



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**Responsible University Official:**  
Associate Vice President and Comptroller  
**Responsible Office:** Office of the  
Comptroller  
**Last Revised Date:** July 1, 2005

## **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

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### **Policy Statement**

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It is the policy of the university, consistent with federal, state and local laws, to take affirmative action to optimize opportunities for business contracting with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

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### **Reason for Policy**

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The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance with respect to vendor selection and to comply with federal regulations.

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### **Who is Governed by this Policy**

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Faculty and staff

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## Policy

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The university takes affirmative action to optimize opportunities for contracting with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). The focus of this effort is in the areas of procurement, construction, design and other professional services, and to support the opportunity for a fair proportion of business contracts with such enterprises.

Business owners who certify they meet the defined criteria of DBEs are considered socially and economically disadvantaged.

When required, the university will establish goals for business contracts with DBEs and review progress against these goals on an annual basis.

All university solicitations are sought and considered without restrictions based on age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, veteran status, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, matriculation, personal appearance, political affiliation or family responsibilities

### Waivers

Requests for a waiver from this policy must be submitted to the Executive Director, Procurement and Travel Services. In concert with the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, the reasonableness of the waiver request will be considered and a final determination made.

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## Definitions

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**Disadvantage Business Enterprises:** A small business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by such individuals.

**Socially Disadvantaged:** Means an individual who has reason to believe that he or she has been subjected to prejudice or bias because of his or her identity as a member of a group without regard to his or her qualities as an individual.

**Economically Disadvantaged Individual:** Means an individual whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system is impaired because of diminished opportunities to obtain capital and credit as compared to others in the same line of business where such impairment is related to the individual's status as "socially disadvantaged."

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## Contacts

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Contact	Telephone	Email
Procurement and Travel Services	202-994-2500	<a href="mailto:procure@gwu.edu">procure@gwu.edu</a>
Equal Employment Department	202-994-9656	<a href="mailto:eeo@gwu.edu">eeo@gwu.edu</a>

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## Document History

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- **Last Reviewed Date:** March 27, 2018
- **Last Revised Date:** July 1, 2005
- **Policy Origination Date:** Not Available

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## Who Approved This Policy

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Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

*This policy, as well as all [university policies](#), are located on the [Office of Compliance and Privacy's](#) home page.*