

MBE/WBE vs. DBE: What's the Difference?

DBE Program

Governed by federal regulations 49 CFR Part 26.

Program applies to only transportation-related contracts that include any amount of federal funds.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)—Economic Opportunity Division.

INDOT is the sole DBE certifying entity in the State of Indiana.

Must show social and economic disadvantage (Owner personal net worth under \$750k and annual gross receipts under Small Business Administration size standard applicable to business, but in no case over \$22.41m).

Disadvantaged owner must possess requisite expertise for type of business

Goals “narrowly tailored” for each individual contract by INDOT to cumulatively achieve annual agency DBE goal.

MBE/WBE Program

Governed by State regulations 25 IAC § 5 et seq.

Program applies to all types of contracts (not limited to transportation-related INDOT contracts) that are 100% state funded.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Administration's Division of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.

Other entities provide MBE/WBE certification: City of Indianapolis, RMSDC (MBE only)

Must show social disadvantage.

No personal net worth or gross receipt limits.

Disadvantaged owner may hire employee with requisite expertise.

Fixed goals added to contracts based on contract type (procurement, construction, service) set annually by Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.