However, this never happens. Every time I think I have a day like this, the figurative curveball flies right at me, bonks me on the head and all my plans go out the window.

But change is inevitable so we must embrace it or at least make the best of it. If you have not been keeping up with the latest DBE news, you may not be aware of the massive changes to this program that recently went into effect. On April 9th of this year, USDOT notified state DOTs that 49 CFR 26, the regulation that governs the federal DBE program, is having a major update and these rules would go into effect on May 9th (just one month later). This sent us scrambling to read through the new rules to see what all changed since the previous update. There are too many changes to go into, so I have highlighted a few below and included links to the DBE rules or forms. I highly encourage everyone to look at the USDOT Final Rule website (especially the summary page) as well as the full DBE regulations for more information.

#### **INTERSTATE CERTIFICATION**

Prior to the rule changes each state decided its process for certifying DBE firms from out-of-state. They could simply accept their home state certification, or they could ask for part or all of the home state's file. This process has been drastically streamlined. Now, when applying to another state, a DBE needs to only submit three things: A cover letter specifying they want to be a DBE and listing all other states for which they may be certified; an electronic image of the directory from the home state showing their DBE certification; and a Declaration of Eligibility form. The new state then has 10 days to certify the firm as a DBE.

#### APPLICATION, PNW FORM AND PNW THRESHOLD

These three items have also been updated. The biggest change is in the Personal Net Worth (PNW) cap. The old threshold was \$1.32 million which has now increased to \$2.047 million.

REGULATIONS

#### **PROMPT PAYMENT**

Beginning with contracts awarded in TDOT's June 2024 Letting, all DBE subcontractors must verify the payments made to them each month. This used to be an optional step but has now been made mandatory to help ensure payment to the DBEs are timely and there is more real-time monitoring.

#### **SUPPLYING**

The new rule changes also ushered in a new subcategory for supplying: Distributors. A Distributor is "an established business that engages in the regular sale or lease of the items specified by the contract," but differs from a Regular Dealer in that it neither has inventory or distribution equipment for the supplies. Distributors assume liability for supplies from the point of origin (e.g., a manufacturer's facility), assuming all risk for the item. Unlike Regular Dealers who can receive 60% credit toward the goal, Distributors may only count 40%. To help ensure that the DOT is receiving the correct credit amount, any DBE who is supplying must complete a DBE Regular Dealer – Distributor Affirmation Form at the time of their bid.

These are a few of the changes implemented to strengthen the Department of Transportation's DBE and ACDBE Program. We realize that DBEs, primes and others are not going to know all of these rules or have the level of familiarity that we do with these regulations, so we encourage you to contact the office for assistance as it applies to the program. We are here to help you succeed so please feel free to reach out to us anytime at TDOT.DBE.Program@tn.gov.





#### VICTOR C. TYLER, P.E., MASCE, TSPE,

Construction Cost & Pricing Consultant

Business owners often experience many of the same issues and are eager to share those experiences to help and educate others. TDOT's 2024 DBE Annual Meeting is the perfect place for sharing and gathering TDOT information as well as for networking to help your business.

Successful business owners clearly understand that networking is a valuable resource and is essential in building a business, but there is a challenge. To get busy owners away from their office and projects requires a very special event, an event with specialized people sharing knowledge that can lead to profitable opportunities. That's the goal of TDOT's 2024 DBE Annual Meeting - sharing quality information.

The DBE Annual Meeting offers informative sessions and classroom presentations with knowledgeable and well-versed speakers. There's no replacing a face-to-face handshake with key decision makers, being one-on-one and up-close with those that can impact your bottom line. It's the perfect time to network with DBE Owners, Prime Contractors and key TDOT decision makers who are responsible in large part for the distribution of vital and timely TDOT information.

### THE 2024 TOOT DBE SMALL BUSINESS MEETING... A NETWORKING EVENT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

Keep in mind, Tennessee has approved a \$15-Bllion, 10 Year Transportation Plan. As a prime or sub-contractor working or wanting to work with TDOT, this event will provide you with information on TDOT's projects and goals you do not want to miss!

It is not too late for DBEs and Prime Contractors to sign up for this year's DBE Annual Meeting; don't procrastinate, sign-up today. We look forward to seeing you there!





#### **DBE Small Business Annual Meeting**

SONESTA Nashville Airport, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville TN 3214

#### ARE YOU CONTRACT READY? TDOT's \$15 Billion 10-Year Transportation Plan

Build With Us To Modernize Tennessee's Transportation System

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024**

7:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration & Continental Breakfast (Exhibitor Table Setup)

8:15 am -8:30 am Welcome Remarks

David Neese - Program Manager, TDOT Small Business Development Program Jessica Starling - Director, TDOT Civil Rights Division

8:30 am -9:10 am Chris Smith, Senior Surety Broker & Advisor, Anderson & Catania Surety Services, LLC

**BREAK** 

DBE Panel Discussion: Power of Collaborating - Networking - Partnering

Moderator: Dewayne Scott (TDS & Associates, LLC)

9:15 am- 10:05 am Proposed Panel

Reggie Polk- Polk & Associates Construction, Inc

Wiley Richards & Terrell Richards - W & T Contracting Corporation

Willie Frazier - A-1 Electrical Contractors, Inc.

BREAK

Opportunities for Contractors, Engineers, and TDOT P3 and Alternative Delivery Defined Suppliers

Moderator: Brian Egan- Dir. Construction Div

10:10 am -11:00 • Dexter Justis - TDOT Region 1 Project Mgmt

am • Mike O'Donnell- TDOT Region 2 Project Mgmt

- Sarah Fugate- TDOT Region 3 Project Mgmt Chad Schulhauser- Dir. TDOT Professional
- Brandon Akins-TDOT Region 4 Project Mgmt

Moderator: Victor Tyler - Tyler Construction Engineers, P.C./ Supportive Services Consultant

- · Clayton Markham Dir., Alternative Contracting
- Brvan Ledford- Exec. Director, TDOT P3
- Services

BREAK

12:00 - 1:30 pm

11:05 am -11:55 Room A (REPEAT)
Opportunities for Contractors, Engineers, and TDOT P3 and Alternative Delivery Defined am Suppliers

**BREAK** 

**CRD Awards Luncheon** 

Brief Remarks:

Jessica Starling - TDOT Director of Civil Rights Division Daniel Hinton - FHWA, Tennessee Division Administrator

Kent Starwalt - TRBA, Executive Vice President

Overview of the State's 10 Year Transportation Modernization Act

**TDOT Leadership Team** 

CRD Bridge Builder Awards (Prime, DBE, TDOT Employee)

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm Marketplace Hall and Business Networking Reception

5:30 pm End of Annual Meeting





Starting in 2024, there's a new federal requirement that may affect your business. Under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), most small businesses will need to file a Beneficial Owner Information (BOI) Report with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Here's what you need to know:

#### WHAT IS THE CTA?

The Corporate Transparency Act aims to enhance transparency in business ownership and combat illicit activities such as money laundering and terrorist financing.

#### WHO NEEDS TO FILE?

If your business is a corporation, LLC, or similar entity created or registered with a secretary of state, you'll likely need to file. Exceptions include publicly traded companies and certain regulated entities like banks and insurance companies.

If your company was formed or registered with the state before January 1, 2024, you must file an initial BOI report by January 1, 2025. For businesses created or registered on or after January 1, 2024, the deadlines are as follows:

- Companies created between January 1, 2024, and January
   1, 2025, have 90 days from their creation date to file.
- Companies created on or after January 1, 2025, have 30 days from their creation date to file.

The BOI report must include information about the company's beneficial owners and company applicants. This includes:

- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Residential address
- Unique identifying number from an acceptable identification document (e.g., passport, driver's license)
- An image of the identification document

#### WHAT IS A BENEFICIAL OWNER?

A beneficial owner is defined as any individual who directly or indirectly:

- Exercises substantial control over the company
- Owns or controls at least 25% of the company's ownership interests.

#### **HOW TO FILE?**

Reports must be filed electronically through FinCEN's secure filing system. FinCEN will provide detailed instructions and technical guidance on their website: <a href="https://www.fincen.gov/boi">https://www.fincen.gov/boi</a>.

#### **DEADLINES FOR UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS**

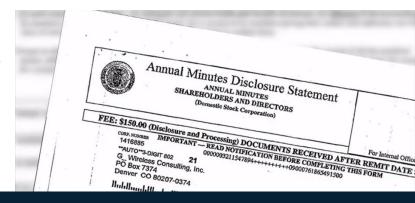
Businesses must file an updated report within 30 days if there are changes to the previously reported information, such as changes in beneficial owners or their details. If inaccuracies are found, corrections must be submitted within 30 days of discovery.

#### **PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

Failing to file the required BOI report or providing false information can result in severe penalties. Civil penalties can be up to \$500 for each day the violation continues, while criminal penalties may include fines of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to two years. Additionally, senior company officers may be held personally liable for failure to comply.

#### **NEED HELP?**

For more detailed information and assistance with filing your BOI report, visit the FinCEN website <a href="https://www.fincen.gov/boi">https://www.fincen.gov/boi</a> or contact your tax advisor.



SUCCESS ON CONTRACTS Develop a Best Practice Checklist. Maintain proactive communication. Attend project meetings. Follow proper communication channels (subcontractors should communicate with owners or engineers only through the Prime). Primes must run project meetings effectively. Designate someone to write the meeting minutes. Review meeting minutes and have corrections made for any erroneous or inaccurate statements. Review the scope before signing a subcontract. Inform your project team what was agreed upon in the subcontract agreement. Your supervisory personnel on the project must be competent and communicate well. Always negotiate disputes expeditiously with the intent of achieving an equitable agreement. Document your phone calls, conversations, and meetings.

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR

# FINANCIAL CHECK-UP

SANDRA WEBB

QuickBooks Pro-Advisor / TDOT
Supportive Services Consultant



Communicate projects with key stakeholder(s).

**Schedule a financial check-up** for your business at the end of the second quarter to see what adjustments you may need to make at this point.

Make sure your Bank Reconciliation reflects current to date balance(s).

Check your Account Receivable Aging Detail to see what is outstanding that needs to be collected or written off.

**Check your Profitability Statement** to see what jobs have been profitable and if they were not, why.

Look at your Project Cost Detail.

Look at your Profit and Loss Statement & Balance Sheet through the end of the second quarter for accuracy and compare it to the same period of previous year.

Look at your Budget and see if you are meeting your current projection.

Take a good look at the next six months to see how it looks.



As my good friend Jay B. Mercer, a consultant with the Tyler Team, would say, "It depends." In the world of marketing, it depends on who's looking for the product or service you're offering. If you are working in the construction industry, social media marketing may not be your first or second marketing choice for that industry. Maybe a networking and/or partnering event with your area's industry influencers and leaders would be a more effective way of increasing your business opportunities. You may want to develop an old school referral program called "word-of-mouth marketing" and leverage your existing customers to encourage new ones to try your service.

Here are six popular marketing methods and platforms to consider based on your industry:

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING**

If your customers spend a lot of time on social media, this is definitely the platform to be on. This is where a lot of marketing promotions are being viewed and discussed. The benefit of this platform is that it also allows direct lines of communication to your end-users or decision makers.

#### **NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS**

Building relationships with other business owners and industry leaders can open doors to new business. The goal is to allow owners to leverage each other's resources and gain exposure to new opportunities.

#### **REFERRAL PROGRAMS**

Referral programs incentivize existing customers and associates to refer new business. It's effective because it capitalizes on word-of-mouth marketing, leverages trust between the referrer and prospect, that often results in additional business.

#### **EMAIL MARKETING**

Email Marketing allows you to communicate directly with decision makers. It's effective with creating leads, promoting products and/or services, and driving interest. It's a great, effective, low-cost marketing tool.

#### **INFLUENCER MARKETING**

Shopping for and partnering with influencers in your service niche can help you reach people who have notable credibility in your service industry. Influencer marketing is effective because it leverages the trust and good will that an influencer has and allows you to established credibility with new potential customers.

#### **CONTENT MARKETING**

Content marketing involves creating and showcasing relevant content to attract and engage customers. Through a website or software app, you can typically produce effective content that allows you to showcase your expertise, build trust and generate new customers.

Marketing is all about generating interest. You must understand how to reach the decision maker or end-user within your industry. Once that's determined, then you will be in a better position to choose a marketing platform to communicate from.

For more information contact

DBE\_supportive\_services@tyler-engineers.com





# PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES FOR DBE SMALL BUSINESSES

#### **DAVID NEESE**

Small Business Development Program Director









The TDOT Supportive Services Program provides training and business assistance services to TNUCP and TDOT-certified DBEs. The benefit of DBEs participating in the activities of this program can help facilitate their development into viable, self-sufficient businesses capable of competing for, and performing on, Federally-assisted highway projects.

TDOT Supportive Services consultants are ready and waiting to assist you with ANY questions you may have! Have a nagging HR question that has been on your mind? Want to set up a job cost accounting system for your company but don't know the first step? Want to diversify your business but not sure which direction to take? Want to know the easiest and best ways to maximize your estimating and bidding resources?

Supportive Services provide DBE firms with general and firm-specific training and technical assistance to help them to become more competitive within the transportation

industry. This program will give DBE firms an opportunity to gain a competitive edge within and outside the highway industry. This valuable resource strives to assist DBE firms to become self-sufficient in their respective industries. A variety of training programs and technical assistance is provided by the Supportive Services consultant to assist DBEs in meeting these goals.

Supportive Services is managed by experienced industry management consultants at Tyler Construction Engineers, P.C., located at 810 Dominican Drive, Suite 313, Nashville, Tennessee. Supportive Services is here for you! Our consultants are a valuable resource with a vast range of knowledge and expertise available to meet you at your convenience at your office or project site.

**Victor C. Tyler, P.E.,** Cost & Pricing / A/E/C Management Consultant

Curtis Webb, Strategic Marketing / Business Development

**Jay B. Mercer, E.A.,** QuickBooks Pro-advisor / Small Business Tax Specialist

**Sandra T. Webb,** QuickBooks Pro-advisor / Certified Payroll Consultant

**Teresa C. Daniel,** PHR, Human Resource Consultant / Leadership Development

The answers are at your fingertips with Consultants on Call. It's that easy! Please contact Supportive Services at 1.888.385.9022 or email at <a href="mailto:DBE\_Supportive\_Services@tyler-engineers.com">DBE\_Supportive\_Services@tyler-engineers.com</a>, or visit <a href="https://tylerengineers.com/supportive-services">https://tylerengineers.com/supportive-services</a>.

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. MARSHALL TABB





## **DBE SPOTLIGHT CORNER**

THE CLEANING LEADERS, LLC

SANDRA POTTER, FOUNDER AND OWNER

https://www.thecleaningleaders.com/

From a full-time registered nurse to a DBE, womanowned small business leader, Sandra Potter's journey is a testament to her determination and entrepreneurial spirit. In 2007, she founded The Cleaning Leaders, a humble cleaning service that has since evolved into a multifaceted enterprise specializing in construction site cleaning, pressure washing, asbestos abatement, and selective demolition.

Sandra credits her success to building meaningful, genuine relationships and taking pride in delivering quality service to her internal and external customers. Her commitment to caring for her employees as much as she cares for her customers has proven to be a valuable asset. She shared, "When you care, it speaks volumes, and everyone can win." Delivering quality, safety, and innovative service are key values that work for Sandra and her team.

Beyond her business, Sandra has also proven to be a trusted mentor and leader, championing women entrepreneurs. She provides single moms with a pathway to create their own business space to adequately provide for their families. Her willingness to mentor and support her competitors is a testament to her belief in shared success. As she says, "You can't take it with you and everyone can have a piece of the pie."

Over the years, The Cleaning Leaders have become synonymous with trust, integrity, and quality by building trusted partnerships in the construction industry with renowned companies such as Skanska, Turner, Hansel Phelps, Messer, Bell, and many others. Sandra's dedication to excellence has also led the business to contribute to prominent projects, including the BNA Airport expansion, MSL Stadium construction, and JW Marriott Hotel, to name a few.

When asked what the next chapter for her as a leader and The Cleaning Leaders was, Sandra stated she would continue focusing on her customer's needs.

"Don't do the business you want to do but focus on what the customers want and need you to do for them."

This motto has been a game changer for her and her team. When her customers request a specific service she does not provide, she will set out to educate herself, provide training for her staff, and become an expert. She also says, "When you build trusted and quality relationships, your customers will look to you for what they need next."

This is a reminder to keep an eye on Sandra Potter and The Cleaning Leaders as they continue to expand their service lines to contribute to the construction industry. We are excited to see where Sandra and her team will show up and show out next as The Cleaning Leaders!





# 2024 TOOT DBE SMALL BUSINESS ANNUAL MEETING



Are You Contract Ready? Build With Us: TDOT's \$15 Billion 10-Year Transportation Plan.

This "ONE DAY EVENT" is all about helping you understand TDOT'S \$15 Billion 10-Year Transportation Plan!

As a prime or sub-contractor doing work or wanting to do work with TDOT, this event will provide you with information on TDOT's projects and goals that you do not want to miss!

### **FREE TO ATTEND**

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. SONESTA Nashville Airport, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Workshops
- Panel Discussions
- · Presentation of TDOT's Transportation Modernization Plan
- Networking Opportunities For Meaningful Relationships









## TDOT 2024 Construction Letting Dates:

August 16, 2024 October 4, 2024

November 1, 2024 (Mowing & Litter Removal)

December 6, 2024

The TDOT Civil Rights Division Small Business Development Program and its Supportive Services Consultants offer a variety of training classes designed to assist USDOT certified DBE firms to succeed in the transportation construction industry. Seminars and informational meetings are made available throughout the state. The primary focus of these seminars is to disseminate industry specific information on estimating and bidding, strategic marketing, job cost accounting, cash flow management, business planning, leadership development directly to your email inbox.

Our Supportive Services Consultants are ready and waiting to assist.

#### Please Note:

Beginning in 2022, TDOT began utilizing AASHTOWare Project Civil Rights & Labor (CRL) as a requirement of contract compliance for submitting and certifying contractor payrolls. Special Provision 107CP was added to ALL CONTRACTS that year using this new functionality, which is required for the prime contractor and all subcontractors. The Certified Payrolls Webpage gives the contractors guidance on steps they need to take to begin this functionality in AASHTOWare. If you have any questions, please visit our website or contact us at TDOT.CONSTRUCTIONLaborUsers@tn.gov.

"IF YOU COULD GET ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE ORGANIZATION ROWING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, YOU COULD DOMINATE ANY INDUSTRY, IN ANY MARKET, AGAINST ANY COMPETITION, AT ANY TIME."

— PATRICK LENCIONI, AUTHOR & CREATOR OF THE 6 TYPES OF WORKING GENIUS

## TDOT Civil Rights Division Small Business Development Program Team

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#### **TDOT Supportive Services Consultant**

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