



2021 -2023 EPA DBE Triennial Goal

FAQs

Q: Did Metropolitan Council create the methodology?

A: No, the methodology that of FTA Triennial goal setting found in CFR 49 Part 26.45 was used to establish the EPA DBE triennial goal for consistency. EPA does not require goal setting

Q: What was the last Triennial goal?

A: The 2017 – 2019 goal was 14%

Q: What was the achievement?

A: 2017 – 14.4% 2018 –15.2% 2019 – 10.6%

Q: How is this triennial goal different than the last?

A: The 2017 – 2019 triennial goal was calculated by averaging 2014 - 2016 triennial goal, 2014 - 2016 utilization, and 2018 - 2020 FTA triennial goal.

The 2021 – 2023 triennial goal is consistent with FTA goal setting methodology in using DBE directory and Census Bureau data along with 3-year project forecast. This method best reflects the anticipated DBE utilization.

Q: How does this goal compare to MnDOT & MAC?

A: MnDOT FHWA	2019 - 2021 goal is 12.23%	Achievement in 2019 = 10.5%
MnDOT FTA	2019 – 2021 goal is 9.12%	Achievement in 2019 = 0%
Metropolitan Airport Commission	2017 - 2019 goal is 14%	Achievement in 2019 = 13.83%

Q: How did the Council determine our Market Area?

A: Local market area is the area in which the substantial majority of the contractors and subcontractors with which the Council does business are located and the area in which the Council spends the substantial majority of our contracting dollars

Q: Why is the goal lower than it was in the last triennium?

A: The goal is reflective of a different methodology that depicts a more accurate prediction of potential DBE utilization on future contracts.

Q: What monitoring mechanisms do you have in place to ensure you are on track to meet or exceed the goal?

A: The Council submits annual achievement reports to EPA that includes an analysis if the Council is under or over the 3-year goal. Furthermore, in setting contract specific goals the triennial goal is always used as an adjustment tool to achieve the Triennial goal of 11%

Q: What if you do not meet the 11% program goal at the end of the triennial?

A: Metropolitan Council will continue to analyze data and work to remedy reasons for utilization shortfall

Q: Can you be penalized if you do not meet the goal?

A: No, recipients cannot be penalized for not meeting their goal if they administer their DBE program in good faith.

Q: Will you increase the goal for the next triennial if you exceed the 11% program goal?

A: Possibly. Triennial goals are calculated using the relative availability of DBE firms in the marketplace and the forecasted makeup of capital projects, both of which vary from year to year.

Q: Are any efforts being taken to increase the DBE pool?

A: Yes, Metropolitan Council Office of Equal Opportunity is taking steps to identify industry gaps for which there are limited firms to perform the work and utilizing industry resources to proactively seek firms that may fill this need.

Q: Why is the Metropolitan Council taking this approach?

A: Historically EPA recipients have been required to establish and administer a DBE program and create a DBE triennial goal. Though the EPA suspended the requirement in 2019, The Metropolitan Council is in the process of updating our internal policy that will allow the Council to adopt FTA DBE program requirements into our EPA program processes and procedures. It is important to the Council to maintain this practice, as these goals establish a standard of expectation that is critical in the support of certified small businesses.

Q: To what activities does this goal apply?

A: All construction and design projects that anticipate using EPA dollars within the next three years.

Q: What is the DBE program? / What is the purpose of the DBE program?

A: The EPA DBE program is a subcontracting program that exists to mitigate the effects of past discrimination, provide access and is designed to level the playing field for businesses owned by women, people of color and indigenous persons (DBEs)

Q: Where can I go to learn more about the DBE program generally?

A: <https://metro council.org/About-Us/Organization/Office-of-Equal-Opportunity/Small-Business-Programs/Disadvantaged-Business-Program.aspx>, or email dbec@metc.state.mn.us

Q: How can I get more involved with the DBE program at the Met Council?

A: email dbec@metc.state.mn.us
