



Department of
Transportation



Metropolitan Transportation Authority
State of New York



NYS Unified Certification Program DBE/ACDBE Reevaluation Requirements

Reevaluation Overview

March 12, 2026

New York State Unified Certification Program

NYSUCP Certifying Partners

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA)

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)

- Certify DBEs and ACDBEs
 - Cross honor certifications
 - Maintain a one-stop shop directory
 - Coordinated certification standards

NYSUCP Partners 2/19/26 2nd Notice

Each NYSUCP Certifying Partner issued a notice on January 12, 2026, requesting firms to submit Personal Narrative(s) (PNs), a 2nd request was sent on February 19th, 2026. Current Personal Net Worth (PNW) and other relevant financial documentation deemed appropriate must be submitted by **March 20, 2026**.

Individual Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Owner/Owners (SEDO) in your firm are required to submit a PN that demonstrates individualized and specific instances of social and economic disadvantage from any point in their life within American Society

Each SEDO is required to submit a current PNW statement, along with any financial documentation relevant to your eligibility determination

- Submission through your agency's certification **B2G Portal**

Objectives for Today's Session

1. Understand what we must do to restart the DBE/ ACDBE Program in New York
2. Broadly review the key changes for DBE/ ACDBE Certification
3. Review the technical requirements of the PN
4. Review the technical requirements of the PNW Statement
5. Review the submittal process for PNs and PNWs
6. Reevaluation Notification and Determination

Reevaluations: What Must Be Done

DBE / ACDBE Firms

- Complete a **PN**
 - As defined under 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26
- Complete a **PNW Statement**
 - Ensure accuracy and completeness with supporting documents

NYSUCP

- Evaluate Submitted PNs and PNWs
 - Issue Decision Letters to all firms that submitted for reevaluation
- Notify USDOT All Reevaluations are Complete
- Update Agency Goal

Changes to Eligibility for DBE / ACDBE Certification

Eliminates the Presumption of Disadvantage Based on Race or Sex

Removes All References to “Race-conscious” and “Race-neutral”

Redefines Social and Economic Disadvantage

Requires Business Owners to Demonstrate Social and Economic Disadvantage without regard for race or sex

Requires All DBE & ACDBE Firms to be Reevaluated Under the New Regulations for Social and Economic Disadvantage



Social Disadvantage – What Changed?

PRIOR TO OCT 3, 2025 – 2 PATHS

1. Members of certain groups were rebuttably presumed to be socially disadvantaged
2. Members not part of those groups could demonstrate social disadvantage on a case-by-case basis

AFTER OCT 3, 2025 – 1 PATH

1. All DBEs and ACDBEs must demonstrate on a case-by-case basis that they meet the new criteria of social disadvantage under 49 CFR 26.67
 - Disadvantage must be based on one's own experience within American Society
 - Without regard to race or sex

What Does the New 26.67 Actually Say?

A DBE / ACDBE firm must establish

- Existence of disadvantage based on individualized proof regarding **specific instances** of:
 - Economic Hardship,
 - Systemic Barriers, or
 - Denied Opportunities
- That **impeded** the owner's progress or success in:
 - Education,
 - Employment, or
 - Business
 - Including obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated, non-disadvantaged persons
- The PN must state how and to what extent the impediments caused the owner **economic harm**
 - Including a full description of **type and magnitude**

Who Must Submit a Personal Narrative?

One Owner

- Owner is claiming SED status
- Only one PN and PNW

Two Owners

- 51% Ownership by individual(s) claiming SED status
- If both owners claim SED status, both submit PN and PNW

Three or More Owners

- All Owners claiming SED status
- Each owner claiming SED status must submit a PN and PNW

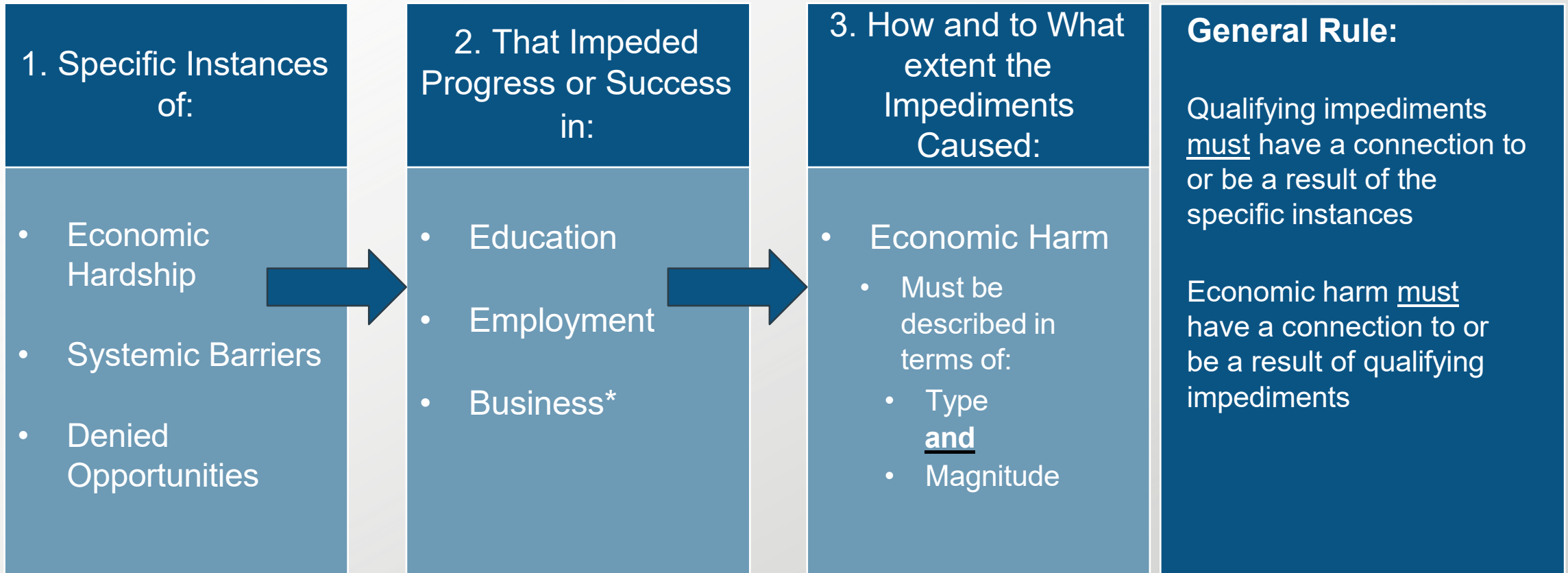
Important Terms:

Socially and Economically Disadvantaged (SED)

Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Owner (SEDO)

Every owner claiming disadvantaged status should submit a PN

The PN Must Flow and Connect Like “1-2-3”



* Including obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated, non-disadvantaged persons

The Personal Narrative

2. Impeded Progress or Success



Remember: Qualifying impediments must have a connection to, or be a result of, the specific instances.

It is up to you to explain the connection!

The Personal Narrative

2. Impeded Progress or Success (cont.)

Education – factors such as denial of equal access to institutions of higher education; exclusion from social and professional association with students or teachers; denial of education honors rightfully earned; and social patterns or pressures which discouraged the individual from pursuing a professional or business education

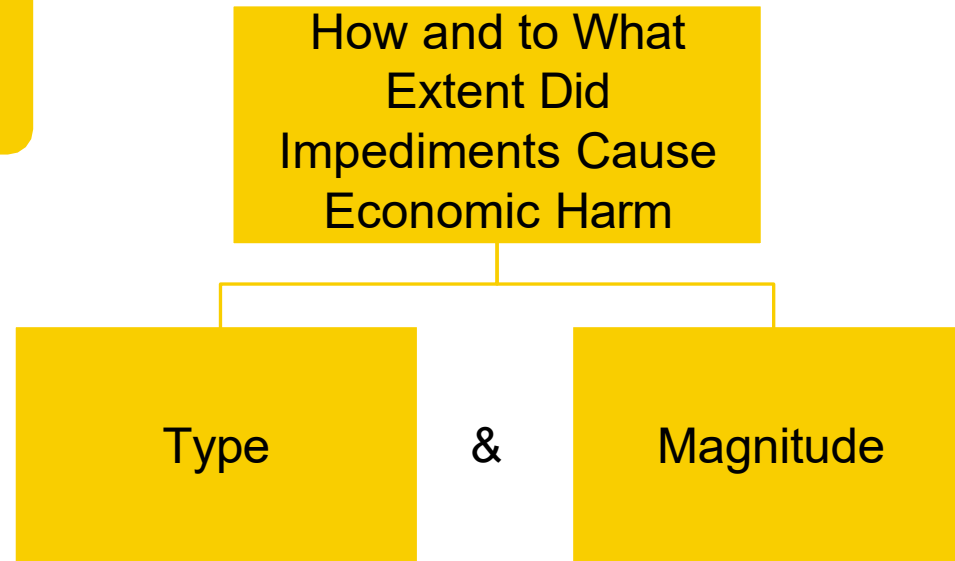
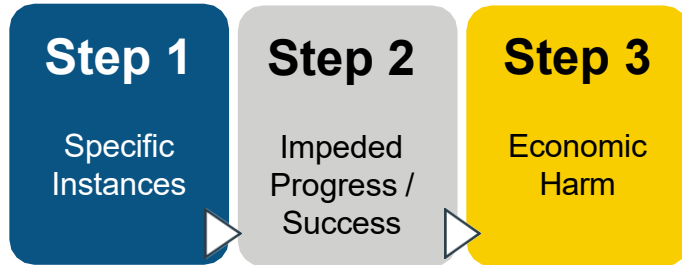
Employment – factors such as unequal treatment in hiring; promotions and other aspects of professional advancement; pay and fringe benefits; low salary, other terms and conditions of employment; retaliatory or discriminatory behavior by an employer; and social patterns or pressures which have channeled the individual into nonprofessional or non-business fields

Business history – factors such as lost income, collateral requirements, unequal access to credit or capital; acquisition of credit or capital under commercially unfavorable circumstances; higher rates and fees, unequal treatment in opportunities for government contracts or other work; unequal treatment by potential customers and business associates; and exclusion from business or professional organizations, delayed growth, margins or capacity constraints

Other relevant evidence may be considered, but the incidents or experiences discussed in the narrative must not rely, in whole or in part, on race or sex

The Personal Narrative

3. Economic Harm



Per USDOT Regulation: “State how and to what extent the impediments caused the owner economic harm, including a full description of type and magnitude”

💡 **Remember:** Qualifying economic harm must have a connection to, or be a result of, impediments.
It is up to you to explain the connection!

The Personal Narrative

Don't Skip the Details!

Supporting Documentation are not explicitly required **BUT** can establish your PN as credible, quantifiable and verifiable. **NYSUCP Certifying Partners will request additional information, if needed**

- Details means Specific Instances and Impediments are described with:

• WHO	• WHAT	• WHEN	• WHY	• WHERE	• HOW
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You may, and are encouraged to, attach any supporting documentation that supports your individual experience of disadvantage. These may include, but are not limited to:

• Loan denial letters	• Witness statements
• Employment records	• Financial statements
• Medical or legal documents	• Emails or written communications
• Anything else you as the owner consider relevant	

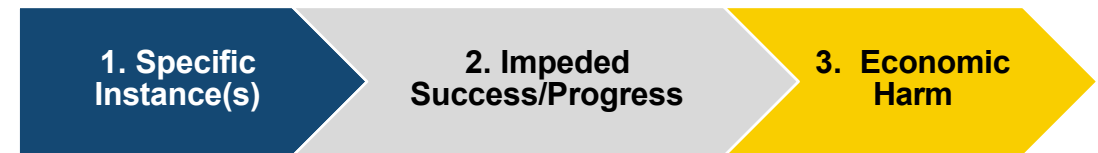
Personal Narrative RECAP

PNs must establish the existence of disadvantage by a “**preponderance of the evidence**”

- Preponderance of evidence means “more likely than not”
- Certifiers must consider all the information viewed as a whole

Remember:

- Your PN must be complete, including
 - Include dates, locations, formal names of schools, etc.
- Determinations of disadvantage **cannot** be based in whole, or in part, on race or sex
- Disadvantage must be based on individual experiences in American Society



The Personal Net Worth Statement

A current PNW is required with the PN.

- [Link to PNW Form](#)
- Form was revised in 2024
 - Qualified retirement accounts must be reported but are excluded from PNW calculation
 - Current PNW Cap: \$2,047,000
 - Notarization no longer required

Important: Certifiers cannot provide “advice or opinions” on topics like accounting and valuation

Important: Supporting documentation must be provided for each worksheet entry. Including:

- Most recent bank statements
- Real estate estimates (i.e., Zillow, Realtor.com)
- Investment account statements
- Notes payable/receivable
- Mortgages
- Any other documentation to show value or liability of item(s) on PNW worksheets

Submittal of PN and PNW Statement

PNs and required PNWs should be submitted by **March 20, 2026**, through the NYSUCP B2G DBE Portal

Go to <https://nysucp.newnycontracts.com/> (B2G Portal)

1. Select the logo of your certifying agency
2. Log In as you would for your yearly upload of gross receipts
3. Use **“2025 Reevaluation Application”** function
4. Upload attachments:
 - Personal Narrative
 - Personal Net Worth Statement
5. You must submit a PN and PNW for each owner claiming disadvantaged ownership
 - **Comprised ownership of a firm must be 51% or greater by persons who are qualified as disadvantaged**

New York State Unified Certification Program

NYSUCP Certified Directory

Search our database of DBE/ACDBE certified vendors

Search for Certified Firms

System Training

Learn how to fully utilize our system with a live trainer

View Training Classes

About the System

Welcome to the New York State Unified Certification Program Certification (NYSUCP) Portal! The NYSUCP is responsible for DBE certification in the state of New York and provides firms with “one-stop” shopping.

Firms interested in ACDBE Certification must apply through the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey or Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority.

Get DBE Certified or Manage your DBE Certification

Click on a partner logo to apply or manage (e.g. request code expansion, submit annual affidavit) your certification.

Get Certified:

Firms headquartered in New York State must apply with the Certifying Partner applicable to their geographic location. Clicking on any of the four Partner logos below will direct you to the proper Certifying Partner. Firms headquartered outside New York State can apply to any of the Certifying Partners below. Regardless of firm location, any firm which is re-applying for DBE certification must submit to the Partner with which you originally applied.

Manage your Certification:

Click on a Certifying Partner to manage (e.g. Notification of change in firm circumstances, submit annual affidavit, request code expansion) your certification.

Previous applicants must submit to the partner you originally applied with.

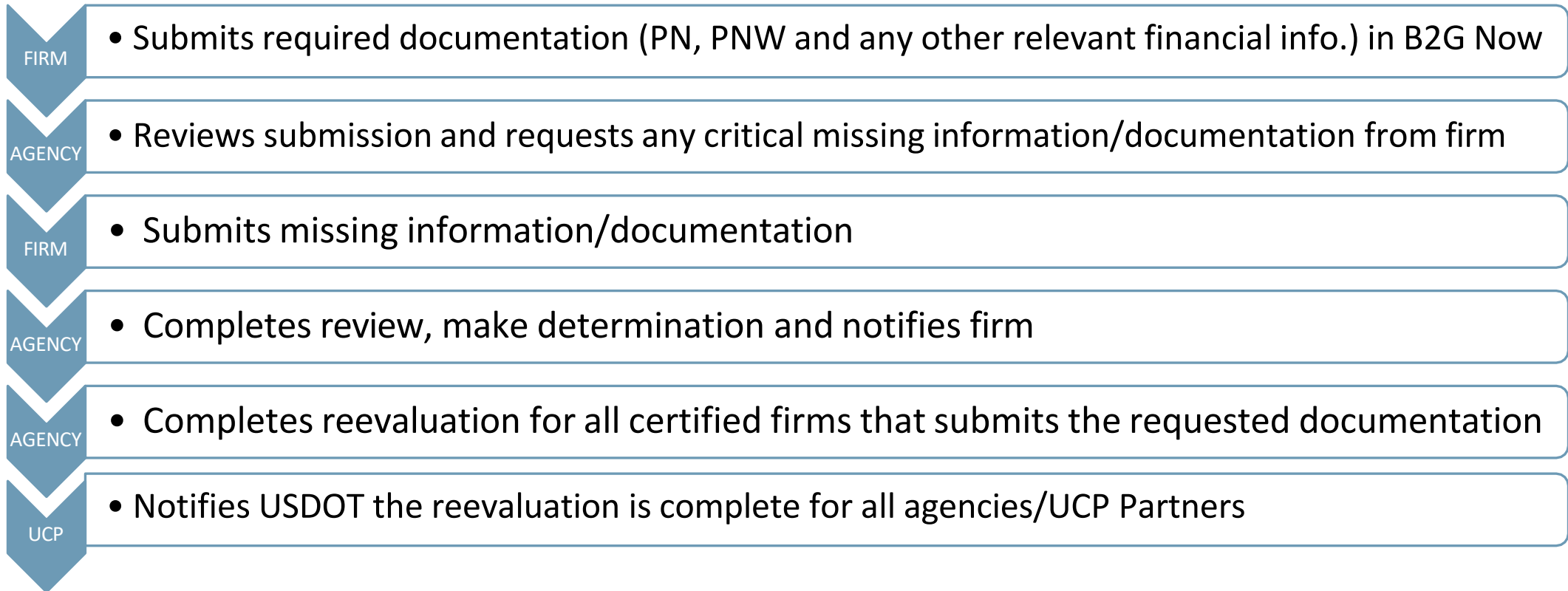


Reevaluation Determination & Notification

When the reevaluation process is completed, you will be issued a written decision indicating whether your firm is recertified or decertified

If your firm is recertified	If your firm is decertified
Maintain original certification anniversary date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26.87 right to a UCP hearing DOES NOT APPLY• Able to Appeal to USDOT under 26.89
Remain in the NYSUCP Directory	No longer in the NYSUCP Directory
Can apply/reapply for Interstate Certifications	Can reapply for DBE / ACDBE certification after 12-month waiting period

Reevaluation Workflow Overview



End of Reevaluation Review



Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Certification Program
DBEcertification@mtahq.org
<https://mta.newnycontracts.com/>



Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
DBE/ ACDBE Certification Unit
EEO.DBE@NFTA.com
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New York State Department of Transportation
DBE Certifications Unit
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Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Certifications Unit
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<https://panynj.diversitysoftware.com/>