

Washington Department of Transportation

Disparity Study

Frequently Asked Questions



Colette Holt & Associates (CHA) is conducting a disparity study for the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. WSDOT seeks to ensure that DBEs and other businesses owned by minorities or women, as well as Veteran Owned Businesses, have equal access to contracting opportunities and that WSDOT's current initiatives remain legally defensible and administratively successful.

What is a “Disparity Study”?

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether DBEs have equal opportunities on WSDOT projects. This includes statistical evidence of disparities, if any, between the availability of DBEs and their utilization on WSDOT contracts and related subcontracts and throughout the Washington economy as a whole.

The study will further examine factors necessary for entrepreneurial success, such as access to business capital, bonding, networks, suppliers and other resources. The study also will gather anecdotal evidence of any continuing effects of past or present race and sex discrimination, and the impact of the current WSDOT programs. Finally, the study will review WSDOT's current efforts and activities and make recommendations for future initiatives and enhancements.

Who is conducting the study?

Colette Holt & Associates (CHA), a nationally recognized expert team on disparity studies and DBE programs, in conjunction with local DBE partners Yates Consulting and WindGypsy Consulting.

How can business owners and stakeholders be involved?

The participation of stakeholders, business owners and other interested parties is critical to the study's outcomes in two important ways. The study team will contact businesses to confirm information on specific contracts and/or to receive additional contract information that is currently not available to WSDOT. Second, CHA will conduct an electronic business owner survey and interviews with stakeholders and business owners to collect information regarding discriminatory barriers and current WSDOT initiatives.

Participants who are unable to attend the interviews but who would like to provide input to the disparity study are encouraged to submit written statements to the study email: wsdot-study@mwbelaw.com.

When will the study be completed?

The study is anticipated to be completed summer 2023.

Where can I find additional information?

For additional information, visit the study website at wsdot.disparity-study.com.

Who do I contact with questions?

You may contact the Study team via wsdot-study@mwbelaw.com or 855-692-3529.

Or you may contact:

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