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ADOT DISPARITY STUDY

The Arizona Department of Transportation engaged Keen Independent Research to help prepare three-year DBE goals for the participation of disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) in its USDOT-funded contracts. ADOT submitted new goals to FHWA in spring 2020 that will go into effect on October 1, 2020. The current overall DBE goal is 9.55% for FHWA-funded contracts.

Keen Independent Research compared the utilization and availability of minority- and women-owned firms for construction, engineering and other transportation contracts and subcontracts. The study team examined ADOT contracts and those awarded by local public agencies using funds received through ADOT.

The study team contacted businesses by phone in summer 2019 to collect information about their availability for different types of ADOT and local agency projects. Business owners, trade associations and others provided insights about the Arizona transportation contracting industry and suggested ways to create a level playing field for DBEs and other small businesses. Customer Research International conducted these telephone surveys.

This is the third disparity study conducted by ADOT, which is required by USDOT. Keen Independent Research prepared the previous study.

Study Team

Keen Independent Research is a national economic consulting firm with its primary office in Phoenix. David Keen, Principal, led this assignment. He has directed more than 100 disparity studies. Mr. Keen has served as an expert witness successfully defending targeted business programs. The study team also included Holland & Knight, Customer Research International, and Así Marketing Group and Partners in Brainstorms in Phoenix and Gordley Group in Tucson.

Schedule

The study launched in February 2019. A draft report was completed in March 2020. ADOT has published the [draft disparity study report](#) and its proposed overall DBE goals for public comment. Anyone can provide input by attending a webinar or providing written comments by June 12, 2020.

How to Get Involved

Email: adotdisparitystudy2019@keenindependent.com

Study hotline: 602-730-0466

Study website: www.azdot.gov/DBEDisparityStudy

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