

New York State MWBE Forum November 2026

By NYS Division of MWB Development

Empire State Development (ESD) announced that registration is open for the 16th Annual New York State Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Forum, taking place Tuesday, November 17, at the Albany Capital Center. This year's theme, "Making Government Work for You," highlights how targeted state investments, a streamlined certification process, and reduced administrative barriers are helping minority- and women-owned businesses access state contracting opportunities. The forum will provide to business owners resources, connections, and practical tools to compete for contracts and grow their businesses. The forum agenda and registration form are available at <https://esd.ny.gov/nys-mwbe-forum-2026>.

"New York's MWBE program was built on a simple idea: when government opens its doors to every entrepreneur, our entire economy grows stronger," Governor Kathy Hochul said. "For 38 years, this program has helped minority- and women-owned businesses compete for state contracts,

and through EXPRESS NY we're cutting the red tape that too often stood in their way. This year's forum is about showing business owners that government is working for them, and giving them the tools to grow."

Empire State Development President, CEO, and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "MWBEs are an essential part of New York's economic development ecosystem, strengthening communities, creating jobs, and contributing to projects across all regions of the state. This forum gives businesses direct access to the information, relationships, and opportunities they need to compete for contracts, expand their operations, and position themselves for long-term growth."

New York State Chief Diversity Officer Julissa Gutierrez said, "For nearly four decades, New York's MWBE program has helped create a more inclusive and equitable marketplace for businesses across the state. This year's forum reflects our continued commitment to removing barriers, strengthening access to opportunity, and ensuring that more entrepreneurs can participate fully in New York's economy."



ESD Division of Minority and Women's Business Development Executive Director Jason M. Clark, Esq., said, "The MWBE Forum is designed to give businesses practical tools they can put to work immediately—from understanding procurement

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NYS MWBE

16TH ANNUAL FORUM

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2026

Albany Capital Center

55 Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12207

2026MWBEForum@esd.ny.gov

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VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2026

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729664666>

Understanding SBA Programs Webinar

Tuesday, November 17, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Houston District Office

Contact: Elizabeth Charles, 713-773-6505, elizabeth.charles@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Join us for an informative webinar designed to help entrepreneurs, startups, and existing small business owners navigate the wide range of resources and programs offered by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), including an overview of SBA's core programs: capital, counseling, contracting, and disaster assistance. Whether you're looking to launch a business, expand operations, secure funding, or recover from a disaster, the SBA has tools to support your goals. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask their small business questions to mentors/advisors from SBA's Resource Partner Network! Register online for the free webinar at <https://legacy.sba.gov/event/78036>

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