

Pathways & Connections

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



November 2022

**Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses**

**Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS**

**COMMBUYS
Vendor Training
Schedule**

**Directory of
Certified
Businesses**

Remembering our veterans

Earlier this month, the SDO celebrated Veterans Day (Nov. 11). We are humbled to work with veterans who are owners of Veteran Business Enterprises (VBEs) and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBEs). We continue to be inspired by the sacrifices they made for the greater good, and we thank them for their service.

A graphic featuring a close-up of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text "THANK YOU, VETERANS" is overlaid in white, serif, all-caps font.

**THANK YOU,
VETERANS**



SDO at the Mass Save Supplier Diversity Summit

We had a great time at the Mass Save Supplier Diversity Summit in Westwood! Pictured are Gary Stiffler of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC) (left) with our own Director of Diverse and Small Business Engagement Rob Williams!

The event was a great opportunity for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses to gain valuable information and resources.

Free Webinar - Learn About Your Health Insurance Options

On November 30th at 12 pm, attend a FREE virtual info session on health insurance options available to small employers and their employees. If you're a small employer (1-50 FTEs) and want to learn more, register at <https://lnkd.in/dsFGYK38>



Read About Brockton's Minority-Owned Business Event

In last month's *Pathways & Connections*, we told you about the SDO's participation in a roundtable event in Brockton geared towards fostering meaningful access and upward mobility for minority-owned businesses in Massachusetts.

The Enterprise, the local daily newspaper, was there and covered the event with an in-depth article and video, which includes some great insight from our own

Algeria Marsh (above)! Click [here](#) to check them out (the site offers a limited number of articles per visitor).



Upcoming Event Highlights New Construction Opportunities

A new virtual event on December 8, 2022 at 2:00 pm will inform attendees on how they can get involved in public building projects.

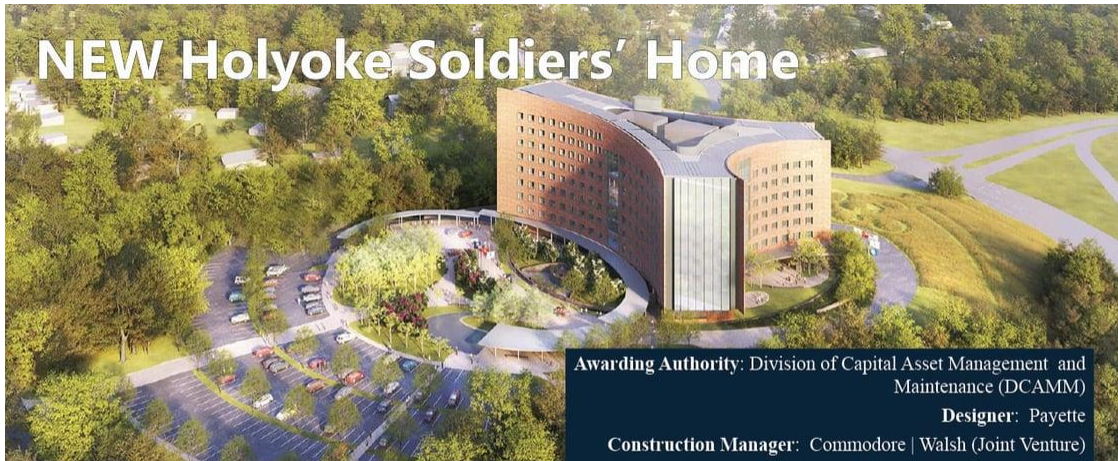
In addition to the SDO, representatives from the following organizations will attend and be available to answer questions and discuss how to get involved in public building projects: the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), the state agency responsible for most of the Commonwealth's major building construction; construction management firm Commodore|Walsh Joint Venture (C|W), which will be involved in a major upcoming public building project; and other knowledgeable industry professionals.

- The event highlights projects throughout Massachusetts; Western and Central Massachusetts businesses are strongly encouraged to attend.
- Projects include significant opportunities for minority-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses to participate.
- All construction services contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and Small, Local, MBE, WBE, VBE, SDVOBEs are strongly encouraged to attend.

Upcoming projects include: Holyoke Soldiers' Home, Fire Services SE Campus, Site Infrastructure and Burn Building, and more.

If you are interested, [please register to attend](#). The session is conducted virtually via Zoom and is 90 minutes long.

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Construction Contracting Opportunities - Deadline Extended!



NEW Holyoke Soldiers' Home

CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

Get Informed - Get Involved

Awarding Authority: Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM)
Designer: Payette
Construction Manager: Commodore | Walsh (Joint Venture)
Anticipated Gross Square Feet: 350,000
Anticipated Overall Project Estimated Construction Cost: \$350M

Contractor Prequalification Extended Through - December 1, 2022

The Commonwealth is building a new 350,000 square foot Soldiers' Home in Holyoke to provide long-term care for more than 200 veterans. Learn more about the project [here](#). ***The contractor prequalification period has been extended through Dec. 1, 2022.***

Are you considering bidding as the prime contractor for a specific trade, working as a subcontractor or supplier to a prime contractor? Contractors are being

prequalified to bid now - don't wait to submit your bids! Follow the instructions below:

- Click on this [webform link](#) and provide basic information about your firm and area of interest.
- Filed Sub-Bid Contractors in prime trades and those firms interested in working as subcontractors or suppliers can access the Request for Qualifications from DCAMM's E-Bid Room [HERE](#) or <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home>.
- Instructions on the E-Bid Room processes can be found on DCAMM's website [HERE](#) or contact DCAMM's Bid Room at (617) 727-4003 or bidroom.dcammm@mass.gov. Filed Sub-Bid Trades are: Acoustical Ceiling Tile, Elevators, Electrical, Fire Protection, Glass & Glazing, HVAC, Masonry, Misc. Metals, Painting, Plumbing, Resilient Flooring, Roofing, Tile, Terrazzo, and Waterproofing.
- All Other Contractors in prime trades and those firms interested in working as subcontractors or suppliers can express their interest by clicking on the Webform Link above or contacting Commodore|Walsh directly at info@commodorewalsh.com.
- Minority, Women, and Veteran-owned businesses are encouraged to join the project team. Participation goals of MBE 4.7%, WBE 7.7% and VBE 3% apply to this project.

The Supplier Diversity Hub - How to Set Up a Vendor Account

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 new way to

communicate with vendors and those looking to grow their supplier diversity programs.

Using The Hub, your business can now receive a number of benefits. Communication between you and prime vendors and contractors is easier, you can receive immediate notifications about new bidding opportunities, and you have instant access to check the status of your certification.

You should have received an email that will give you access to The Hub. Please follow the instructions below to log on to the system and start seeing first-hand what The Hub has to offer:

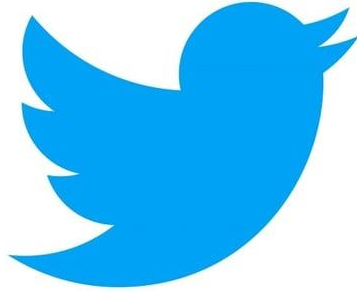
1. Open the email from the Supplier Diversity Hub (it should come from “no reply Supplier Diversity Hub – Commonwealth of Massachusetts”).
2. In that email will be a link to change your password. Click it, then use the Username and Reset Code in the email when prompted. Your username (which is also your email address) should be the same one you use to access your certification account. For a video with step-by-step instructions on how to change your password, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYcRY7QmJ2Y>
3. If you didn't receive an email to set up your account, please visit <https://masdh.autocene.com> to reset your password.
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, put 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.



The SDO is now on Twitter!

The Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) is now on Twitter! Visit us at [@SDO_Mass](https://twitter.com/SDO_Mass) for the latest news on upcoming bids, events, trainings, and other opportunities.

Meet the SDO: Xiomara Moreta, Compliance Officer

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 come to work at the SDO?:

I felt like I could transfer my skills and allow diversity to be spotlighted. I'm a behind-the-scenes person who would love to help achieve the goals SDO is shooting for.

Something about you that others may not know:

I really love Halloween and the movie Hocus Pocus. I named my dog Winnie after Winifred Sanderson (the character played by Bette Midler in the film). I also dressed her up as Winifred for her very first Halloween (see photo, right).



Favorite quote: "It is never too late to be what you might have been."

– George Elliot

Favorite song: "Infamous" by Abandon All Ships

Favorite vacation spot: Frankfurt, Germany

Favorite food: Pho

How can a diverse/small business make the most of a training/webinar?

The best thing about any event whether it is virtual or in person is learning and networking. To make the most of them is to spread the word and freely ask any questions you may have.

Can virtual networking events be as effective as in-person events?

I feel that virtual events, when structured, can be just as effective. Having structure and holding spaces for people to share their expertise and to listen is perfect.

Xiomara Moreta can be reached at xiomara.moreta3@mass.gov.

Pet peeve: Bad drivers

Last TV Show seen/binged: *Yu Yu Hakusho* (anime)

Last Book Read: *Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit

Dog person or cat person?:
Dogs all DAY



**Diverse Business
Certification Updates**



SDO certified 31 businesses in October 2022. 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.

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 until June 2023. Sign up [here](#).



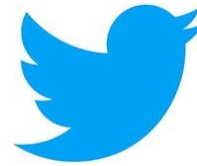
Visit the New SDO Training Webpage!

Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) Training now has its own webpage! Whether you are a buyer or a vendor, you can now access this page to learn more about and register for available classes. You will also find links to pre-recorded webcasts on a variety of topics.

You can visit the page either by clicking [here](#) or scrolling to the bottom of the SDO main page (www.mass.gov/sdo) and clicking on the "Buyer and Vendor Training" link.

We encourage you to add this page to your bookmarks and visit it often, as new classes will be added on a regular basis.

Follow us on:



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