

Pathways & Connections

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



October 2022

Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses

Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS

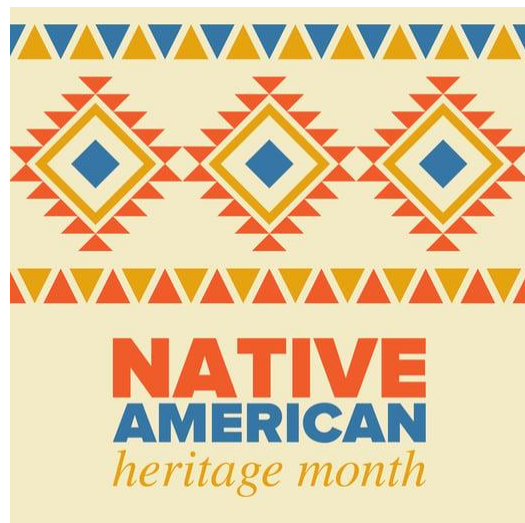
COMMBUYS
Vendor Training
Schedule

Directory of
Certified
Businesses

November is National Native American Heritage Month

Please join the SDO as we celebrate
National Native American Heritage
Month!

[Learn more about the history,
contributions, and culture of Native
Americans here.](#)



SDO at the Mass Black Expo

The SDO was thrilled to participate in last month's Mass Black Expo, the Commonwealth's premier event for showcasing Black businesses, organizations, and allies committed to closing the Massachusetts wealth gap through equity, access, and opportunity.

This year's event featured a keynote address from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. SDO Executive Director Bill McAvoy also spoke about SDO resources available to black-owned businesses.



U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (center) with SDO staff at September's Mass Black Expo. From the SDO are (from left), Director of Diverse and Small Business Engagement Rob Williams, Outreach Intern Dallas Silva-Dunn, SDO Executive Director Bill McAvoy, Diverse and Small Business Recruitment, Growth, and Retention Coordinator Algeria Marsh, and Engagement and Outreach Coordinator Amada LaCroix.



Upcoming Events to Highlight New Construction Opportunities

A new free series of virtual events 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 events highlight 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 one of the sessions below](#). Each session is conducted virtually via Zoom and is 90 minutes long:

- November 10, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.
 - December 8, 2022 - 2:00 p.m.
-

NEW Holyoke Soldiers' Home Construction Contracting Opportunities



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](#).

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.



"Leading the Change" with Commonwealth Corporation

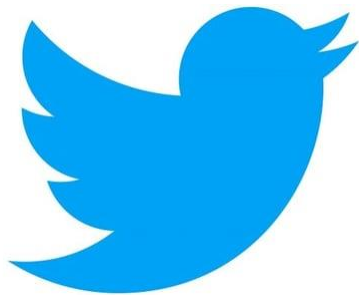
SDO Diverse and Small Business Recruitment, Growth, and Retention Coordinator Algeria Marsh (right) speaks at the recent #LeadTheChange event in Brockton. The event was part of a roundtable series geared towards fostering meaningful access and upward mobility for

Now Available for Buyers and Vendors: The Supplier Diversity Hub!

The Supplier Diversity Hub ("The Hub") is a new way for state agencies to manage their supplier diversity efforts and for vendors to connect directly with those looking to expand their supplier diversity programs.

The Hub allows agency users to plan individual procurements, track benchmark progress for their department's spending, and manage the supplier diversity efforts of their prime contractors to ensure contract compliance. All planning, reporting, spending tracking and notifications are now collected into one portal. The Hub's easy-to-use dashboards and vendor tracking eliminates the guesswork out of agency and vendor SDP performance. The system even eliminates the need to fill out Excel planning and reporting forms!

For vendors, the Hub makes it easier to communicate with prime vendors and contractors. They can also receive immediate notifications about new bidding opportunities and have instant access to check the status of their certification.



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: Lori Maggiacomo, 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've always been dedicated to the SDO's purpose of helping underrepresented business populations. Once the SDO was elevated to its own agency, I knew that my knowledge of state procurement laws along with my familiarity of the supplier diversity programs made it a great fit for me.

Something about you that others may not know:

I was an International Host Family for several years and I've accommodated students all over the world from China, Chile, Saudi Arabia, and many, many more places.

What is the one piece of advice you would give to certificated and small businesses?

Businesses should be promoting their certifications all over their content, social media sites, business cards, email signatures, and any marketing materials.

Favorite quote: "Try not to become a person of success, but rather to become a person of value."

– Albert Einstein

Favorite song: "My Favorite Things" (From the Sound of Music Sountrack) by Julie Andrews

Favorite vacation spot:

Switzerland

Favorite food: Pizza

Pet peeve: Cancelling plans at the last minute

Last TV Show seen/binged:

Family Feud

Last Book Read: I'm currently reading *Girl, Stop Apologizing* by Rachel Hollis

Dog person or cat person?:

I love both!

Buyers in both the public and private sectors want to and prefer to purchase when they can from a diverse or local business rather than the big chain stores. And if you're not already certified, be sure to take advantage of [all the programs that SDO offers for free](#) with helping you become a certified business.

Lori Maggiacomo can be reached at
lori.maggiacomo2@mass.gov.



Diverse Business Certification Updates

SDO certified 47 businesses in September 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



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 until June 2023. Sign up

contact information periodically to ensure that your certification stays up to date.

New SDO Training Now Available for Buyers and Vendors!

Check out these new training opportunities!

For Vendors:

Vendor Onboarding: Using your State Certification to Unlock Opportunities

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. The training covers SDO programs, exploring business opportunities, creating Supplier Diversity Program (SDP) partnerships, and no-cost resources to help grow your business.

Dates/Times:

November 2, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

November 30, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

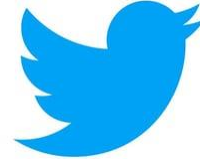
Format:

Virtual via ZOOM - [Click here to register](#)

For all sessions: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email you can add to your calendar.

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

Follow us on:



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (SDO)
1 Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Certification HelpDesk: Webmaster.SDO@mass.gov
SDP & SBPP HelpDesk: sdp@mass.gov
Phone: (617) 502-8843

Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter [here](#).

[Manage Preferences](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)