DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) POLICY
Objectives/Policy Statement (§26.1, §26.23)

The Mercer County Regional Council of Governments (MCRCOG), Shenango Valley Shuttle Service (SVSS) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. SVSS has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, SVSS has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of SVSS to ensure that DBEs are defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award 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; and,
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program.

Beth Mason, Finance Director, has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Beth Mason 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 SVSS in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

SVSS has disseminated this policy statement to MCRCOG and all of the components of our organization. This statement has been distributed to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for SVSS on DOT-assisted contracts.

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Jill Boozer, Executive Director, MCRCOG

1-15-2025
Date