

Introduction

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) operates T. F. Green, Quonset, North Central, Newport, Westerly and Block Island Airports. RIAC has developed this Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan for the Construction, Equipment, Procurement and Professional Service Contracts in accordance with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26 (hereinafter referred to as Part 26). RIAC has received several grants for development at these airports located in the State of Rhode Island under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), and as a condition of the grant agreement, RIAC signed an assurance that it will comply with Part 26. **Attachment 1** provides a website address to Part 26 regulations. All reference sections indicated within the body of this document are directly correlated to the subsections found in Part 26.

POLICY STATEMENT

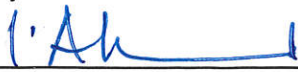
Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

It is the policy of RIAC to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

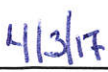
1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of USDOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure the DBE Program is tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure only firms that fully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

Mr. Jeffrey P. Goulart, RIAC's Assistant Vice President of Finance, has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Assistant Vice President of Finance 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 RIAC in its financial assistance agreements with USDOT.

RIAC has made this policy statement available to RIAC staff and have prominently posted this policy statement on the company website. RIAC has distributed a copy of this policy, via a link on our website, to the State of Rhode Island Office of Diversity, Equity & Opportunity, Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office (MBECO). MBECO is responsible for the certification of MBE's, WBE's, and DBE's in the State of Rhode Island. Additionally, RIAC provides this plan to any consultant responsible to produce the bid specifications for any federally funded project.



Ifitkhar Ahmad
President and CEO



Date