

Notice Regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation Final DBE Rule

The United States Department of Transportation issued a [DBE/ACDBE Final Rule](#) and [FAQs](#) on September 25, 2026. The DBE/ACDBE Final Rule replaces the October 2025 Interim Final Rule and provides additional guidance on the programs.

The Final Rule clarifies that persons claiming social and economic disadvantaged status may include individualized race or sex-based discrimination in their personal narratives. The information may not be generalized claims of race- or sex-based discrimination stemming from membership in a historically disadvantaged group, however. Evidence must be based on the individual's unique personal experiences and circumstances.

Certifiers may disregard a claim if the owner presents evidence of discriminatory conduct but fails to connect that conduct to a negative impact on their entry or advancement in the business world.

For firms that have already submitted reevaluation documentation

If you have submitted your Personal Narrative (PN), Personal Net Worth (PNW) statement, and all requested documentation:

Your application will continue through the reevaluation process. TUCP staff may contact you if additional information is needed.

Your certification remains active while the reevaluation is pending unless a formal certification decision is issued.

The TUCP will finalize and publish all reevaluations at the conclusion of the reevaluation process, not as each one is reviewed. If you are unsure of your status, email or call us using the contact information below.

If you are seeking interstate certification in another state and need evidence of successful reevaluation, email or call us using the contact information below.

Certifiers must reconsider applications that may have been rejected because applicants discussed race- or sex-based discrimination, provided that the discrimination was presented as individualized evidence rather than as a basis for presumptive eligibility.

If you have submitted reevaluation documents but your application is incomplete

- TUCP staff will contact you regarding the missing items.
- Respond promptly to all requests for information.
- Failure to provide all required documentation by the reevaluation deadline may result in disqualification from the program(s).

For firms that have not submitted reevaluation documentation

The Final Rule establishes specific deadlines for firms to complete the reevaluation process.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has directed certifiers to allow firms until **December 24, 2026** to submit required reevaluation documentation. Firm owners that have not completed their applications by that date will receive a notice of nonresponse from the TUCP and will have until **March 24, 2027** to provide a complete reevaluation package, otherwise the TUCP will issue a Notice of Decision automatically disqualifying the firm without further administrative proceedings.

If you have not yet submitted your [required documentation](#) and wish to continue in the program, we strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued participation in the DBE and ACDBE Programs. Additional information can be found in the [Final Rule FAQ](#). For questions, please contact the Civil Rights Division at CivilRights@txdot.gov or 512-416-4700, or visit our [website](#) for all reevaluation resources.

Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP)

- [Texas Department of Transportation](#)
- [City of Austin](#)
- [City of Houston](#)
- [Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority](#)
- [North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency](#)
- [South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency](#)