



OPERATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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OPERATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION
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Charles D. Baker
Governor
Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor
Kristen Lepore
Secretary

Dear Business Partner:

Over the past year, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito have expanded several programs to provide business opportunities to all of the men and women who have served our country and our Commonwealth through their military service. These efforts include:

- Expanding the Supplier Diversity Office's (SDO) certification program¹ to include Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (VBE). Previously, the program was available only to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBE).
- Including VBEs in the 3% benchmark² for SDVOBEs of the Supplier Diversity Program (SDP).
- Creating a Massachusetts Veteran Certification Program that reduces federal certification wait times and increases participation of VBEs and SDVOBEs in the Commonwealth's Supplier Diversity Program.

With Veterans Day quickly approaching, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Supplier Diversity Office encourages all Commonwealth businesses that are majority-owned and controlled by a Veteran to apply for certification as a VBE or an SDVOBE.

In FY2016, the Commonwealth spent more than \$4 billion on construction and goods and services. The SDO's goal is to ensure that diverse businesses participate in this spending either as prime contractors or through a wide range of partnerships with prime contractors. The SDP includes a 3% spending benchmark for VBE- and SDVOBE-certified firms. Becoming certified is the first step in taking advantage of these business opportunities.

If you believe that your firm or another business with whom you partner qualify for certification, please visit mass.gov/SDO and click "[State Certification Program](#)" or "[How to Apply for Expanded Certification Categories](#)" for more information. If you already are certified by the SDO or its third-party certification partners and would like to be included in the certified vendor directory or have questions about certification options and process, please contact [John Fitzpatrick](#).

All firms interested in doing business with the Commonwealth must complete the free registration process at www.COMMBUYS.com. The Commonwealth offers a variety of [training](#) sessions for business owners interested in learning more about COMMBUYS and locating bid opportunities.

We look forward to working with you and your firm.

Best regards,

Kathleen K. Reilly
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¹ The SDO Certification program includes the following designations: Minority (MBE); Women (WBE); Service-Disabled Veteran (SDVOBE); Veteran (VBE); Portuguese (PBE); Disadvantaged (DBE; federal); Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTBE); and Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (DOBE).

² Every year, spending goals, also referred to as benchmarks, are established for Commonwealth executive departments and other organizations participating in the SDP to work with minority, women, veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

