

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is conducting a statewide Disparity Study of its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (“DBE”) program to ensure that the program remains narrowly tailored and that DBEs have equal access to contracting opportunities.

### What is a “Disparity Study”?

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether ODOT has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender-conscious contracting remedies for its federally funded contracts, and narrowly tailoring its programs. This includes statistical evidence of differences, if any, between the availability of DBEs and their utilization on ODOT’s federally funded contracts and related subcontracts and disparities throughout the area economy as a whole.

The disparity study will analyze whether DBE contract goals remain necessary to ensure a level playing field for all firms. It will further examine factors necessary for entrepreneurial success, such as access to business capital, bonding, networks, suppliers, etc. The study also will gather anecdotal evidence of any continuing effects of past or present race and sex discrimination, and the impact of the DBE program. Finally, the study will review ODOT’s program and activities and make recommendations for future initiatives and enhancements, including data collection to assist ODOT in setting its project-specific and overall goals.

### 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 partner Resolute, PR LLC.

### How can business owners and other interested parties be involved?

The participation of business owners and other interested parties such as trade associations, advocacy groups, community organizations, etc. is critical to the disparity study’s outcomes in two important ways. First, 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 ODOT. Second, the study team will conduct interviews with business owners and stakeholders to collect information regarding discriminatory barriers and ODOT’s programs. An electronic survey will also be sent to interested parties to collect additional anecdotal information.

### How will the public meeting, interview sessions and electronic survey be conducted and how do I participate?

CHA will host a public information meeting and a webinar to introduce the study methodology and process. A bit later in the process, CHA will host stakeholder/ small group business owner interviews. Lastly, CHA will administer an online survey for business owners.

Participants who are unable to attend the meetings or the interviews but who would like to provide input to the disparity study are encouraged to return the survey and to submit written statements at the study email:  
[odot-study@mwbela.com](mailto:odot-study@mwbela.com).

### When will the study be completed?

The study is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.

### Where can I find additional information?

For additional information, visit the study website at [odot.disparity-study.com](http://odot.disparity-study.com).

### Who do I contact with questions?

#### Colette Holt & Associates

You may contact the study team via [odot-study@mwbela.com](mailto:odot-study@mwbela.com).

Or you may contact:

#### Oklahoma Department of Transportation

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