FAQS about DBE certification

1. **What is a DBE?**

   A DBE is a for-profit small business where one or more socially and economically disadvantaged persons own at least 51% interest and also control management and daily business operations. African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Subcontinent Asian Americans and Women are presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged. Persons who are not minorities but who are socially and economically disadvantaged can also qualify on a case-by-case basis by demonstrating long-standing, chronic and substantial disadvantage.

2. **What does DBE Certification mean?**

   DBE Certification is a Federal designation used in conjunction with US Department of Transportation (DOT) funded projects and contracts. It is a process by which the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) reviews and investigates applicants who seek to participate in business opportunities to determine that they meet the requirements of the DBE Regulation.

3. **I have WBE or MBE Certification why do I need to obtain DBE certification?**

   To participate in business opportunities with federally funded U.S. Department of Transportation funded contracts, you must apply for DBE Certification. If you wish to qualify for DBE status please contact the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office to request information on the DBE certification process.

   **SDO**
   Supplier Diversity Office
   The McCormack Building, Room 1313
   Boston, MA 02108
   Phone: (617) 502 - 8831
   Fax: (617) 502 - 8841
   [http://www.somwba.state.ma.us](http://www.somwba.state.ma.us)

4. **What is Keolis Commuter Services’ commitment to DBE?**

   Keolis Commuter Services is committed to diversity and to our corporate responsibility to the communities we serve. One of the ways we demonstrate this is through our DBE Program where we purchase goods and services from disadvantaged business
enterprises. In doing so, we create diversity in our supplier base, enrich our service communities economically and strengthen our business relationships.

5. **What does the term tier-two supplier mean?**

The term “tier-two” or “second-tier” refers to DBE certified suppliers who provide Keolis Commuter Services with products or services through another supplier, often referred to as the “first-tier” or “prime.” Keolis Commuter Services is committed to working with our prime suppliers to create opportunities, where possible, for qualified DBEs as second-tier suppliers.

6. **Does Keolis Commuter Services guarantee contracts for all DBE suppliers?**

Keolis Commuter Services does not guarantee contracts to any company, regardless of their DBE status. Keolis Commuter Services is committed to providing opportunities for DBEs to compete for and to participate in contract opportunities.

7. **What type of contracts are available for DBE companies?**

Keolis offers a wide array of contract opportunities for DBE companies. Examples include accounting services, catering, cleaning, printing, inspection services, environmental consulting, welding, recycling, supplying equipment and materials, and much more. A complete list of the goods and services for which Keolis Commuter Services awards contracts will be posted soon.

8. **Once certified, can a DBE firm be assured of getting contracts and subcontracts?**

While certification does not guarantee that a DBE will win contracts, it does enhance a DBE’s exposure to prime contractors and the business community. To be successful in winning business, a firm must market itself as any business would.

9. **What is expected of the DBE once a contract is awarded?**

All firms are expected to meet performance standards as established by contract specifications. This relates to the quality of work, the timely submission of required information, and compliance with applicable regulations and laws. Once a DBE has been awarded a prime, sub or lower tier contract, the DBE is responsible for submitting verification of all payments received to the contracting agency. This includes the amount of payment and date received.

10. **Where can I find information on upcoming contract opportunities?**

Additional information will be posted soon.