

Pathways & Connections

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



October 2023

Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses

Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS

COMMBUYS
Vendor Training
Schedule

Directory of
Certified
Businesses



Veterans and Spouse Small Business Week

Governor Maura Healey declared the week of Oct. 30 - Nov. 3 Veterans and Spouse Small Business Week, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of our veterans and their spouses. [Find out more about the week and related events here.](#)



November is National Native American Heritage Month

Please join the SDO as we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month! [Learn about the history of honoring the first Americans here.](#)

SDO Partners with City of Springfield



In photo: From left, SDO Director of State Certification Wanda Colon-D'Angelo, SDO Director of SDO Systems and Data Analytics Nani Assefa, SDO Executive Director Bill McAvoy, Eloy Toppin, Senior Compliance Project Manager from the City of Springfield's Department of Technical Assistance and Compliance, Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, and Patrice "Chae" Swan, Director of the City's Department of Technical Assistance and Compliance, announcing the new SDO/City of Springfield Partnership in Springfield on October 25.

In late October, the [Healey-Driscoll administration announced a partnership between the SDO and the City of Springfield](#) to expand services and opportunities for local diverse and small businesses.

Under the partnership, the City of Springfield will now certify local diverse and small businesses using the SDO's systems and technology. Certification is a free process which enables businesses to bid as a diversity partner on state contracts (such as road maintenance and construction projects) and can help grow businesses that have been traditionally underserved.

"Springfield is home to so many diverse and small businesses that strengthen our economy and our communities," said **Governor Maura Healey**. "This new partnership will support diverse and small businesses in Springfield by making it easier for them to do business with the state. We're excited to support this partnership and look forward to working with new businesses."

[See the local coverage from westernmassnews.com.](#)

SDO Staff Appointed to Governor-Created Boards



Pictured from left: Colon-D'Angelo, Carvalho, and McAvoy.

SDO's Director of State Certification Wanda Colon D'Angelo and General Counsel Evandro Carvalho were recently hand-picked to serve as the designees for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance on two boards created by Governor Maura Healey to help bring equality across Massachusetts.

Colon-D'Angelo was appointed to the Governor's Advisory Council on Latino Empowerment, while Carvalho is now a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Black Empowerment. Both boards are designed to expand opportunities to the black and Latino communities and were created pursuant to [Executive Order 606](#) and [Executive Order 608](#), respectively.

In addition, the SDO's Executive Director, Bill McAvoy, was appointed to serve on the Governor's Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Increasing Equity Through Data. This Committee was created through [Executive Order 612](#) and institutes the practice by all Executive Departments of intentionally and regularly performing equity assessments of their programs and services.

Congratulations Wanda, Evandro, and Bill!

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

**Thursday, November 2, 2023
1-4PM**

**UMass Amherst Center at Springfield
Classroom 014
1500 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01115**

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/715600108187?aff=oddtcreator>

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.

***SDO Recognized by the MRC at Disability
Employment Month Celebration***



The SDO was recently given an award for "Outstanding Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility" from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). The award was presented at the Workforce Success: Powered by Partnerships event in Marlborough. Accepting the award are the SDO's Disabilities Program Intern Dallas Silva-Dunn (left) and Construction Program Coordinator Meghan Costa.

We Want to Hear About Your Success!



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

In particular, we are looking for stories from veteran-owned businesses so we can feature them in our next issue in honor of Veterans Day!

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:



- **November 2:** Construction Opportunity Networking Event (with DCAMM, UMBA, and SDO) [Register here.](#)
- **November 15:** Introductions to Contracts for Small Business Owners (Hosted by the Boston Local Development Corporation) [Register here.](#)

Check Out these Current and Upcoming Bids!

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

- Catering Conference - [Link to the bid](#)
- Bottled Soda and Related Services - [Link to the bid](#)
- Emergency Assistance Food Services - [Link to the bid](#)
- Bid Name: 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, Meeting Space and Hotel Accommodations - [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](#)

Other Bidding opportunities:

- FAC120: Bid reopening for Landscaping, Snow Removal, and Tree Services. [Link to the Bid.](#)
- FAC124: Bid Reopening for Building Maintenance Repair and Operations Project Material and Supplies. [Link to the Bid.](#)
- Social Equity RFR for Technical Assistance and Training. [Link to the RFR.](#)
- FAC127: Moving and Storage Services, replacing FAC96. [Link to the Bid.](#)
- FAC119: Maintenance Repair and Operations (MRO) Retail Products and Supplies. [Link to the Bid.](#)
- OFF53: Office Supplies, Recycled Paper, and Envelopes. [Link to the Intent to Bid.](#)

- **FAC126: Records Management, Storage and Archiving Services**, replacing FAC96. [Link to the Intent to Bid](#).

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



The Supplier Diversity Hub - an Easy, Free Way to Help Grow Your Business

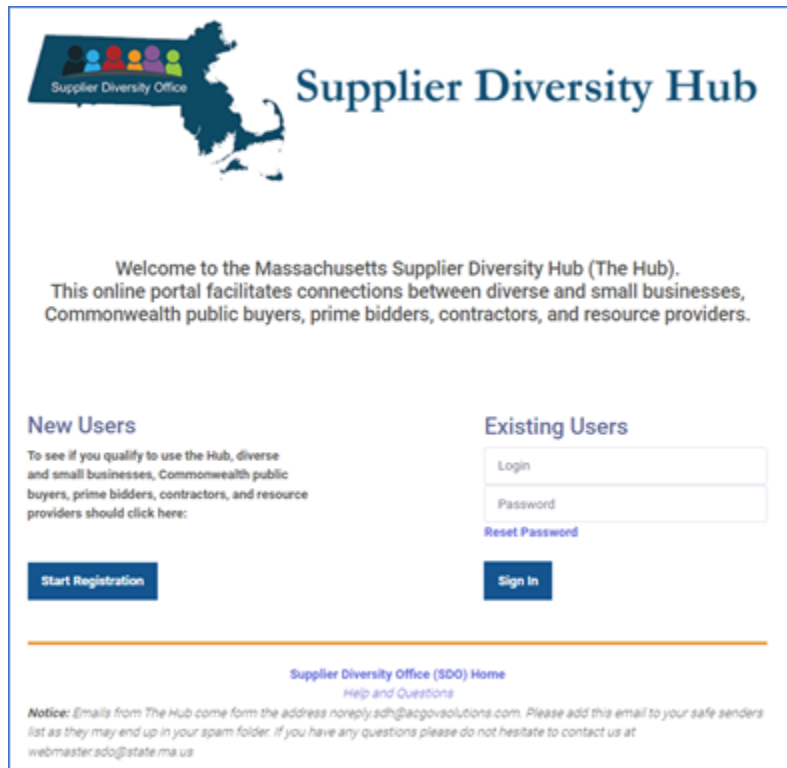
Diverse and small vendors now have full access to the Supplier Diversity Hub ("The Hub")! Already in use by state agencies, The Hub is a free, new way to help grow your business.

Using The Hub, diverse and small businesses can now receive a number of benefits. Communication between them and prime 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.

Please follow the directions below to get started:

1. Visit <https://masdh.autocene.com> and click **Start Registration** on the left.

2. Click **Begin** to answer questions about your business or organization.
3. Select applicable Organization Type.
4. Search for your business or organization by name. If you find it, click on it and select **Next**. Then, Fill out the required fields and hit **Submit**.
5. If you can't find your business or organization, click **Next** and fill out the questions about your business or organization. Then hit **Submit**. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to set your password.
6. Your username (which is also your email address) should be the same one you use to access your certification account.
7. Congratulations! You now have access to The Hub!



The image shows the login screen for the Supplier Diversity Hub. At the top left is a logo for the Supplier Diversity Office featuring a map of Massachusetts and five stylized human figures in different colors. To the right of the logo is the text "Supplier Diversity Hub". Below this is a welcome message: "Welcome to the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Hub (The Hub). This online portal facilitates connections between diverse and small businesses, Commonwealth public buyers, prime bidders, contractors, and resource providers." The screen is divided into two main sections: "New Users" and "Existing Users". The "New Users" section includes a paragraph: "To see if you qualify to use the Hub, diverse and small businesses, Commonwealth public buyers, prime bidders, contractors, and resource providers should click here:" followed by a blue button labeled "Start Registration". The "Existing Users" section includes a "Login" text box, a "Password" text box, and a blue button labeled "Sign In". Below the "Sign In" button is a link that says "Reset Password". At the bottom of the page, there is a horizontal line, followed by the text "Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) Home" and a link "Help and Questions". A "Notice" is also present: "Notice: Emails from The Hub come from the address noreply.sdh@acgovolutions.com. Please add this email to your safe senders list as they may end up in your spam folder. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at webmaster.sdo@state.ma.us".

Supplier Diversity Office

Supplier Diversity Hub

Welcome to the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Hub (The Hub).
This online portal facilitates connections between diverse and small businesses,
Commonwealth public buyers, prime bidders, contractors, and resource providers.

New Users

To see if you qualify to use the Hub, diverse and small businesses, Commonwealth public buyers, prime bidders, contractors, and resource providers should click here:

[Start Registration](#)

Existing Users

Login

Password

[Reset Password](#)

[Sign In](#)

[Supplier Diversity Office \(SDO\) Home](#)
[Help and Questions](#)

Notice: Emails from The Hub come from the address noreply.sdh@acgovolutions.com. Please add this email to your safe senders list as they may end up in your spam folder. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at webmaster.sdo@state.ma.us

The new Hub log-in screen

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: Emily Maguire, Individuals with Disabilities Program Coordinator

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.

Tell us something about you that others may not know:

While I was born in Massachusetts, I have lived in six states throughout my life. It's important to note that I have been a Red Sox, Bruins, and Patriots fan regardless of where I was residing.

What made you want to work at the SDO?

Prior to joining the SDO team, I worked in accessibility advocacy. This position was an amazing opportunity to use my knowledge to support individuals with disabilities and their business goals through a growing program. I am so excited to be a part of this organization as the mission and vision of SDO aligns perfectly with my own values. The passion to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in state and local government is at the forefront of this work and that is something I had to be a part of.

What do you hope to accomplish by working at the SDO?

I hope to work with the amazing teams at SDO to grow the Individuals with Disabilities Program as well as increase the support for and engagement



Favorite quote:

"A step back backwards, after making a wrong turn, is a step in the right direction." - Kurt Vonnegut

Favorite song:

'S Wonderful - João Gilberto

Favorite vacation spot:

Anywhere with mountains and lakes!

Favorite food:

A good grilled cheese

Pet peeve:

Bad manners

Last TV Show seen/binged:

The Sopranos

Last book read:

Bliss Montage by Ling Ma

Dog person or cat person?

Both, but I have two kitties - Benny and Brewster

Emily Maguire can be reached at:

with disability-owned businesses in the Commonwealth.

emily.maguire@mass.gov



Diverse Business Certification Updates

SDO certified 37 businesses in September 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 covers 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!

Don't Miss Out! Responding to RFQs

Are you a vendor that is enrolled in the Small Business Purchasing Program (SBPP) and currently on a statewide contract? Don't miss out on another COMMBUYS opportunity! In this class you will learn:

- The benefits of the SBPP
- The mechanics of a Request for Quotes (RFQ)
- How to identify and respond to an RFQ
- How RFQ's are evaluated

(PRE-REQUISITE: This class is for SBPP participants currently on a Statewide or Departmental contract)

This class is available on December 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Class size is limited! Please register in advance.

If you are interested in attending this class, [Click Here to register](#). 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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Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Certification HelpDesk: Webmaster.SDO@mass.gov

SDP & SBPP HelpDesk: sdp@mass.gov

Phone: (617) 502-8843

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