



Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

Acting Secretary Walter L. Simmons

February 13, 2026

FROM: Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE)

TO: Maryland Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Firms, Industry Partners, and Customers

Background

The Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility, established under House Bill 1253 (Chapter 605, Laws of Maryland 2025), is the principal department of State government and the first cabinet-level agency in the United States dedicated to removing structural barriers to social and economic mobility.

Effective October 1, 2025, three existing State offices focused on social equity programming have been consolidated into a single, integrated department. Specifically, the Department of Social and Economic Mobility is now comprised of:

- the Office of Minority Business Enterprise;
- the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs; and
- the Office of Social Equity.

This consolidation enables the State to better coordinate equity initiatives, increase operational efficiency, and promote economic opportunity for all Marylanders.

The Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) will continue to serve as Maryland's certification entity for the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, the Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Program, and the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program.

Introduction

On October 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an interim final rule (IFR) requiring immediate changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program regulations. Among other things, the IFR requires OMBE to conduct a thorough reevaluation of all currently certified DBE and ACDBE firms in Maryland.

Under the certification reevaluation requirements in 49 CFR § 26.111, OMBE is required to reevaluate the certifications of DBEs and ACDBEs for which Maryland is the original certifying jurisdiction. On January 23, 2026, OMBE distributed the initial notice and FAQs regarding Maryland's DBE/ACDBE certification reevaluation process. As stated in those documents, OMBE will establish a submission date for all currently certified Maryland DBE/ACDBE firms to complete a certification reevaluation application—which includes a Personal Narrative and current Personal Net Worth Statement, with supporting documentation—through [Maryland's Vendor Management System](#).



Next Steps

Pursuant to USDOT's mandated certification reevaluation process, OMBE has launched Maryland's DBE/ACDBE certification reevaluation application, which is available through Maryland's Vendor Management System: <https://marylandmdbe.mdbecert.com/>.

OMBE is prohibited from implementing a hard deadline for DBE/ACDBE firms that were originally certified by the State of Maryland to submit a certification reevaluation application. However, OMBE has established a submission date of April 3, 2026, for currently certified DBE/ACDBE firms wishing to begin the process for certification reevaluation as soon as possible.

At this time, OMBE is only reevaluating certifications for DBE/ACDBE firms that were originally certified by the State of Maryland. Those firms are encouraged to complete a certification reevaluation application—which includes a Personal Narrative, a current Personal Net Worth Statement, and supporting documentation—through [Maryland's Vendor Management System](#). Failure to submit the requested documents as part of Maryland's certification reevaluation process will result in a firm remaining ineligible for participation in the DBE and ACDBE programs.

OMBE Support & Resources

OMBE is committed to assisting currently certified Maryland DBE and ACDBE firms through this transition. We are actively mobilizing additional staffing resources and will continue to publish information for businesses needing to submit documentation. A second FAQ document regarding DBE/ACDBE certification reevaluation has been published on OMBE's webpage (<https://economicmobility.maryland.gov/>) and can also be found in Maryland's Vendor Management System (<https://marylandmdbe.mdbecert.com/>).

For questions, please email OMBE (mbe.dosem@maryland.gov), using the subject line "IFR Certification Reevaluation Question."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter L. Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Simmons" clearly visible.

Walter L. Simmons
Acting Secretary