**Section 5.10 Program Overview**

a) Section 2705-610 of the Department of Transportation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois (Law) [20 ILCS 2705/2705-610] establishes a low-interest loan program for *disadvantaged business enterprises* (DBEs) *certified by the Department for participation on Department-procured construction and construction-related contracts.* (Section 2705-610(c) of the Law.) The Department is authorized *to provide for* *assistance to* DBEs *with project financing costs for those firms that are ready, willing, and able to participate on Department* *construction contracts. The Department's disparity study recommends and supports a financing program to address this barrier faced by* DBEs*.* (Section 2705-610(a) of the Law)

b) The funds for this program are appropriated annually by the Illinois General Assembly from the Working Capital Revolving Loan Fund established as a special fund in the State treasury. (Section 2705-610(d) of the Law)