Supplier Diversity Program

Program Overview

The Supplier Diversity Program (SDP) was established to promote supplier diversity in public contracting. The SDP is housed in the Operational Services Division’s Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The program institutes policies to encourage the award of state contracts in a manner that develops and strengthens certified Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBEs). Our mission is to increase business opportunities for M/WBEs.

How it works

A vendor’s certification serves as a marketing tool and is valuable in the contracting process. The SDP provides ongoing training and marketing events for M/WBEs and continues to try to find opportunities for diversity within Statewide Contracting.

The Supplier Diversity Program provides procurement policies and guidance to Executive Branch departments and participating state entities to assist them in implementing SDP objectives for procurements. In an effort to increase the use of M/WBEs in statewide purchasing, the Supplier Diversity Program has a liaison in each of the Executive Branch departments and is responsible for tracking participating departments’ procurement expenditures with certified M/WBEs. Departments must set their own M/WBE fiscal year spending targets, referred to as benchmarks. Benchmarks are the total dollars a department anticipates spending with M/WBEs and are based upon the department historical spending. They are expressed in dollars rather than percentage, and each department determines a separate target for MBEs & WBEs which is tracked and reported annually in the SDP Fiscal Year Report.

In addition, any business interested in doing business with the Commonwealth is strongly encouraged to develop creative initiatives to help to foster business relationships with certified M/WBEs in the public marketplace. Executive Branch Department contracts with a total value of $150,000 or more must include a Supplier Diversity Plan.

Services and Events

- SDP Helpdesk: Assistance to Vendors and Public Purchasers at SDP@state.ma.us
- Statewide Networking Events
- Procurement Workshops for Vendors: Basic SDP Overview
- Outreach and Education to Develop SDP Partnerships between M/WBEs and Prime Contractors
- Technical Assistance Offered to all Contractors for SDP Plan Procurement Submissions
Program Goals

- Stimulating Economic Growth
- Assisting M/WBE Capacity Building
- Creating Jobs for the Local Community
- Supporting Massachusetts Businesses
- Educating and Empowering M/WBEs
- Providing Outreach and Training Services
- Promoting M/WBEs in Public Procurement

The Supplier Diversity Program
The Operational Services Division
Supplier Diversity Office
Supplier Diversity Program
One Ashburton Place, Suite 1017
Boston, MA 02108
SDP website
Email: SDP@state.ma.us