

**The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority**  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program

**Objectives/Policy Statement (26.1, 26.23)**

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. RIPTA has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, RIPTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of RIPTA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our intent to adhere to the following policy statements:

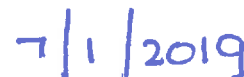
1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of all contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for all contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs on all DOT contracts; and
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

Jenny Cordero Williford, Legal Compliance Counsel, has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by RIPTA in financial assistance agreements with the United States Department of Transportation. The DBELO has direct and unimpeded access to RIPTA's Chief Executive Officer.



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Scott Avedisian, Chief Executive Officer



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Date