

Pathways & Connections



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

June 2025

**Resources for
Diverse and
Small
Businesses**

**Open Bid
Opportunities
on COMMBUYS**

**SDO and
Commonwealth
Training
Opportunities**

**Directory of
Certified
Businesses**

***Celebrating Excellence in Supplier Diversity at the
Statehouse***



Above: Scenes from the SDO Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards Ceremony.

Earlier this month, the SDO recognized the state departments who represented the best in supplier diversity in FY2024 with an award ceremony at the Great Hall in the Massachusetts Statehouse.

Awards in more than a dozen categories were given for promoting the SDO's mission of fairness and equity in the state bidding process. This year, new categories for increases in direct spend as well as meeting the new benchmarks for supporting disability-owned and LGBT-owned businesses were added.

Speaking at the event were the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff for Access and Opportunity Marcony Almeida-Barros and Executive Office for Administration and Finance's Assistant Secretary Mark Fine.

The SDO congratulates the award winners:

SDO Community Partner of the Year:

- Bridgewater State University

Supplier Diversity Excellence Award for meeting all six benchmarks:

- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Procurement Expansion Award for meeting both the LGBT and Disability-owned benchmarks:

- Executive Office for Administration and Finance
- Executive Office of Economic Development
- Executive Office of Education

- Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
- Mass Teachers Retirement Board
- Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Supplier Diversity Leadership Award for meeting five out of six benchmarks:

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Military Division
- Executive Office for Administration and Finance
- Executive Office of Economic Development
- Executive Office of Education
- Mass Teachers Retirement Board
- Massachusetts Gaming Commission
- Massachusetts Veterans Home at Holyoke

Supplier Diversity Milestone Achievement Award for meeting four out of six benchmarks:

- Department of Public Health
- Division of Occupational Licensure
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
- Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
- MassAbility
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Pinnacle Performer Award for the highest percentage increase in direct spend with Minority-Owned Business Enterprises:

- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Energy Resources
- State Library of Massachusetts

Pinnacle Performer Award for the highest percentage increase in direct spend with Veteran-Owned Businesses Enterprises:

- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Early Education and Care
- Executive Office of Technology Services and Security

Pinnacle Performer Award for the highest percentage increase in direct spend with Disability-Owned Business Enterprises:

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Military Division
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Public Health

Pinnacle Performer Award for the highest percentage increase in direct spend with LGBT-Owned Business Enterprises:

- Department of Fish and Game
- Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities

- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Pinnacle Performer Award for highest percentage increase in direct spend with Women-Owned Business Enterprises:

- Appellate Tax Board
- State Library of Massachusetts

Innovation Icon Award for the combined highest percentage increase in direct spend with Disability- and LGBT-Owned Business Enterprises:

- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Mental Health
- Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Small Business Star Award for the highest percentage increase in direct spend with MA-based small businesses:

- Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
- Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
- Massachusetts Office of Business Development

Game Changer Award for the highest percentage increase in direct spend in five categories:

- Department of Mental Health
- Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

- Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Diverse and Small Business Champion for increased percentage in direct spend in all six categories:

- Department of Public Health

The SDO also recognized the the **Municipal Police Training Committee**, dedicating their award to the memory of the MPTC's Fiscal Analyst, Jean Clarence Avril. Jean tragically lost his battle with a rare cancer last year. Even while he was ill, Jean helped to further SDO's mission by promoting and utilizing diverse and small businesses every time it was feasible to do so, and always with such positivity and support. Jean's family was at the ceremony to accept the award.

Celebrating Pride Month!



PRIDE MONTH

The SDO celebrates Pride Month, which coincides with the Stonewall uprising in June 1969. For the LGBTQ community, Pride Month symbolizes self-acceptance and resistance to discrimination. [Learn more about local Pride Month events here.](#)

Juneteenth - June 19



The SDO celebrates the Juneteenth holiday, which commemorates when enslaved people of African descent in Galveston, Texas, finally learned of their freedom through the Emancipation Proclamation-- which was issued more than two years prior. [Click here to learn about the historical legacy of Juneteenth.](#)



Check out these upcoming events:

Commonwealth Corporation Virtual Grant Info Session

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

10:00 a.m.

This free webinar will walk participants through available CommCorp grants and eligibility criteria.

[Register here!](#)

White Stadium Contracting Opportunity Fair

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

William E. Reed Auditorium

24 Washington St., Boston

Come meet members of the team and learn about opportunities to bid on contracts related to the design, construction, and operation of this transformational project for Boston Public Schools (BPS) Athletics and Franklin Park.

[Register for this event here!](#)

Check Out these Current and Upcoming Bids!



Bids:

- PRF86: Advertising, Marketing, & Planning Services. [Link to the Bid.](#)
- ITS88: IaaS, PaaS, and Related Services. [Link to the Bid.](#)

Intent to Bid:

- PRF89: Commuter Services. [Link to the Intent to Bid.](#)
- GRO42: School Nutrition Products. [Link to the Intent to Reopen.](#)
- ITT84: Cellular Services and Devices. [Link to the Intent to Bid.](#)
- OFF54: Postage and Mail Processing Equipment, Accessories, Services & Supplies. [Link to the Intent to Bid.](#)
- HSP45: Laboratory Supplier and Equipment (re-opened). [Link to the Intent to Reopen.](#)
- ITT85: Network and Communication Services and Hardware. [Link to the Intent to Bid.](#)

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](#).

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 FY2024, the Commonwealth spent \$3.78 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!](#)

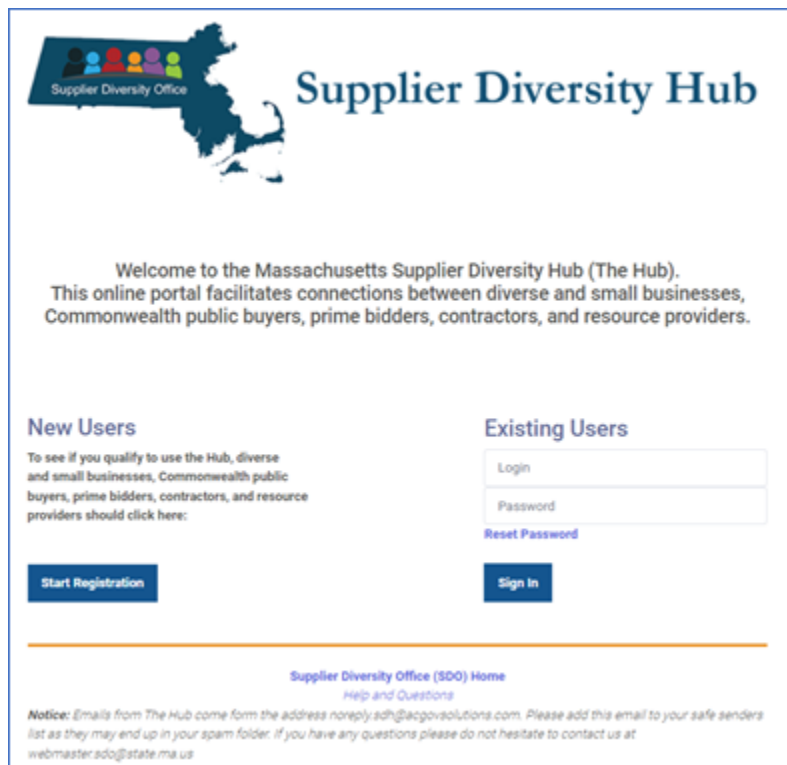


New Updates to the Supplier Diversity Hub

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 screenshot shows the Supplier Diversity Hub login interface. 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 title "Supplier Diversity Hub". Below the title 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 interface is divided into two main sections: "New Users" and "Existing Users". The "New Users" section includes a paragraph explaining the purpose of the hub and a "Start Registration" button. The "Existing Users" section includes a login form with fields for "Login" and "Password", a "Reset Password" link, and a "Sign In" button. At the bottom, there is a link to the "Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) Home" and a "Help and Questions" link. A notice at the very bottom states: "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

Reminder - Race/Ethnicity

Information for MBEs

Currently, the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) makes public the race and ethnicity of our certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). This change is in response to many buyers looking to make purchases from Black, Latino/Hispanic, Asian, and Native American/Indigenous Persons-Owned Businesses. These businesses are still classified as MBEs, but the additional racial makeup is publicly available in our search engine.

While this information is public, it does not affect any vendor's diversity status as an MBE, their ability to bid on and win bids, and their benefits with the SDO.

If any MBE would prefer to make their race and ethnicity information private, please contact us at webmaster.SDO@mass.gov.



Diverse Business Certification Updates

The SDO certified 84 businesses in May 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 through July 2025. Sign up [here](#).



Upcoming Vendor Classes

Small Business Purchasing Program for Vendors - NEW!

This class is designed for Massachusetts small businesses that have been in operation for at least a year, employ 50 or fewer employees, and generate less than \$15 million annually. The Commonwealth's Small Business Purchasing Program (SBPP) is free and can help market your business to Executive Department buyers. Come learn about the SBPP benefits, eligibility criteria, and application process.

Upcoming dates:

- July 10, 9-10AM
- July 17, 9-10AM

[Link to register](#)

Certified Vendor Onboarding – Using Your Certification to Unlock Opportunities

(PRE-REQUISITE: for Certified Diverse Businesses)

Learn more about using your certification to identify opportunities in public procurement and develop business-to-business relationships with other vendors. This training covers SDO programs, exploring business opportunities, creating SDP partnerships, and introducing free resources available to help grow your business.

Upcoming dates:

- July 29, 9-11AM

[Link to register](#)

Vendor Hub Reporting- for Prime Contractors

(PRE-REQUISITE: for Prime Contractors currently on Departmental contracts)

As part of all contract terms and conditions, prime contractors are required to report spending in the Supplier Diversity Hub. In this class, you will learn how to register in the Hub, submit SDP spend reports, add and manage users, and view current spend.

Upcoming dates:

- July 23, 9-10AM

[Link to register](#)

Follow us on:



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