

**A COMPACT TO BUILD LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH**

*between the*  
**The City of Boston**  
**Department of Supplier Diversity**  
*and the*  
**The City of Cambridge**  
**Community Development Department**

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BOSTON, MA

The City of Boston ("COB") through the Department of Supplier Diversity ("DSD") along with the City of Cambridge through the Community Development Department ("CDD") (each a "City" or, collectively the "Cities") are joined by a mutual interest to increase public contracting opportunities for minority-owned ("MBEs"), veteran-owned ("VBEs"), women-owned business enterprises ("WBEs"), and other disadvantaged business enterprises ("DBEs") later acknowledged by the Cities that are not immediately articulated in this document. The Parties will work together in the spirit of cooperation and open communication, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, with the primary goal of increasing contracting opportunities for and supporting the growth and development of the abovementioned business groups.

A goal of CDD's Economic Opportunity and Development Division is to, through its own direct work, support diverse business owners, and to promote, advocate and connect certified businesses with procurement opportunities through training, business development, advocacy, and outreach.

The mission of the Department of Supplier Diversity of the City of Boston is to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in City contracting by supporting access to contracting opportunities for businesses owned by people of color, women, veterans, as well as small and local businesses. DSD certifies businesses that meet certain eligibility criteria and manages several programs that encourage their participation in public contracting and promote their growth.

Ensuring greater access to City contracts will require deep partnerships with stakeholders who have a proven track record of positive impact on the small business ecosystem in Greater Boston. Through this Compact, the Cities will join organizational partners in committing themselves to working together to implement the following principles of supplier diversity and small business growth:

1. **Awareness** — To create greater awareness among local, diverse businesses of public sector contracting opportunities, the Cities will create business, training, and networking opportunities when requested and when appropriate.
2. **Certification** — To strengthen the pipeline of qualified businesses ready to do business with the Cities, collaborative efforts to increase the number of certified firms is necessary. In addition, the Cities endeavor to continue to collaborate and identify opportunities to work together to increase certification on a regional basis.
3. **Engagement** — To reach as many eligible local, diverse businesses as possible to participate in procurement opportunities and diverse business initiatives, the Cities will work in partnership with trusted organizations.

4. **Policy** – To ensure the sustainability of supplier diversity efforts, it is imperative that legislation and other means of codifying successful practices that lead to greater participation of local businesses be created.
5. **Transparency** – To determine areas for growth and identify examples of success to build upon, regular evaluation of supplier diversity efforts is key.

**DSD Undertakings:** Within the limits of its available resources, the City of Boston will:

- a. Accept any Cambridge-based MBE, WBE, VBE, and other DBEs that are certified through the DSD business certification program, subject to standard application requirements and verification process.
- b. Allow for the electronic submission of certification requests and related documents.
- c. Notify CDD if any Cambridge business submission is incomplete so that CDD can follow up and support applicants.
- d. Once verified as a legitimate MBE, WBE, VBE, or Small Business Enterprises (SBE), (or other DBEs as agreed to from time to time by the parties) by DSD, the COB will:
  1. Certify the Cambridge firm as a certified business under DSD.
  2. Work with the City of Cambridge to provide access for and assistance to MBEs, VBEs, WBEs, and other DBEs in City procurement opportunities and diverse business initiatives.
  3. Reserve the right to ask Cambridge firms to supply any and all information required for COB to conduct an eligibility audit, should one be necessary. In the event that DSD removes COB certification of a Cambridge-certified firm, the COB will notify CDD.
  4. Promote applicable business, training, and networking opportunities provided by the City of Cambridge when requested and when appropriate.

**CDD Undertakings:** Within the limits of available resources, CDD will:

- a. Support the Department of Supplier Diversity of the City of Boston in its efforts to provide assistance to MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, and SBEs, (and other DBEs as agreed to from time to time by the parties) through activities including, but not limited to, offering trainings, technical assistance, and any other relevant forms of assistance to diverse businesses.
- b. CDD will help the City of Boston determine a Cambridge-based business' eligibility for certification pursuant to the City of Boston's Supplier Diversity Program Certification Regulations in the following ways:
  1. Assist COB upon request with status of submitted applications for initial certification or renewal.
  2. Provide additional information or documentation to COB confirming the status of a Cambridge business seeking COB certification as a bonafide MBE/VBE/WBE, if questions arise during the certification process.
  3. As needed, facilitate channels of communication with any relevant and necessary parties involved in the process of certifying businesses. Verify a

list of Cambridge vendors not currently COB-certified. List requests for this verification shall not exceed once per quarter, and shall be directed to COB.


- c. Provide access to Cambridge training opportunities in each calendar year to COB-certified businesses at no cost.
- a. These training opportunities will be open to all businesses in DSD's network of certified firms, regardless of certification categories.
- b. Seating in these training classes shall be offered at a first-come, first-serve basis to registrants.

**INDEMNIFICATION/IMMUNITY:** Neither Boston employees, contractors, or other personnel nor Cambridge employees, contractors or other personnel, shall, at any time, be considered agents or representatives of the other City.

Performance under this Agreement by the Parties, their agents, servants, and employees, shall be for public and governmental purposes, and all privileges and immunities from liability enjoyed by governmental units, their agents servants and employees, shall extend to performance under this Agreement to the extent permitted by Massachusetts and Federal law; provided that, notwithstanding any provisions of law or charter to the contrary, neither party to this Agreement shall be exempt from liability for its obligations under this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Cities commit to working together to implement the principles within this Compact on this 28 Day of Oct in the Year 2024.

CITY OF BOSTON

By   
Hon. Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

Date: 10/28/2024

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

By   
Yi-An Huang  
City Manager

Date: 10/28/2024

Approved as to form:

By   
Adam Cederbaum  
Corporation Counsel

By   
Megan B. Bayer  
City Solicitor