

INDOT would like to provide an update on the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and the steps we continue to take to implement recent changes resulting from the U.S. DOT's **interim final rule** issued on October 3, 2025. We recognize this transition has required significant coordination, and we truly appreciate your continued engagement.

Reevaluation Process Progress and Updates

INDOT began the statewide DBE reevaluation process on February 23, 2026. The priority submission window closed June 30, 2026, though firms may still complete reevaluations if they did not submit during that period. INDOT received roughly 200 reevaluations and has issued determinations for about 85% of them. For remaining re-evaluations, timely responses to requests for information are essential. INDOT continues to accept and process new DBE certification applications under the updated federal requirements. Collection of the annual declaration of eligibility (DOE) requirement remains paused. INDOT will notify firms directly via ITAP once collection resumes. DBEs-please ensure that your email address and contact information remain up to date by logging in to ITAP to continue to receive this important information.

Next Steps

It is likely that the **final rule** for the DBE program will be released prior to the end of calendar year 2026. INDOT continues to await guidance from FHWA/USDOT on a disparity study and goal setting methodology. Once the final rule is released and guidance is received, INDOT will take the necessary steps to reinstate goals on federal aid contracts.

INDOT is actively moving forward by:

- Submitting an updated DBE program plan to FHWA.
- Exploring and developing options for a Small Business Enterprise program.
- Reviewing DBE survey results and building an action plan based on what we learned.
- Expanding technical assistance and resources for small businesses.
- Launching a Small Business Advisory Council.
- Continuing to share updates and keep partners informed as the program evolves.

We're grateful for the support from Indiana's business community as we continue to work through this transition together. INDOT is committed to creating opportunities for small businesses and being a reliable resource for our partners along the way.

If you have questions, please contact BOIInquiry@indot.in.gov.