

Pathways & Connections

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



January 2025

Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses

Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS

SDO and
Commonwealth
Training
Opportunities

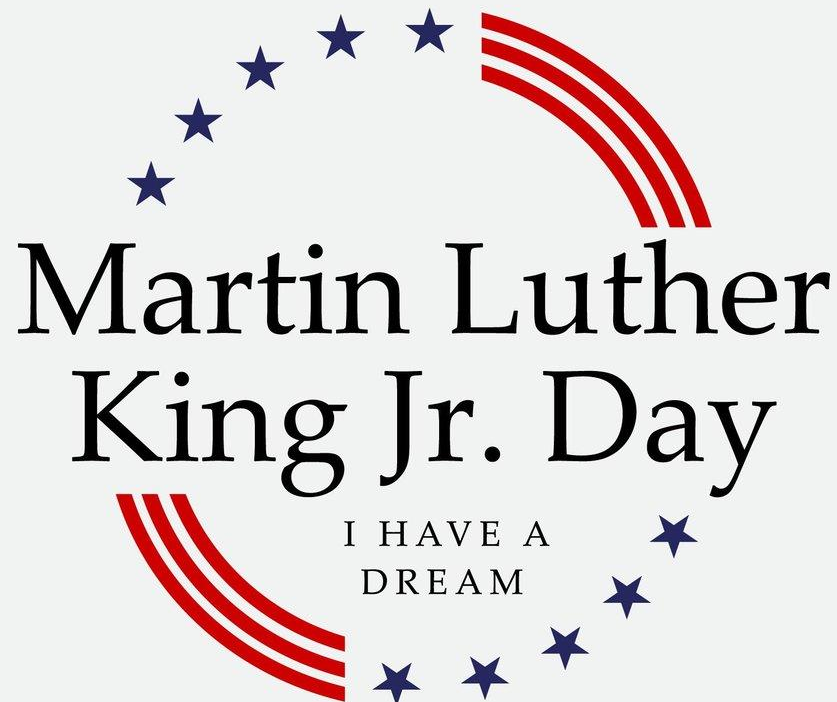
Directory of
Certified
Businesses

February is Black History Month



Black History Month, where we acknowledge the contributions and achievements of Black Americans, starts next month.

Be sure to check out the February issue of Pathways & Connections to see our feature on celebrating our certified Black-Owned Businesses!



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

On Monday, Jan. 20, the SDO celebrated MLK Day and recognized the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. [Read about the history of the holiday here.](#)

Celebrate 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 black-owned businesses so we can feature them in our February issue in honor of Black History Month!

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!

Check Out these Current and Upcoming Bids!



- ITT84: Cellular Services and Devices. [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](#).



Matchmaker Event on February 13

Please join the Town of Norwood and the SBA's Massachusetts District Office for an in-person Access to Capital and Small Business Resources Matchmaker. This event will be held at Grazina Event Space located in the Norwood Space Center.

This is a dynamic opportunity to network and learn about the resources available for small businesses to start, grow, and expand. Learn more about access to capital and government contracting opportunities from guest speakers and industry experts. You will be able to connect with over 20 lending institutions, small business organizations, and government agencies in attendance.

Details:

Thursday, February 13

9 a.m. - 12 Noon

Grazina at Norwood Space Center

83 Morse Street Suites 4F and 6A Norwood, MA 02062

[Click here for more information and to register!](#)

Eligibility Changes for SDO Certification

The SDO recently changed its regulations to help us promote diversity in state contracting and increase opportunities for diverse and small businesses.

The SDO expanded our definition of eligibility to include non-citizens permanently residing in the U.S. under the color of law. Specifically, the language governing who is an “eligible person” to receive SDO certification now includes individuals permanently residing under the color of law in the United States (commonly referred to as PRUCOL). This designation is given to any non-citizen permanently living in the United States when the individual is known to the Department of Homeland Security and there is no evidence that the DHS is engaged in deportation proceedings against the noncitizen.

The citizenship requirement for SDO certification had become a roadblock for many companies that are locally-owned and have been fixtures in their communities for years. This change in our regulations ensures the benefits of SDO certification will be more accessible,

equitable, and inclusive of businesses that have been historically underserved.

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.

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@acgovsolutions.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



Diverse Business Certification Updates

The SDO certified 37 businesses in December 2024. 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 March and April 2025. Sign up [here](#).



New SDO training now available!

Hub Vendor Reporting- for Prime Contractors

Are you a Prime Contractor on a Departmental Contract? As part of contract terms and conditions, vendors are required to spend with certified diverse businesses.

Supplier diversity spending needs to be entered in the Supplier Diversity Hub (the Hub), the online system used by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). *Learn how to do this in our upcoming training!*

Topics to be covered include how to:

- Register in the Hub
- Report SDP spend
- View payments in the dashboard

This webinar is available on **April 22, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

[Click Here to Register](#). Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email.

Class size is limited! Please register in advance

If you need special accommodations to fully participate in the training, please email Julie.A.Kearnan@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

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