

# Disparity Study

## COMPARISON

FAQ	WSDOT Disparity Study	DES Statewide Disparity Study
<b>What is the purpose of the study?</b>	<b>Legal Requirement.</b> This study is a legal requirement for the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. The study will determine the availability versus utilization of minority- and women-owned businesses. The study also evaluates WSDOT's implementation of the DBE Program and recommends areas for improvement and additional race and gender neutral measures WSDOT should consider adopting to improve DBE participation.	<b>Governor's Commitment.</b> Governor Jay Inslee has made a commitment to conduct a statewide disparity study. The study will analyze the availability of majority-, minority-, women-, and veteran-owned firms able and willing to work for the state, the state's utilization of those firms, whether there are any disparities between availability and utilization rates, and the factors contributing to any identified disparities. The study will also assess race and gender neutral strategies employed by the state to reduce disparities and identify procurement process improvements. The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) is overseeing the study on behalf of the state.
<b>What is the scope of the study?</b>	<b>Transportation Contracting:</b> The scope includes transportation related construction and consulting contracts awarded by WSDOT during Federal Fiscal Year 2012 through 2015. This study will also evaluate contracts awarded by local agencies (e.g., cities, counties, etc.) that are funded through WSDOT.	<b>State Contracting:</b> The scope includes goods and services procurements and non-transportation public works construction contracts. Approximately 30 agencies and the University of Washington and Central Washington University will be included, covering 80-plus percent of state spending.
<b>What kind of information will be used in the study?</b>	The study will use quantitative data about businesses, WSDOT procurement practices, the DBE Program, and the economy. The study will also collect anecdotal information regarding the DBE Program and transportation contracting from various stakeholders.	The study will use quantitative data about businesses, state procurement practices, and the economy. The study will also collect anecdotal information regarding business experiences and state contracting from various stakeholders.
<b>What is the study being used for?</b>	<b>DBE Program Implementation.</b> To determine the overall DBE goal and areas for DBE Program improvement. <b>M/WBE Program Implementation.</b> The study will also analyze utilization and availability of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) to determine if a disparity exists. <u>If</u> such a disparity is found, potential remedies will be identified by WSDOT. The study will also address barriers and potential solutions for small businesses in doing business with WSDOT.	<b>M/WBE Program Implementation.</b> The study will also analyze utilization and availability of M/WBEs to determine if a disparity exists. <u>If</u> such a disparity is found, potential remedies will be identified by the state. The study will also address barriers for small businesses in doing business with the state.
<b>Where are they at in the process?</b>	<b>Preliminary Data Collection and Outreach.</b> Collecting agency data and conducting public informational meetings.	<b>Selecting a Consultant.</b> A request for proposals (RFP) was posted May 2, 2016. DES hopes to have a consultant on board in early summer 2016.
<b>Who to contact for more information</b>	Jackie Bayne WSDOT, Office of Equal Opportunity (360) 705-7084 or BayneJ@wsdot.wa.gov <a href="http://wsdot.disparity-study.com/">http://wsdot.disparity-study.com/</a>	BusinessDiversity@des.wa.gov

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