

# DBE CERTIFICATION

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

FROM APPLICATION TO CERTIFICATION



# HOW IS A FIRM CERTIFIED?

**An individual or firm interested in certification, must make application through the Georgia Unified Certification Program (GUCP).**

**Pursuant to 49 CFR §26.81, all DOT recipients must participate in a Unified Certification Program (UCP).**

# WHAT IS THE GUCP?

**The Georgia Unified Certification Program (GUCP) is a statewide one stop shop certification for DBEs.**

**Eligibility Criteria for DBE certification is outlined in 49 CFR Part 26. (49 CFR §26.61, Subpart D).**

**By a preponderance of the evidence, the firm must prove that it meets the requirements of social and economic disadvantage, business size, personal net worth, ownership and control.**



# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CERTIFICATION?

- **Once certified, the firm's contact information, and NAICS code(s) are placed in the GUCP DBE directory,**
- **The directory is available to all contractors bidding on GDOT projects,**
- **The DBE firm has access to all programs and activities undertaken by the Supportive Services consultant.**

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CERTIFICATION

## Con't

- **The Supportive Services agreement is designed to first identify any impediments to the success of DBE firms.**
- **Any impediments are methodically addressed through:**
  - a) DBE Roundtables,**
  - b) Matchmaker Sessions,**
  - c) Listening Sessions,**
  - d) Annual Conferences,**
  - e) One on One Assistance**

# Doing Business with Archer Western

Outreach Activity 11-13-13





# **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CERTIFICATION**

## **Con't**

**Though the Certification process is complete once the DBE certification has been issued, in order to work with GDOT, the DBE will need to become prequalified as a Contractor or Consultant. That process is separate and distinct from the certification process and is designed to solicit the capabilities of the DBE in the work area it has identified.**

# CONCLUSION

**The objective of the DBE program is to provide assistance to identified DBEs in the growth and development of their businesses.**

**We will achieve this end by creative and dedicated attention to the needs of our DBE firms.**

**We will continue working toward the creation of an increasingly credible and professional program that is seen as a benefit to the participating DBEs and the Prime Contractors with whom they are partnered.**



# EEO Accomplishments 2013

- **On 01/01/2013, 219 DBE applications were pending review,**
- **All 219 of those applications were over the federally mandated 90 day review period,**
- **Average time elapsed on each application was 342 days,**
- **By mid January 2013, all 219 applications had been assigned for review and were finalized within 120 days,**
- **Between January and October 2013, 250 new applications have been received,**
- **All of the 250 new applications have been processed,**
- **All of the 250 new applications were processed within the federally mandated 90 day review period.**

# **EEO Accomplishments 2013 cont**

- **Per federal mandate, EEO has created and implemented a Small Business Program,**
- **Partnered with OFCCP to conduct statewide contract compliance reviews (diminishing multiple reviews for contractors and offering more immediate compliance reporting for EEO),**
- **Restructured DBE unit. Hired a Lead Coordinator with new emphasis on ownership of applicant files to heighten efficiency and quality of review,**
- **Implemented a ready, willing and able DBE formula on project specific goals,**
- **Timely responses to all federal reporting directives,**

# **EEO Accomplishments 2013 cont**

- **Development of training matrix to identify professional development needs of EEO staff,**
- **Formation of a Best Practices Committee to identify successful EEO activity in other DOT's for use at GDOT,**
- **Creation of specific outreach activity for pending GDOT projects providing greater notice and opportunity for DBE participation,**
- **Working with FHWA on the implementation of a business development program for DBEs,**