

Pathways & Connections

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



August 2023

Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses

Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS

COMMBUYS
Vendor Training
Schedule

Directory of
Certified
Businesses

August is Black Business Month

Started 19 years ago in 2004, Black Business Month encourages us to recognize and support black-owned businesses in our communities. .

[Learn more about Black Business Month here.](#)



SDO at the Holyoke Veterans' Home Groundbreaking



Governor Maura T. Healey and SDO Executive Director Bill McAvoy at the Holyoke groundbreaking.

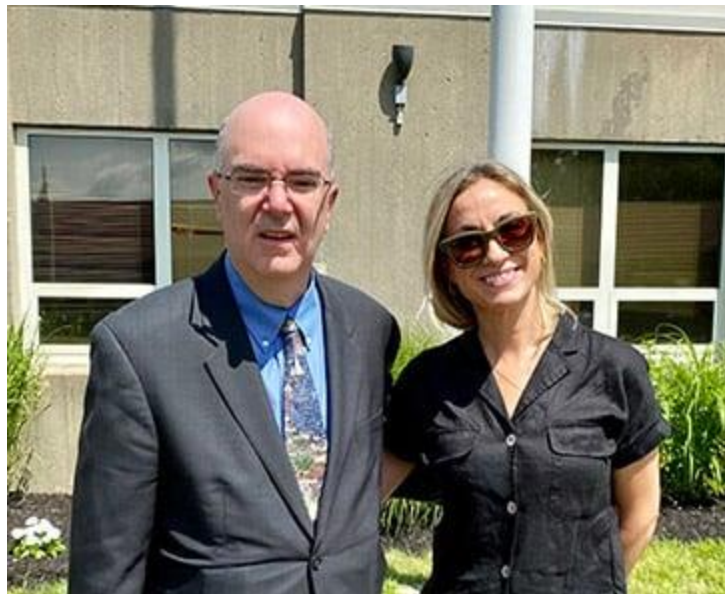
The SDO was honored to attend the August 14 groundbreaking ceremony at the Massachusetts Veterans' Home at Holyoke. Hosted by Governor Maura T. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, the groundbreaking signals a new chapter for an institution which has served veterans since the 1940s.

The new Massachusetts Veterans' Home at Holyoke will accommodate 234 long-term care beds, offering nursing support and community spaces.

In attendance from the SDO were Executive Director Bill McAvoy and Construction Program Coordinator Meghan Costa. Costa actively assisted the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and prime contractor Commodore/Walsh in identifying and recruiting minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses to participate in this construction project.



Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Congressman Richard Neal, Secretary of Veteran Services Jon Santiago, Veterans and state and local officials pose at the Holyoke veterans home groundbreaking.



SDO Executive Director Bill McAvoy and SDO Construction Program Coordinator Meghan Costa at the groundbreaking event.

We're Hiring!



The SDO is looking to fill a couple of full-time positions. We offer great compensation and benefits, and work on a hybrid model. Our office is just steps away from the Massachusetts Statehouse in the heart of Boston.

If you are interested, please click on the links below to apply at MassCareers!

Assistant General Counsel - The SDO seeks a driven, experienced, and diversity-focused attorney with a minimum of three years of prior government, corporate, or administrative law to provide legal services.

[Click here to apply!](#)

Program Coordinator - Seeking a dynamic and detail orientated individual with documented experience supporting individuals with disabilities and/or disability-owned business enterprises (DOBE) to fill the role of the Individuals with Disabilities Program Coordinator.

[Click here to apply!](#)

New Outreach Event for Construction Vendors!

[To register for this event, click here!](#)



MBE/WBE/VBE Outreach Event

Join us to learn about upcoming construction projects and opportunities to get involved!

Construction Contractors, Vendors and Suppliers Are All Invited

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023
1-4PM**

**UMass Amherst Mount Ida Campus
Shaw Hall Conference Center
100 Carlson Ave, Newton, MA 02459**

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mbewbevbe-outreach-event-for-boston-area-tickets>

Representatives from the UMass Building Authority (UMBA), the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), the MA Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) and other Construction Management Companies will be available to answer questions and share information on how to get involved in UMBA/DCAMM projects.

We Want to Hear About Your Success!



The SDO is looking for news about new contracts, business growth, and other milestones for SDO-certified diverse and small businesses. Your story might be featured on our website, the *Pathways & Connections* newsletter, or our social media feeds!

If you have a success story to share, please [fill out this form](#) and hit the “Submit” button. We would love to hear from you!

**SDO Means
*Business***

Click here for more!

Don't Miss these Upcoming Events!

Check out these upcoming opportunities to network and grow your business:



- September 20: SCORE Northeast Massachusetts Women's Business Summit. [Learn more and register here.](#)
 - September 27: Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England Veterans Small Business Symposium (webinar). [Register here.](#)
 - October 6 - 8: BECMA Black Expo. [Learn more here.](#)
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Check Out these Current and Future Bids!

- **Social Equity RFR for Technical Assistance and Training.** [Link to the RFR.](#)
 - **FAC122: Landscaping Products, Parks and Recreation Equipment and Related Products, Supplies and Services,** replacing FAC104. [Link to the RFR.](#)
 - **FAC124: Building Maintenance Repair and Operations Project Material and Supplies,** replacing FAC100. [Link to the bid.](#)
 - **FAC126: Records Management, Storage and Archiving Services,** replacing FAC96. [Link to the Intent to Post.](#)
 - **FAC127: Moving and Storage Services,** replacing FAC96. [Link to the Intent to Post.](#)
 - **TRD04:** Reopened to add a new category for Biohazardous Site Cleaning and Restoration Services. [Link to the bid.](#)
 - **An RFR for a seed-to-sale electronic tracking system of record (seed-to-sale SOR).** This system will serve as the Commonwealth's system of record for the regulated cannabis industry. [Link to the RFR.](#)
 - **An RFR for Catering Services for MassDOT.** [Link to the RFR.](#)
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The Supplier Diversity Hub - an Easy, Free Way to Help Grow Your Business

Diverse and small vendors now have full access to the Supplier Diversity Hub ("The Hub")! Already in use by state agencies, The Hub is a free, new way to help grow your business.

Using The Hub, diverse and small businesses can now receive a number of benefits. Communication between them and prime vendors and contractors as well as public buyers is easier, they can receive immediate notifications about new bidding opportunities, and they have instant access to check the status of their SDO certification.

If you are a certified vendor and haven't yet signed into The Hub, please follow the directions below to get started:

1. Visit <https://masdh.autocene.com> to reset your password.
2. Your username (which is also your email address) should be the same one you use to access your certification account.
3. For a video with step-by-step instructions on how to change your password, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>
4. Congratulations! You now have access to The Hub!

Once you have signed in, the first thing you need to do is to ensure your information is up-to-date in The Hub so that prime vendors and state agencies can find your business in a search. Follow the instructions below to update your search information:

If you need help, click the “Help” button on the left inside the Hub to see an instructional video.

1. Once signed in, click on your email address in the upper right of your screen.
2. Click on “Edit Profile.”
3. Click on “Company Profile.”
4. You will need to update your NAICS, CSI, and UNSPSC codes. In many cases, NAICS codes for diverse businesses are already entered.
5. Click on the category you want to update (NAICS Code Search, CSI Code Search, or UNSPSC Code Search) on the left. You will need to update each code individually.
6. Once on the NAICS Code Search screen, put your business category in the “Description” field. Click the “Search” button and select the items on the bottom of your screen that are applicable to your business. Then click the button “Select these Codes” on the right.
7. Once on the CSI Code Search screen, enter your business category in the “Sub Title” field. Click the “Search” button and select the items on the bottom of your screen that are applicable to your business. Then click the button “Select these Codes” on the right.
8. Once on the UNSPSC Code Search screen, put your business category in the “Class Title” field. Click the “Search” button and select the items on the bottom of your screen that are applicable to your business. Then click the button “Select these Codes” on the right.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at webmaster.sdo@mass.gov.

Meet the SDO: Tricia Webb, Quality Assurance Analyst

Each month, we feature a different member of our team to share a little bit about themselves and discuss useful information and resources the SDO has available for diverse and small businesses. Please send any questions for the SDO team to robert.keane@mass.gov.

What made you want to work at the SDO?

I had been looking for ways to better leverage my interest in data analytics and quality assurance, alongside my passions for equity and equality. Since I started here, I have found the collaborative and inviting team environment to be open to ideas that help push the mission forward.

Tell us something about certification that some businesses may not know:

That the SDO holds events across the Commonwealth! Also, we provide very informative and helpful [Pre-Certification Webinars](#).

What advice do you have for businesses looking to be certified?

We have a [great assessment questionnaire on our website](#) that can help you find out your next steps! Also, our agency is always happy to talk with you.

Tricia Webb can be reached at:
Patricia.Webb2@mass.gov



Favorite quote:

"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."

Favorite song:

Roar, Katy Perry

Favorite vacation spot:

My home state of Wyoming

Favorite food:

Mexican

Pet peeve:

When pedestrians don't use crosswalks!

Last TV Show seen/binged:

Sweet Magnolias

Last book read:

The People we Keep by Alison Larkin

Dog person or cat person?

Dog person - we just adopted



Tricia's dog "Scooby"

"Scooby" six months ago (see photo, left)

Tell us something about you that others may not know:

I am an Army veteran and person with a disability. Also, I love to learn about and cook different meals from around the world!



Diverse Business Certification Updates

SDO certified 39 businesses in July 2023. For a full list of newly-certified businesses, please click [here](#).

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.



Pre-Certification Webinars

For businesses wishing to apply for SDO certification, attending a Pre-Certification Webinar is a must. This webinar discusses the different types of SDO and SDO-recognized third-party certifications as well as the State certification process.

Registration is now available for webinars from now through December 2023. Sign up [here](#).



New SDO training now available!

Unlocking opportunities: How to make your State Certification work for you

Congratulations on getting your state certification! You may now have questions on the benefits of certification and how you can use it to help grow your business. This class is designed to help answer those questions and many more.

This class is designed for currently ***certified*** vendors to learn more about using your state certification to access, create, and develop opportunities within the Commonwealth. It will cover SDO programs, exploring business opportunities, creating SDP partnerships, and no-cost resources available to help grow your business.

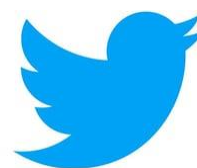
This class is available on September 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Class size is limited! Please register in advance.

If you are interested in attending this class, [Click Here to register](#). You will need to provide your client ID from the SDO Portal at time of registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email.

If you need special accommodations to fully participate in the training, please email Katherine.L.Thomas@mass.gov for assistance.

Follow us on:



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SDP & SBPP HelpDesk: sdp@mass.gov
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