

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DBE PROGRAM – 49 CFR PART 26**

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

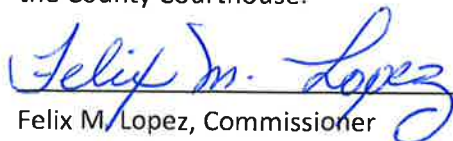
The County of Las Animas, Colorado, hereafter referred to as the Sponsor, owner of Perry Stokes Airport, has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The Sponsor has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, The Sponsor has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26 (hereafter referred to as "Part 26").

It is the policy of the Sponsor to ensure that DBEs as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also the Sponsor's policy to engage in the following actions on a continuing basis:


1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT- assisted contracts;
2. Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. Promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities;
7. Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. Make appropriate use of the flexibility afforded to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Kim Chavez, Human Resources has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Kim Chavez 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 the Sponsor in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The Sponsor has disseminated this policy statement to the Board of County Commissioners and all of the components of our organization. This statement has been distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that may perform work on the Sponsor's DOT-assisted contracts. The distribution was accomplished by advertising the policy statement on the Las Animas County website and displaying it in the County Courthouse.



Felix M. Lopez, Commissioner
Las Animas County



Date