

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Supplier Diversity Office**

# **Empowering Abilities in Contracting and Employment (EACE)**

A review of the program's inaugural year

Presented by Emily Maguire, EACE Program Coordinator

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# Program History

**2018**

The Individuals with Disabilities Pilot Program is established with the vision of building inclusivity of the disability community into state procurement through contracting opportunities and workforce development.

**2023**

The pilot program grows with the appointment of a program coordinator.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) begins again to further develop the pilot.

**2025**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the SDO and Operational Services Division (OSD), launched the Empowering Abilities in Contracting and Employment (EACE) Program.

# EACE Goals



- Disability-owned and Service-disabled veteran-owned business outreach
  - Increase the representation of the disability community in contracting through the promotion of DOBEs and SDVOBEs as statewide contract vendors and/or subcontractors



- Workforce development and supporting the interviewing, hiring, employment, and retention of applicants with disabilities
  - Help vendors work towards the goal of at least 3% of their workforces being people with disabilities



- Engage with the disability community and representative agencies, commissions, and non-profits to ensure the program serves with intentional impact

# Looking Forward

- Vendors on 7 statewide contracts will be participating in the EACE program as of November 1, 2026 (130+ businesses)
  - Janitorial services; Postage and mailing; Cellular services; Telecommunications and Network Services; IT Software and services; Foreign language interpretation/translation; A/V Services.
  - FY27 goal: achieve 40% voluntary reporting rate for vendors who are not obligated to report.
- More resources and ways to educate employers and support jobseekers with disabilities
  - FY27 goal: create an enhanced resource list of state agencies and non-profits that work with employers to bring individuals with disabilities into their workforce
  - [EACE Resource Recommendation](#)





# Thank You!

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