

Pathways & Connections



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

February 2025

Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses

Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS

SDO and
Commonwealth
Training
Opportunities

Directory of
Certified
Businesses

New Guidance from the Attorney General's Office

Recently, Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell co-led a coalition of 16 attorneys general, [issuing guidance](#) to help businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations understand the viability and importance of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility policies. Attorney General Campbell's press release [can be found here](#).

For our part, the SDO is a state agency that receives no federal funding. Federal executive orders do not impact or change SDO certifications or programs, or the SDO's mission of increasing diverse and small business spending in Massachusetts.



In February we celebrate Black History Month, where we acknowledge the contributions and achievements of Black Americans.

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

Coils to Locks, a wholesaler and ecommerce retailer of coily, curly wigs for medical hair loss, has been featured in a number of media outlets recently. Check out their coverage in the [Bay State Banner](#), [Black Enterprise](#), and [Dana Farber's Insights Blog](#)!

Over the past three months, project management firm **Soleil Conseiller** has expanded its impact with new offerings and increased industry recognition. In November, December, and January, Soleil rolled out three strategic services: Premier Project Management Advisory, Microsoft Project Portfolio (PPM) Rollout Accelerator, and Project Rescue & Recovery—each designed to help organizations optimize project success. At the same time, their thought leadership gained national and global visibility, as owner René Little was published in the Project Management Institute (PMI) blog, which featured Black Leaders Worldwide.

Velney Construction CEO Josue Velney, has officially become a Phius Certified Builder (CPHB). Phius (Passive House Institute US) sets the gold standard for sustainable construction. A statement from Velney construction said "this certification reflects Josue's commitment to creating structures that are not only environmentally friendly but also cost-effective and comfortable. (It) is a testament to his dedication to advancing energy-efficient, high-performance building practices."

If you have a business success story you'd like to share, [please let us know!](#)

Check Out these Current and Upcoming Bids!



- ITS82: IT Accessibility Services. [Link to the Intent to Bid.](#)
- ITT84: Cellular Services and Devices. [Link to the Intent to Bid](#)
- HSP45: Laboratory Supplier and Equipment. [Link to the Intent to Bid](#)
- ITT85: Network and Communication Services and Hardware. [Link to the Intent to Bid](#)
- PRF85: Enterprise Temporary Help Services. [Link to the Intent to Bid](#)

- The Massachusetts Human Resources Division (HRD) has posted a solicitation for Arbitrators. [Please review the COMMBUYS listing](#) for the bid announcement.

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

- **Catering Conference** - [Link to the bid](#)
- **Emergency Assistance Food Services** - [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](#).

Celebrating Black History Month at the Statehouse



Caption: BECMA President and CEO Nicole Obi (center) with SDO Certification Renewal Specialist Bianca Tavarez (left) and SDO Construction Program Coordinator Meghan Costa (right) at the Black History Month celebration at the Statehouse.

The SDO was on hand to celebrate Black History Month at the Statehouse's Great Hall of Flags on February 5th. In an event hosted by Governor Maura Healey's Black Empowerment Council, attendees honored the contributions of African Americans in Massachusetts.

One of the attendees was Nicole Obi, President & CEO of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA) as well as the Chairperson of the SDO Advisory Board. On February 22, Obi was honored at the Afro-Caribbean Black History Gala & Awards, a celebration of Massachusetts' Caribbean American community. Congratulations Nicole on this well-deserved honor!

U.S. Haitian Chamber of Commerce to Host "Women in Entrepreneurship" Event



Join the U.S. Haitian Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for an empowering discussion on Women in Entrepreneurship! This dynamic event, moderated by Emmanuela Romain-Amedee, MBA, will bring together women leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals to explore key topics essential for success.

 Saturday, March 29, 2025

 10 AM – 2 PM

 Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library – 1350 Blue Hill Ave,

Boston, MA 02126

💡 Topics of Discussion Include:

- ◇ Leadership Development
- ◇ Financial Literacy & Resources in Massachusetts
- ◇ Navigating Gender Bias in the Workforce
- ◇ Work-Life Balance
- ◇ Sustainability: Branding, Technology & Innovation
- ◇ Mental Health & Stress Management
- ◇ Legal Representation

✦ Attendees can gain valuable insights, network with industry leaders, and take their entrepreneurial journey to the next level.

[Register here!](#)

**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 FY2023, the Commonwealth spent \$3.38 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!](#)

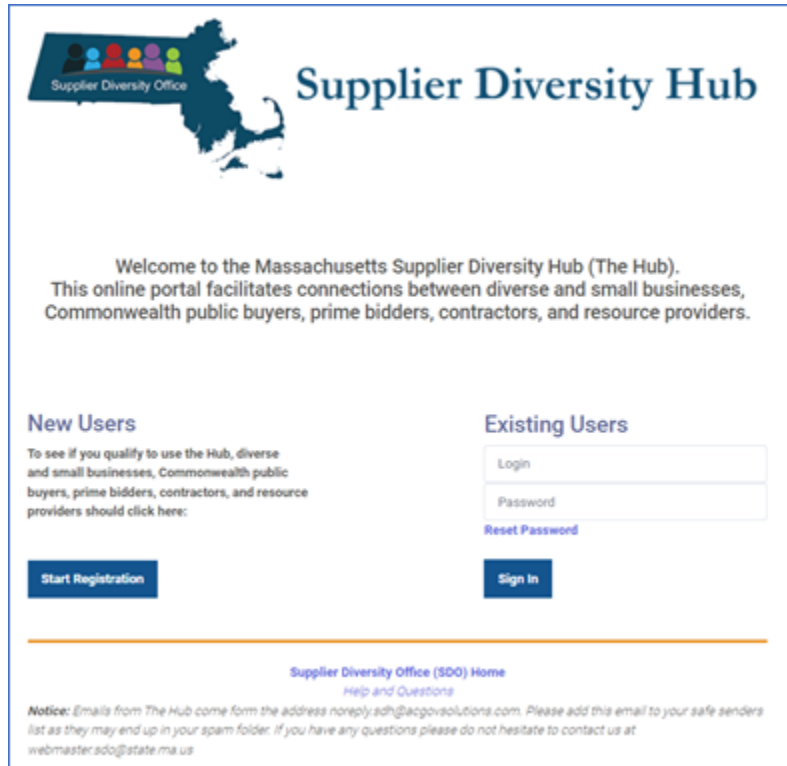


New Updates to the Supplier Diversity Hub

The Supplier Diversity Hub ("The Hub"), a networking tool used to connect diverse and small businesses with interested parties, recently made a number of updates to make the system even more essential.

Now, with these updates, vendors using the Hub will be able to receive important notifications on bids, update their profiles, and upload brochures for their businesses. Agencies and prime vendors will be able to search vendors by departmental contracts and by ethnicity (MBEs only).

If you are a vendor or agency who has yet to use The Hub, [please click here to get started](#); if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at webmaster.sdo@mass.gov.



The image shows the login screen for the Supplier Diversity Hub. At the top left is the logo for the Supplier Diversity Office, featuring a map of Massachusetts with five colored dots representing diverse groups. To the right of the logo is the text "Supplier Diversity Hub". Below the logo and title, a welcome message reads: "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 form with fields for "Login" and "Password", a "Reset Password" link, and a blue button labeled "Sign In". At the bottom, there is a horizontal line followed by the text "Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) Home" and "Help and Questions". A notice at the very bottom states: "Notice: Emails from The Hub come from the address noreply.sdh@agovsolutions.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](#)

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The new Hub log-in screen



Diverse Business Certification Updates

The SDO certified 73 businesses in January 2025. For the latest 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 in April 2025. Sign up [here](#).

Follow us on:



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SDP & SBPP HelpDesk: sdp@mass.gov

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