



## Supplier Diversity Office News & Opportunities

February 12, 2016

Dear Veteran Business Owner:

First and foremost, thank you for your service to our country. We are ever grateful for your sacrifices. We encourage you to consider the opportunity outlined below as well as share this note with others in your networks.

In November, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker [announced](#) several innovations and expansions of the Commonwealth's Supplier Diversity Program (SDP), including adding Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (VBE) and setting a 3% benchmark for state contracts awarded to a combination of VBEs and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses (SDVOBE).



Massachusetts State House

Expanding supplier diversity efforts to include all veterans affirms Governor Baker's commitment to the men and women who have served our country and who should be provided access to business opportunities with the Commonwealth.

As a Veteran-Owned Business enterprise, we encourage you to become VBE certified, which may help make your business more marketable in the public and private bidding arena.

To explain the potential benefits of VBE and SDVOBE certification - in FY2015, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts spent \$4.37 billion on goods and services. The Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office's goal is to ensure that diverse businesses participate in this spending either as prime contractors or through a wide range of partnerships with prime contractors. This is accomplished through several interrelated programs, which include spending benchmarks for each certified business type.

Becoming certified is the first step in taking advantage of these business opportunities. All veteran businesses, VBEs and SDVOBEs, may become certified by applying through [VetBiz/U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization \(OSDBU\)](#). Alternatively, for those businesses that qualify as a SDVOBE, we recommend that you seek certification as an SDVOBE by applying through the [United States Business Leadership Network \(USBLN\)](#).

If you are already certified by Vet-Biz or USBLN and would like to be included on the Commonwealth's certified vendor list, please complete and submit the [Application for verification](#) to the Commonwealth's Supplier Diversity Office and remember to include the required supporting materials. Additionally, businesses interested in doing business with the Commonwealth should complete the free registration process in the Commonwealth's Market Center at [www.COMMBUYS.com](http://www.COMMBUYS.com). The Commonwealth offers a variety of training sessions for business owners interested in learning more about the utilization of COMMBUYS. Also, if your business meets the criteria for the [Small Business Purchasing Program \(SBPP\)](#), you should register for the SBPP during the COMMBUYS registration process.

If you have any questions about the certification process, please contact [John Fitzpatrick](#). If you need assistance with COMMBUYS, please contact the COMMBUYS Help Desk at [COMMBUYS@state.ma.us](mailto:COMMBUYS@state.ma.us) or 1-888-627-8283. Help Desk staff are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Regards,

Secretary Francisco Urena  
Department of Veteran Affairs  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Bill McAvoy  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Operational Services Division

