

Disparity Study

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ	WSDOT Disparity Study	Washington State Statewide Disparity Study	FAA DBE Program Disparity Study
<p>What is the purpose of the study?</p>	<p>Legal Requirement. This study is a legal requirement for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. The study will determine the availability versus utilization of minority and women owned businesses. The study also evaluates WSDOT's implementation of the DBE Program and recommends areas for improvement and additional race and gender neutral measures WSDOT should consider adopting to improve DBE participation.</p>	<p>Governor's Commitment. Governor Jay Inslee has made a commitment to conduct a statewide disparity study. The study will analyze the availability of majority-, minority-, women-, and veteran-owned firms able and willing to work for the state, the state's utilization of those firms, whether there are any disparities between availability and utilization rates, and the factors contributing to any identified disparities. The study will also assess race and gender neutral strategies employed by the state to reduce disparities and identify procurement process improvements. The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) is overseeing the study on behalf of the state.</p>	<p>Legal Requirement. The disparity study is designed to meet the legal and regulatory standards required for recipients of Federal Aviation Administration funds in Washington state to comply with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, 49 C.F.R. Part 26. The study will determine the availability versus utilization of minority and women owned businesses. The study will assist FAA recipients to comply with the regulatory requirements for establishing DBE goals on federally-assisted contracts.</p>
<p>What is the scope of the study?</p>	<p>Transportation Contracting: Transportation related construction and consulting contracts let by WSDOT during Federal Fiscal Year 2012 through 2015. This study will also evaluate contracts awarded by local agencies (e.g. cities, counties, etc.) that are funded through WSDOT.</p>	<p>State Contracting: The scope includes goods and services procurements and non-transportation public works construction contracts. The study will cover thirty-three state agencies, including the University of Washington and Central Washington University, and will cover 80-plus percent of state spending.</p>	<p>Aviation Contracting. FAA funded construction and consulting contracts let by FAA recipients during Federal Fiscal Years 2012 through 2016.</p>
<p>What kind of information will be used in the study?</p>	<p>The study will use quantitative data about businesses, WSDOT procurement practices, the DBE program, and the economy. The study will also collect anecdotal information regarding the DBE Program and transportation contracting from various stakeholders.</p>	<p>The study will use quantitative data about businesses, state procurement practices, and the economy. The study will also collect anecdotal information regarding business experiences and state contracting from various stakeholders.</p>	<p>The study will use quantitative data about businesses in the marketplace for FAA funded projects, airport procurement practices as they relate to the DBE program and the economy. The study will also collect anecdotal information regarding business experiences and airport contracting from various stakeholders.</p>

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What is the study being used for?	<p>DBE Program Implementation. To determine the overall DBE goal and areas for DBE Program improvement.</p> <p>Improving M/WBE participation outcomes if disparities are identified. To obtain baseline data on state spending, firm utilization, and any disparities.</p> <p>To obtain recommendations for improving race and gender neutral measures the state can take to improve M/WBE participation.</p> <p>If disparities are identified, and if race and gender neutral strategies are determined to be insufficient to address the disparities, other tools may be available to the state including race and gender conscious strategies such as mandatory goals.</p>	<p>Improving M/WBE participation outcomes if disparities are identified. To obtain baseline data on state spending, firm utilization, and any disparities.</p> <p>To obtain recommendations for improving race and gender neutral measures the state can take to improve M/WBE participation.</p> <p>If disparities are identified, and if race and gender neutral strategies are determined to be insufficient to address the disparities, other tools may be available to the state including race and gender conscious strategies such as mandatory goals.</p>	<p>DBE Program Regulatory Compliance. To determine the availability of DBEs to perform FAA-assisted contracts, the airports' utilization of such firms and data relevant to DBE goal setting.</p>
Where are they at in the process?	<p>Report drafting. The study will be released to the public in early September 2017.</p>	<p>Preliminary Data Collection & Outreach. Collecting agency data and conducting public informational meetings.</p>	<p>Preliminary Meetings. Initial meetings with agency personnel to facilitate data collection, project planning and scheduling, and review roles and responsibilities of all parties. This study is scheduled to begin in early 2018.</p>
Who to contact for more information	<p>Colette Holt & Associates wsdot_study@mwbellow.com (855) 692-3529 http://wsdot.disparity-study.com/</p>	<p>Colette Holt & Associates wastate_study@mwbellow.com (855) 692-3529 http://wsdot.disparity-study.com/ or Rex Brown-DES Administrative Director, Business Diversity Subcabinet and Study Manager Rex.Brown@des.wa.gov (360) 407-7926 BusinessDiversity@des.wa.gov</p>	<p>Colette Holt & Associates (855) 692-3529 faa-wsdot_study@mwbellow.com faa-wsdot.disparity-study.com</p>

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