

DBE Support Services

REGION B - BRIDGE CITY/NEW ORLEANS & HAMMOND



Urban League of Louisiana
Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation



MONTHLY DIGEST

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LADOTD Project
Letting Information

Get LAUCP DBE
Certified

ULLA Upcoming
Events and Trainings



Urban League of Louisiana provides business support services to existing and aspiring DBEs that are interested in doing business with the LADOTD in Region B. Services include one-on-one business counseling, capacity-building coaching, contractor-specific and general entrepreneurship trainings, certification assistance, funding and bonding assistance, and access to LADOTD bid opportunities. For more information, please email dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org.

DBE Certification

DBE Certification Changes: Submitting Your Louisiana Unified Certification Program Firm Re-Evaluation Response Form

Attention Certified DBE/ACDBE Firms: On September 30, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) revising certain regulations governing the **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)** and **Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE)** programs. These changes took effect on October 3, 2025, and the public comment period closed November 3, 2025.

What's Changing?

As part of the IFR, USDOT amended 49 CFR Parts 26 and 23, removing the prior race- and sex-based presumptions of social and economic disadvantage. Under the new rule, determinations of disadvantage must be made on an individual basis. Specifically: 49 CFR §26.5 – “*Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual*” means any individual who is a U.S. citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) and who a [DBE/ACDBE Program] certifier finds to be socially and economically disadvantaged based on individualized proof, and not in whole or in part on race or sex.

49 CFR §26.67 – All [DBE/ACDBE Program] applicants must now affirmatively demonstrate social and economic disadvantage (SED) based on their own experiences and circumstances within American society, without regard to race or sex. Each applicant must provide a Personal Narrative (PN) that establishes disadvantage by a preponderance of the evidence, showing specific instances of systemic barriers, economic hardship, or denied opportunities that caused measurable economic harm. The PN must be accompanied by a Personal Net Worth (PNW) statement and any relevant documentation.

Why LAUCP Contacted You

To follow the new federal requirements, the Louisiana Unified Certification Program (LAUCP) must now reevaluate all currently certified DBE and ACDBE firms. During this process, your certifying agency will:

- **Review** your firm's eligibility under the new rule.
- **Recertify** your firm if you meet the updated standards; or
- **Decertify** your firm only if you do not meet the new standards or do not respond to the LAUCP re-evaluation request.

Your LAUCP re-evaluation is required by USDOT under 49 CFR §26.111 (Subpart F — Compliance and Enforcement) and must be completed following the new rule.

The Personal Narrative and the Personal Net Worth Statement, including the accompanying guidance, are still being finalized by LAUCP. All certified DBEs will receive the request to submit these documents once they become available.

What You Need to Do Now

In the meantime, and as soon as possible, please let LADOTD know if your firm would like to continue participating in the LAUCP by confirming that you want to be re-evaluated under the new IFR standards.

To do this, please respond to the LAUCP re-evaluation request promptly by:

1. **Completing** the official Louisiana Unified Certification Program (LAUCP) Firm Re-evaluation Response Form.
2. **Printing out AND Signing** your form; and,
3. **Returning** your completed form to 2025IFRCCompliance@la.gov.

Please note that each LAUCP certifying agency has its own response form. The form used here is for LADOTD certified DBEs only.

LAUCP LADOTD Re-Evaluation Response Form

Frequently Asked Questions

What's Next?

Once LADOTD receives your confirmation to participate in the LAUCP re-evaluation under the new IFR standards, they will send you:

1. The new LAUCP Personal Narrative (PN) form and helpful guidance on completing it; and,
2. Instructions for updating your USDOT Personal Net Worth (PNW) statement.

Please note that this request will not be immediate. The new documents are still being finalized by LAUCP.

Once the request is made, your prompt response will help LADOTD to complete your re-evaluation smoothly and keep your LAUCP certification active. We appreciate your prompt attention and cooperation as we work together to implement these important federal regulatory updates.

Questions? Email us at dbesupport@urbanleaguela.org.

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