



Supplier Diversity Program

Vendor Responsibilities and Resources

Overview

The [Supplier Diversity Program](#) (SDP) was established to promote diversity in public contracting. Consistent with this mission, vendors awarded goods and services contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are required to spend a percentage of their contract sales with qualifying diverse businesses (“SDP Partners”). Contract vendors are required to meet this obligation each year and must report their SDP spending as instructed by the department. Note that Statewide Contract vendors that are certified by the [Supplier Diversity Office](#) (SDO) are not exempt from SDP requirements. SDP partners may be contacted to verify spending.

Qualifying SDP Partners

Spending with businesses certified or recognized by the SDO in the following categories qualifies to meet SDP requirements:

- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Minority Non-Profit Organization (M/NPO)
- Women Business Enterprise (WBE)
- Women Non-Profit Organization (W/NPO)
- Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE)
- Veteran Non-Profit Organization (V/NPO)
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (SDVOBE)
- Disability-Owned Business Enterprise (DOBE)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE)

To be considered valid SDP partners, businesses in the above categories must be listed in one of the following two directories of certified businesses:

- [SDO Online Directory of Certified Businesses](#)
- [U.S. Small Business Administration’s Veteran Small Business Certification \(VetCert\) Directory](#)

Eligible Types of Business Relationships

SWC Vendors’ SDP commitments may be met in two ways:

- **Subcontracting** is a partnership in which the SDP partner provides products and/or services directly related to the contract with the Commonwealth
- **Ancillary Products and Services** is a business relationship in which the SDP partner provides products or services that are related to the prime contractor's general business operations (e.g. landscaping, IT support, janitorial services, catering, etc.)

Program Flexibility

SDP partners do not need to be located in Massachusetts nor do they need to be related to your contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. SDP partners may be added/changed at any time.

Training

View our webcasts:

- [SDP Overview](#)
- [SDP Plan Form Review](#)
- [Finding SDP Partners](#)

Questions

Refer questions about the SDP or how to get certified to sdp@mass.gov.