

PALM BEACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS



Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) DBE Program Overview

September 2025



KEN WEEDEN & ASSOCIATES

1989-2024: 35 Years of Quality Solutions

- ➔ Palm Beach International Airport (“PBI”)
- ➔ Palm Beach County Park Airport (“LNA”)

- ➔ North County General Aviation Airport (“F45”)
- ➔ Palm Beach County Glades Airport (“PHK”)

Introductions

Welcome and Introductions

- **Laura Beebe**, Director of Airports, Palm Beach County Department of Airports

Overview of DBE Program & FFY 2026 - 2028 DBE Goal

- **Wilfred Nixon**, Vice President, Ken Weeden & Associates, Inc. (KWA)

Opportunities

- **Anthony Gregory**, Airports Compliance Manager, Palm Beach County Department of Airports

Questions/Discussion

WHAT IS A DBE?

DBE stands for **D**isadvantaged **B**usiness **E**nterprise

Federal designation given to small businesses that are at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more persons presumed to be socially and/or economically disadvantaged

Must undergo certification process, which includes on-site visit from certifying agency -

<https://www.fdot.gov/equalopportunity/dbecertification.shtm>.

WHAT IS THE DBE PROGRAM?

USDOT (FHWA, FTA, FAA) program aimed toward increasing business participation in federally-funded transportation projects

49 CFR Part 26 (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-A/part-26?toc=1>) - details the federal regulations that govern the program

DBE program is a good faith efforts program

For contracts with a DBE goal, the Bidder is required to **either** meet the DBE goal, **or** demonstrate good faith efforts to meet the DBE goal

Quotas are prohibited

Local geographic preferences are prohibited

COUNTING DBE PARTICIPATION

Count 100% participation by DBE firm performing work with its own forces

Count 100% of a DBE consultant's fees and commissions

Count 100% of expenditures with a DBE manufacturer

Count **60%** of expenditures with a DBE **supplier or dealer**

Count **40%** of expenditures with a [distributor](#)

COUNTING DBE PARTICIPATION

In a **joint venture**, count a portion of the total dollar value equal to the **distinct, clearly defined** portion of the DBE's work, not the entire dollar amount of the joint venture

If the DBE subcontracts work, count only participation of DBE subcontractor (not non-DBE subcontractor)

WHO IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

All highway, airport, and transit recipients who receive USDOT grants are required to participate

All airports who receive at least **\$250,000** in federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants funds in a given fiscal year, within a three-year period, are required to have a DBE goal

Must name a DBE Liaison Officer (**DBELO**) and an Administrative Reconsideration Official (**ARO**)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AIRPORT

Establish DBE Goals

Review bids for good faith efforts

Maintain a bidders list

Monitor for contract compliance

Track payments to subcontractors

Report DBE accomplishments –
<https://faa.civilrightsconnect.com>

RESPONSIBILITIES
OF PRIME
CONTRACTORS

Negotiate in good faith

Utilize certified DBE firms

Follow process for termination and replacement of DBE firm

Adhere to prompt payment and return of retainage requirements

Step 1: Calculation of Base Figure

Determine number of all firms by NAICS code;
determine number of DBE firms by NAICS code

- County Business Patterns database - <https://data.census.gov/>
- DBE/MBE directories (FL UCP etc.)
- Bidders' lists
- Data from disparity study (if valid or applicable)
- Goal of another DOT recipient
- More information found in 49 CFR Part 26.45(c)



PALM BEACH COUNTY



DETERMINED BY WHERE
MAJORITY OF BIDDERS HAVE
COME FROM



DETERMINED BY WHERE
MAJORITY OF DOLLARS ARE
EXPENDED

Palm Beach County Department of Airports Market Area

Table 2. Anticipated AIP Funded Contracts

Airport	Fiscal Year	Projects	Federal Dollars
PBI	2026	Switchgear Phase 3	\$6,000,000
PBI	2026	Runway 10L-28R Pavement Rehabilitation	\$27,000,000
PBI	2026	Elevator Modernization	\$8,258,760
F45	2027	Runway 14/32 Expansion	\$2,450,000
F45	2027	TWY F Extension	\$4,500,000
PBI	2028	New Taxiway Connector at Taxiway C and Taxiway M	\$3,000,000
PBI	2028	Runway 14/32 Rehabilitation	\$25,500,000

Table 4. Step 1 Goals			
Airport	Fiscal Year	Projects	Step 1 Goals
PBI	2026	Switchgear Phase 3	1.53%
PBI	2026	Runway 10L-28R Pavement Rehabilitation	4.82%
PBI	2026	Elevator Modernization	1.46%
F45	2027	Runway 14/32 Expansion	3.52%
F45	2027	TWY F Extension	3.76%
PBI	2028	New Taxiway Connector at Taxiway C and Taxiway M	4.19%
PBI	2028	Runway 14/32 Rehabilitation	4.81%

Table 3a: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2026 - Switchgear Phase 3 - PBI						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	236220	6	222	2.70%	\$1,508,108	\$40,760
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$1,502,703	\$7,937
Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors	238220	2	711	0.28%	\$32,432	\$91
Other Communications Equipment Manufacturing	334290	0	0	0.00%	\$48,649	\$0
Switchgear and Switchboard Apparatus Manufacturing	335313	0	0	0.00%	\$48,649	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$2,205,405	\$31,962
Other Building Material Dealers	444180	0	0	0.00%	\$302,703	\$0
Architectural Services	541310	1	175	0.57%	\$8,108	\$46
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$154,054	\$4,460
Building Inspection Services	541350	0	90	0.00%	\$86,486	\$0
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$102,703	\$6,419
Total					\$6,000,000	\$91,676
Weighted Base Figure						1.53%

Table 3b: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2026 - Runway 10L-28R Pavement Rehabilitation - PBI						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Water and Sewer Line Construction	237110	0	56	0.00%	\$94,323	\$0
Highway and Street Construction	237310	4	30	13.33%	\$7,828,821	\$1,043,843
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$2,075,109	\$10,960
Site Preparation Contractors	238910	3	124	2.42%	\$471,616	\$11,410
Concrete Pipe Manufacturing	327332	0	0	0.00%	\$141,485	\$0
Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	423320	0	28	0.00%	\$8,489,083	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$3,112,664	\$45,111
Other Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing	532490	0	45	0.00%	\$660,262	\$0
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$2,201,266	\$63,734
Surveying and Mapping Services	541370	4	56	7.14%	\$340,742	\$24,339
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$1,553,974	\$97,123
Environmental Consulting Services	541620	7	44	15.91%	\$30,655	\$4,877
Total					\$27,000,000	\$1,301,397
Weighted Base Figure						4.82%

Table 3c: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2026 - Elevator Modernization - PBI						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	236220	6	222	2.70%	\$3,128,734	\$84,560
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$137,075	\$724
Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors	238220	2	711	0.28%	\$54,830	\$154
Concrete Pipe Manufacturing	327332	0	0	0.00%	\$82,245	\$0
Conveyor and Conveying Equipment Manufacturing	333922	0	0	0.00%	\$3,118,453	\$0
Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	423320	0	28	0.00%	\$41,122	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$205,612	\$2,980
Other Building Material Dealers	444180	0	0	0.00%	\$428,359	\$0
Architectural Services	541310	1	175	0.57%	\$210,753	\$1,204
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$602,101	\$17,433
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$205,612	\$12,851
Total					\$8,214,896	\$119,906
Weighted Base Figure						1.46%

Table 3d: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2027 - Runway 14/32 Expansion - F45						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Water and Sewer Line Construction	237110	0	56	0.00%	\$16,266	\$0
Highway and Street Construction	237310	4	30	13.33%	\$431,037	\$57,472
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$97,593	\$515
Site Preparation Contractors	238910	3	124	2.42%	\$250,083	\$6,050
Concrete Pipe Manufacturing	327332	0	0	0.00%	\$24,398	\$0
Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	423320	0	28	0.00%	\$986,100	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$146,390	\$2,122
Other Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing	532490	0	45	0.00%	\$40,664	\$0
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$277,328	\$8,030
Surveying and Mapping Services	541370	4	56	7.14%	\$30,701	\$2,193
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$144,357	\$9,022
Environmental Consulting Services	541620	7	44	15.91%	\$5,083	\$809
Total					\$2,450,000	\$86,213
Weighted Base Figure						3.52%

Table 3e: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2027 - Taxiway F Extension - F45						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Water and Sewer Line Construction	237110	0	56	0.00%	\$29,876	\$0
Highway and Street Construction	237310	4	30	13.33%	\$851,452	\$113,527
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$164,315	\$868
Site Preparation Contractors	238910	3	124	2.42%	\$597,510	\$14,456
Concrete Pipe Manufacturing	327332	0	0	0.00%	\$44,813	\$0
Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	423320	0	28	0.00%	\$1,635,685	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$246,473	\$3,572
Other Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing	532490	0	45	0.00%	\$89,627	\$0
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$507,510	\$14,694
Surveying and Mapping Services	541370	4	56	7.14%	\$58,257	\$4,161
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$265,145	\$16,572
Environmental Consulting Services	541620	7	44	15.91%	\$9,336	\$1,485
Total					\$4,500,000	\$169,335
Weighted Base Figure						3.76%

Table 3f: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2028 - New Taxiway Connector at Taxiway C and Taxiway M - PBI						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Water and Sewer Line Construction	237110	0	56	0.00%	\$69,421	\$0
Highway and Street Construction	237310	4	30	13.33%	\$674,380	\$89,917
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$188,430	\$995
Site Preparation Contractors	238910	3	124	2.42%	\$178,512	\$4,319
Concrete Pipe Manufacturing	327332	0	0	0.00%	\$104,132	\$0
Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	423320	0	28	0.00%	\$833,058	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$282,645	\$4,096
Other Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing	532490	0	45	0.00%	\$74,380	\$0
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$348,099	\$10,079
Surveying and Mapping Services	541370	4	56	7.14%	\$54,545	\$3,896
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$189,917	\$11,870
Environmental Consulting Services	541620	7	44	15.91%	\$2,479	\$394
Total					\$3,000,000	\$125,567
Weighted Base Figure						4.19%

Table 3g: Step 1 Base Figure						
FY 2028 - Runway 14/32 Rehabilitation - PBI						
Trades	NAICS	# of DBE Firms	All Firms	%DBE Availability	NAICS Dollars	DBE Dollars
Water and Sewer Line Construction	237110	0	56	0.00%	\$172,881	\$0
Highway and Street Construction	237310	4	30	13.33%	\$7,261,017	\$968,136
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	238210	3	568	0.53%	\$1,728,814	\$9,131
Site Preparation Contractors	238910	3	124	2.42%	\$432,203	\$10,457
Concrete Pipe Manufacturing	327332	0	0	0.00%	\$259,322	\$0
Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	423320	0	28	0.00%	\$7,909,322	\$0
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, Wiring Supplies, and Related Equipment Merchant Wholesalers	423610	1	69	1.45%	\$2,593,220	\$37,583
Other Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing	532490	0	45	0.00%	\$605,085	\$0
Engineering Services	541330	13	449	2.90%	\$2,675,339	\$77,460
Surveying and Mapping Services	541370	4	56	7.14%	\$350,085	\$25,006
Geotechnical Testing Services	541380	2	32	6.25%	\$1,469,492	\$91,843
Environmental Consulting Services	541620	7	44	15.91%	\$43,220	\$6,876
Total					\$25,500,000	\$1,226,491
Weighted Base Figure						4.81%

2-Step Process

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graph TD; A[2-Step Process] --> B[Step 1 - Base figure calculation]; B --> C[Step 2 - Consider evidence for adjustment of base figure]; C --> D[Review past participation data]; C --> E[Review disparity study data]; C --> F[Other factors];
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Step 1 - Base figure calculation

Calculate relative availability of DBE firms for proposed projects

Step 2 - Consider evidence for adjustment of base figure

Review past participation data

Review disparity study data

Other factors

Goal Methodology

Table 5. Past DBE Participation on AIP Assisted Contracts			
FY	Total Dollars	DBE Goals	Accomplishment
FY 2022	\$2,669,149	19.00%	23.89%
FY 2023	\$213,921	20.90%	12.43%
FY 2024	\$34,866,350	20.54%	18.25%
		Median	18.25%

Step 2 – Consider evidence for adjustment of base figure

Past participation data

Palm Beach County FY 2026 -2028 Overall Goal

Table 6. Palm Beach County Department of Airports						
Fiscal Year	Project	Step 1	Step 2 adjustment	Overall Goal	AIP Dollars	DBE Goal (dollars)
2026	Switchgear Phase 3 - PBI	1.53%	N/A	1.53%	\$6,000,000	\$91,800
	Runway 10L-28R Pavement Rehabilitation - PBI	4.82%	18.25%	11.54%	\$27,000,000	\$3,114,450
	Elevator Modernization - PBI	1.46%	N/A	1.46%	\$8,258,760	\$120,578
FY 2026 Total				8.06%	\$41,258,760	\$3,326,828
2027	Runway 14/32 Expansion - F45	3.52%	18.25%	10.89%	\$2,450,000	\$266,683
	TWY F Extension - F45	3.76%	18.25%	11.01%	\$4,500,000	\$495,225
FY 2027 Total				10.96%	\$6,950,000	\$761,908
2028	New Taxiway Connector at Taxiway C and Taxiway M - PBI	4.19%	18.25%	11.22%	\$3,000,000	\$336,600
	Runway 14/32 Rehabilitation - PBI	4.81%	18.25%	11.53%	\$25,500,000	\$2,940,150
FY 2028 Total				11.50%	\$28,500,000	\$3,276,750
FY 2026 - FY 2028 Overall Goal				9.60%	\$76,708,760	\$7,365,485

FFY 2026-2028 DBE goal = 9.60%

Department of Airports is estimated to spend approximately **\$76,708,760** in federal grant funds in FY 2026-2028

Goal means that the Department of Airports has a goal of expending approximately **\$7,365,485** with DBEs during the three-year period

FFY 2026-2028 Overall DBE Goal

Required per 49 CFR Part 26.45(g)(1)

- Notice to be posted on recipient website
 - 30-day review and comment period
- Public consultation meeting
 - In person, web conference, teleconference, etc.

Public Consultation Process

USDOT Bonding Education Program – <https://www.transportation.gov/osdbu/financial-assistance/bonding-education/bonding-education-program>

SBA Surety Bonds – <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/surety-bonds>

Florida DBE Application – <https://www.fdot.gov/equalopportunity/dbecertification.shtm>

Palm Beach County Business Loan Program - <https://discover.pbcgov.org/HED/Pages/Palm-Beach-County-Business-Loan-Program.aspx>

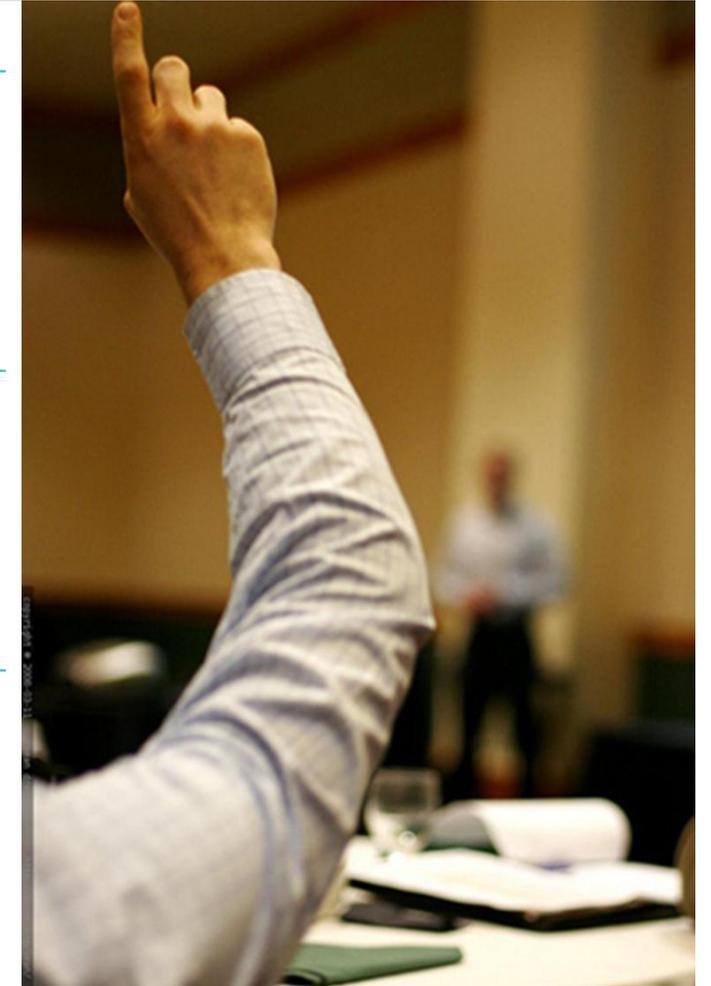
State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) – Enterprise Florida - <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/small-business/state-small-business-credit-initiative-ssbci/>

Resources

Barriers to participation in federally-funded projects?

The effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBE firms?

Ways to level the playing field to increase opportunities for all firms, including DBE firms?



Questions/Discussion