

DBE/ACDBE Reevaluation – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is ARDOT requiring DBE/ACDBEs to go through reevaluation?

The IFR eliminates race- and gender-based presumptions and requires individualized determinations of social and economic disadvantages. All firms certified as DBEs in Arkansas as of October 2, 2025, must participate in the reevaluation process.

2. What documents are required for reevaluation?

Firms must submit the following:

- A personal narrative statement.
- A current, completed, and signed Personal Net Worth (PNW) statement.
- Supporting Documentation.

3. Is ARDOT offering guidance to firms during the reevaluation process?

Yes. ARDOT will provide guidance and informational resources to firms throughout the reevaluation process. Please be sure to check our website frequently for updates.

4. Will ARDOT help me write or edit my narrative?

ARDOT staff and its supportive services provider, CEI can:

- Explain what the rules generally require and assist with answering process questions (what to submit, how to submit, deadlines).

They cannot:

- Tell you what incidents to include or leave out.
- Advise on legal strategy or guarantee an approval.

5. Is there a required format or length for the Personal Narrative?

No. There is no prescribed format or length; however, the narrative should be clear, specific, and sufficiently detailed to support the claim of disadvantage (i.e., describe specific incidents of economic hardship, systemic barriers or denied opportunities).

6. Should I complete the PNW and email it or upload it?

The PNW must be completed offline and uploaded. Only the official USDOT-approved PNW form available may be used. <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2024-09/Personal%20Net%20Worth%20Statement%204.9.2024%20%28revised%29.pdf>

7. How do I calculate my PNW?

The instructions for calculating your PNW can be found in 49 CFR §26.68 and on the official USDOT approved PNW form.

8. May I submit my PNW separately from my personal narrative?

No. The PNW should be submitted as part of the complete reevaluation documents, which includes a personal narrative statement. All required documentation must be submitted for review.

9. How long will the DBE/ACDBE reevaluation process take to complete?

Timeframes will vary. Reevaluations will be conducted as expeditiously as practicable, depending on the completeness of submissions and the overall volume. Firms will be reevaluated in the order of submission.

10. Who reviews my documentation?

Documentation is reviewed by a committee approved by ARDOT.

11. May I correct my documentation after submission?

Yes. Firms may be given an opportunity to supplement or clarify their submission in response to the agency's requests.

12. Will my firm be added to the UCP directory after re-evaluation?

The ARDOT DBE directory is currently unavailable. However, approved firms will be listed in the DBE/ACDBE directory after the full reevaluation process is complete.

13. What happens if I am denied?

Firms have appeal rights under 49 CFR §26.89. Appeals must be filed with USDOT within 45 days of denial.

14. What happens to my firm's status if I do not take any action?

Your firm will be placed on an inactive list and will remain ineligible to participate in the DBE/ACDBE program. However, such firms may still apply after the reevaluation period concludes.