

Pathways Supplier Diversity Office And Connections

*News and events from the Massachusetts
Supplier Diversity Office (SDO)*

March 2026

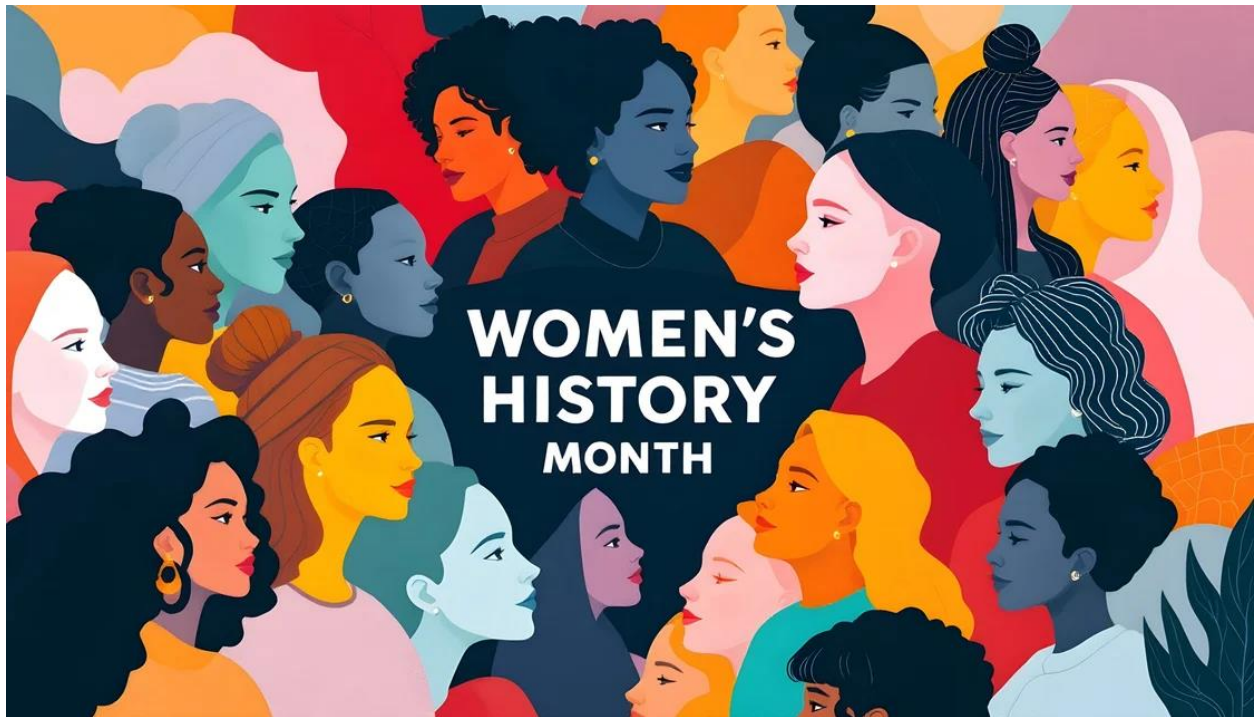
Resources for
Diverse and Small
Businesses

Open Bid
Opportunities on
COMMBUYS

SDO and
Commonwealth
Training
Opportunities

Directory of
Certified
Businesses

Celebrating Women's History Month



In March we celebrate Women's History Month, where we acknowledge the contributions and achievements of women throughout history.

In the spirit of Women's History Month, here are a few of our certified Women-Owned businesses who have found recent success!

- The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) has selected [RetroFit Technologies](#) to deliver Cybersecurity Health Checks for municipalities and school districts across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. RetroFit will provide no-cost cybersecurity health check services to municipalities and school districts statewide. These services include assessments of Active Directory security, cloud and SaaS configurations, vulnerability scanning, firewall configuration reviews, data protection risks, and detailed remediation recommendations.

- [Mahanaim Law](#) owner Xena Robinson said, "Through my work as an employment attorney and HR advisor, I saw firsthand that many small businesses cannot afford ongoing legal guidance — which often leaves them vulnerable to costly disputes and compliance issues. In response, we are preparing to launch HR Armor, a subscription-based legal service designed to give employers ongoing access to employment law and HR support. This model will help Massachusetts businesses prevent workplace disputes before they happen, navigate employment laws with confidence, and access legal guidance in a predictable and affordable way. SDO certification has strengthened our credibility and helped us think bigger about the impact we can have across the Commonwealth."
- Over the past year, [Bay State Envelope](#) modernized envelope and digital print equipment, strengthened internal processes, and expanded into complementary branded apparel and promotional product services to better support government, institutional, and commercial clients. This renewed momentum stabilized operations, supported workforce continuity, and positioned the company for long-term growth as a Massachusetts-based manufacturer.
- [Boston BuildHERS](#) was featured in *Caught in Southie*, a local city blog. The feature told the story of Boston BuildHERS, how they started, who the business is helping, and celebrated the SCALE grant! [You can read the blog entry here.](#)

Check out more success stories from other diverse and small businesses below!

SDO in Worcester



Nolan Didonato from the SDO's Empowering Abilities in Contracting and Employment (EACE) program speaks to the crowd at last month's

The FIFA World Cup™ Boston 2026 Committee has organized a [Local Impact Supplier Program](#) which will identify ready-to-work local suppliers that will be able to participate in FIFA World Cup™ Boston 2026 events. Suppliers needed will include:

- Event Management
- Catering
- Transportation
- Security
- Sanitation
- Event Production

Interested businesses can fill out FIFA's Business Opportunities Form to get started and receive updates and information as opportunities become available.

[Get more information and access the form here.](#)

Don't forget to review more bidding opportunities below!



Learn how to grow your business at this upcoming event:

BuildingAll: Breaking Barriers in Clean Energy

Wednesday, April 1

Virtual

[Register here!](#)



**Celebrating your Success
Stories!**

This month, the SDO celebrates these successes from certified businesses:

- [Velney Construction](#) has been selected as the *Somerville Times* Contractor of the Year and awarded a ground-up, triple-decker multifamily housing project in Somerville, MA. In addition, the company has expanded its dumpster container fleet from one to four units as it continues to grow and strengthen its self-performing demolition division.
- Over the past year, [Care Remedy](#) has expanded its partnerships to work with MassAbility and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), strengthening their ability to deliver person-centered services through state-supported programs. They have opened additional office locations in Brockton, Springfield, and Cape Cod, and have hired more than 20 new team members, supporting both service delivery and operational growth. They now have increased capacity in Transitional Assistance, Housing Search and Housing Support Services, In-Home Supports, and mobility solutions that support individuals with mobility challenges, helping seniors and individuals with disabilities live safely and independently in the community rather than in institutional settings.

- [Pinkman Roofing](#) announced they have been promoted from GAF Certified Contractor to GAF Certified Plus Contractor—a major milestone achieved in just one year of operation. Earning this new status requires meeting strict criteria for reliability, strong customer satisfaction ratings, proper licensing, and ongoing professional training. As a GAF Certified Plus Contractor, Pinkman Roofing can now offer enhanced manufacturer-backed warranties, including extended workmanship coverage and stronger protection for their clients' investments.

Want to tell us about your recent success? [Click here](#) and fill out the online form!

Check Out these Current and Upcoming Bids!



Bids:

- **PRF88:** Foreign Language Interpretation and Translation Services. [Link to the Bid](#)
- **MCCA** MassMutual Center Ticketing Solutions. [Link to the bid](#) (click the orange arrow to submit your information and download the documents)
- **ITT85:** Network and Communication Services and Hardware. [Link to the Bid](#)
- **PRF89:** Commuter Benefits. [Link to the Bid](#)

Intents to Bid:

- **ITT84:** Cellular Services and Devices. [Link to the Intent to Bid](#)

There are a number of catering bids, many of which have rolling enrollments:

- Conference Space & Catering Services RFR for DCF - [Link to the bid](#).
- Catering Conference - [Link to the bid](#)
- MassAbility Catering, Conference Space, and Accommodations - [Link to the bid](#)
- MassDOT RFR Catering Services - [Link to the bid](#)
- EA Hotel Motel Provider Services - [Link to the bid](#)
- Event Services - [Link to the bid](#)

- RFR 232128 Catering Services, Conference Space, Hotel Room
- [Link to the bid](#)
- Restaurant Food Take-out/Delivery Services - [Link to the bid](#)
- Restaurant Food Take-out/Delivery Services - [Link to the bid](#)
- Event and Emergency Services Contracts - [Link to the bid](#)
- MDAR- Conference Service Vendors - [Link to the bid](#)
- Conference Space, General Catering Services, and Hotel Accommodations - [Link to the bid](#)
- DCF Meetings16-Conference Space and Catering Services
- [Link to the bid](#)

You can also check out all the newly posted bids on COMMBUYS each week by [visiting this link](#).

Compliments From the SDO Kudos Corner!



Kudos Corner is a new feature at Pathways and Connections which features compliments received by SDO staff.

This month, we have a kudos from Shanna Bento of Luka B Signs & Apparel in Taunton to the SDO's Director of Diverse and Small Business Certification Wanda Colón-D'Angelo and Certification Investigator Milevis Medina:

"I just wanted to extend my deepest gratitude for your invaluable help in finalizing my Women's Business Enterprise certification. Your willingness to reopen my case and guide me through those last steps, especially during the holiday season, means so much to me. This was the greatest gift! Thanks to you both, I now have the opportunity to bid on state projects and grow my business in ways I've been working toward for years. I truly appreciate your kindness, patience, and dedication."

Want to send someone at the SDO a shout-out? Let us know [here!](#)



MassDevelopment Offering Microloans for Small Massachusetts-Based Businesses

For nearly 30 years, MassDevelopment has used economic development tools, creative financing strategies, and experienced staff to stimulate business, drive economic growth, and help communities thrive across the Commonwealth.

MassDevelopment now offers microloans for Massachusetts small businesses of \$5,000 to \$100,000 to assist with working capital or the purchase of furniture, fixtures, supplies, materials, and/or equipment. To qualify, businesses need to be in operation for at least 12 months and be a for-profit company.

For more information on the microloan program, [click here.](#)

SDO Certification Webcasts - Get Certified on Your Schedule!



With the Massachusetts SDO's new pre-recorded webcast, for-profit diverse and small businesses no longer need to schedule an online webinar to apply for certification. With the webcast, you can now learn about certification and apply on your own timeline!

SDO certification enables traditionally underserved businesses to market themselves and participate in the state's bidding process. Certified businesses are listed in the database used by state

buyers and prime vendors, receive news about upcoming bid opportunities, and learn about upcoming networking events.

Simply click the appropriate link below and click on the “Job Aid” link to get started!

Massachusetts-based businesses click here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-diversity-certification-as-a-massachusetts-based-business>

Out-of-state-based businesses click here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-diversity-certification-as-an-out-of-state-business>

**SDO Means
*Business***

Click here for more!



Are you SDO Certified?

If you have a business owned by minorities, women, veterans, those with a disability, members of the LGBT community, and/or you own a small Massachusetts-based business, you are eligible for a vital source of support: SDO Certification.

Once you are certified, you will get updates on upcoming state contracts, have access to hours of free training, be given access to the Supplier Diversity Hub, and you will be added to the SDO's diverse and small vendor database, which is used by Prime Vendors, state departments, cities and towns, and private businesses looking to spend with diverse and small businesses.

SDO certification is free and can provide your business with new opportunities and prospects.

In FY2024, the Commonwealth spent \$3.78 billion with diverse and small businesses. Many Massachusetts businesses say

certification not only helped them stay in business during the pandemic but thrive because of new prospects.

Please note that if you are already certified with one of our partner organizations (such as Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE), Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC), City of Boston, etc.), the steps to becoming SDO certified are simple and straightforward.

[To learn more about SDO Certification please click here!](#)

Reminder - Race/Ethnicity Information for MBEs

Currently, the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) makes public the race and ethnicity of our certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). This change is in response to many buyers looking to make purchases from Black, Latino/Hispanic, Asian, and Native American/Indigenous Persons-Owned Businesses. These businesses are still classified as MBEs, but the additional racial makeup is publicly available in our search engine.

While this information is public, it does not affect any vendor's diversity status as an MBE, their ability to bid on and win bids, and their benefits with the SDO.

If any MBE would prefer to make their race and ethnicity information private, please contact us at webmaster.SDO@mass.gov.



Diverse Business Certification Updates

The SDO certified 46 businesses in February 2026!

As a reminder, SDO certification **expires three years after the date of issue** and renewal notices are sent via email to the primary contact on file.

SDO-certified businesses should [log in](#) and review your contact information periodically to ensure that your certification stays up to date.



Winter Vendor Classes - **NEW CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE!**

The Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) now offers the Supplier Diversity Hub (the Hub), a centralized portal to facilitate construction project management through the entire lifecycle.

The Hub is a virtual platform designed to enhance transparency, strengthen industry engagement, and support fair participation across all state-assisted design and construction building projects.

The SDO has developed classes for Owner Project Managers and Prime Contractors:

Owner Project Managers (OPMs) Hub Construction Opportunity Class

OPMs will learn how to use the Supplier Diversity Hub to create, manage, and award construction project opportunities. The training covers the entire project lifecycle which includes creating a new project, selecting vendors, submitting for SDO review, and awarding to a prime vendor.

Upcoming dates:

- March 19, 9-10 a.m.
- April 9, 9-10 a.m.
- April 21, 1-2 p.m.
- May 7, 9-10 a.m.
- June 9, 1-2 a.m.

[Link to Register](#)

Hub Construction Opportunity Class for Prime Contractors and Vendors

Prime Contractors and Vendors will learn how to use the Supplier Diversity Hub to manage construction projects, submit payments, resolve disputes, view opportunities, and run reports.

Upcoming dates:

- March 24, 1-2 p.m.
- April 9, 1-2 p.m.
- May 7, 1-2 p.m.
- June 10, 9-10 a.m.

[Link to Register](#)

Other classes:

Unlocking Opportunities - How to Make Your State Certification Work for You

(PRE-REQUISITE: for Certified Diverse Businesses)

Learn more about using your certification to identify opportunities in public procurement and develop business-to-business relationships with other vendors. This training covers SDO programs, exploring business opportunities, creating SDP partnerships, and introducing free resources available to help grow your business.

Upcoming dates:

- March 24, 9-10 a.m.
- April 22, 9-11 a.m.
- May 12, 9-11 a.m.
- June 30, 9-11 a.m.

[Link to register](#)

Finding Business Opportunities for Certified Vendors

This session is a follow-up to Certified Vendor Onboarding and is designed specifically for certified vendors who want to expand their knowledge of how to identify and pursue Commonwealth opportunities that align with their business.

In this training, you will learn:

- How to determine whether to pursue contracts as a Prime Contractor or as an SDP Partner
- How to navigate the public procurement process
- Strategies for marketing your business effectively to government buyers
- No-cost resources available to help your business succeed

Limited Class Size! Please register in advance

Upcoming dates:

- March 3, 9-10 a.m.
- April 23, 9-10 a.m.
- May 13, 9-10 a.m.
- June 2, 9-10 a.m.

[Link to register](#)

Small Business Purchasing Program (SBPP) for Vendors

Vendors will learn the qualifications to participate in the Commonwealth's Small Business Purchasing Program, how to apply, and the advantages of certification.

Upcoming dates:

- March 4, 9-10 a.m.
- April 1, 9-10 a.m.
- May 19, 9-10 a.m.
- June 4, 9-10 a.m.

[Link to register](#)

Prime Contractor Onboarding

(PRE-REQUISITE: This class is for Prime Contractors currently on Statewide and/or Departmental contracts).

Prime Contractors will learn how to meet the Supplier Diversity Plan (SDP) requirement. This class gives an overview of SDP, where to find eligible partners, and how to report SDP spend.

Upcoming dates:

- March 11, 9-10 a.m.
- April 21, 9-10 a.m.
- May 14, 9-10 a.m.
- June 23, 9-10 a.m.

[Link to register](#)

Vendor Hub Reporting - for Prime Contractors

(PRE-REQUISITE: for Prime Contractors currently on Departmental contracts)

Prime Contractors will learn more about the Supplier Diversity Office Hub. The training covers the *new easier SDP reporting*, how to register in the Hub, add and manage users, complete and view spend in the dashboard.

Upcoming dates:

- March 25, 9-10 a.m.
- April 7, 9-10 a.m.
- May 6, 9-10 a.m.
- June 16, 9-10 a.m

[Link to register](#)

Don't Miss Out! Responding to RFQs

(PRE-REQUISITE: for Small Business Purchasing Program participants currently on Statewide and/or Departmental contracts)

SBPP vendors will learn the mechanics of a Request for Quotes (RFQ). The training covers the benefits of the SBPP, how to identify and respond to an RFQ, and how RFQ's are evaluated.

Upcoming dates:

- March 17, 9-10 a.m.
- April 30, 9-10 a.m.

[Link to register](#)

Supplier Diversity Program for Health and Human Service Providers

(PRE-REQUISITE: This class is for Service Providers currently on Purchase of Service contracts)

Service providers on state contracts will learn about the Supplier Diversity Program (SDP), where to find eligible partners, and how to report SDP spend in the UFR.

Upcoming dates:

- March 18, 9-10 a.m.
- May 5, 9-10 a.m.

[Link to register](#)

Follow us on:



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