

## **DBE Program Policy Statement**

### **Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement**

The Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA/Eslers Regional 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 Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA/Eslers Regional Airport has received federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation and as a condition of receiving this assistance the Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA/Eslers Regional Airport 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 Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA/Eslers Regional Airport 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 policy to engage in the following actions on a continuing basis:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award of and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted 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 in DOT-assisted contracts;
6. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities;
7. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program; and
8. To make appropriate use of the flexibility afforded to recipients of federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

The Esler Regional Airport, Assistant Airport Manager\* has been designated 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 the Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA/Eslers Regional Airport in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA/Eslers Regional Airport has disseminated this policy statement to the governing board including the Police Jury, Airport Manager, and all components of the organization. The airport has distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that may perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. This distribution is made through our DBE office (for DBE purposes – located at the DBELO's office) and through plans and specifications for each project.

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Signature of Craig Smith, Rapides Parish Police Jury, President\*

Date

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\* Refer to the Organizational Chart for the name(s) and contact information