



# DBE Program Changes

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Connecticut Department of Transportation  
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# **Notice of Interim Final Rule (IFR)**

## **Effective October 3, 2025**

Removes the presumption of social and economic disadvantage based on race and gender.

Requires each certifying agency to reevaluate DBE firms to determine if they meet the new Eligibility requirements.

Requires a Personal Narrative (PN) and a current Personal Net Worth (PNW) Statement and any other financial information considered relevant.

# Presumption of Disadvantage

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- Old – applicants were rebuttably presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged if they belonged to certain minority groups or were women.
- New – all applicants must document their social and economic disadvantage.
- All other program eligibility requirements for ownership, control and business size are still in effect.

# Reevaluation Process

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- All firms certified by the Connecticut Unified Certification Program (CT UCP) will be notified by email when the recertification process opens, and the process to submit the documents.
- The CT UCP will be responsible for reevaluating all firms having their home state in Connecticut. Firms certified under Interstate Certification will be notified that they must be reevaluated and recertified in their home state prior to applying for recertification in Connecticut.
- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility by the Office of Opportunity and Business Development.
- Firms that are decertified, can appeal to USDOT.
- Firms will be decertified if it is determined they do not meet the eligibility requirements for social and economic disadvantage or if they fail to respond to requests for information.
- The firm must demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that they meet all the requirements of the program.



# Personal Narrative (PN) and Personal Net Worth (PNW)

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- Applicants must document social and economic disadvantage based on their own experiences and circumstances within American Society without regard to race and sex.
- Determinations of disadvantage are not based in whole or in part on race or sex, the applicant must provide a PN that established the existence of disadvantage by a preponderance of evidence based on individualized proof.
- Must include individualized proof regarding specific instances of economic hardship, systemic barriers, and denied opportunities that impeded the owner's progress or success in education, employment, or business, including obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated, non-disadvantaged persons.
- Applicants must share how and to what extent the impediments caused the owner economic harm, including a full description of type and magnitude, and must establish the owner is economically disadvantaged in fact relative to similarly situated non-disadvantaged individuals.
- Must include a current PNW Statement and any other financial information considered relevant.

# Office of Equity

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