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41
Years

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Empire State Development MWBE Report

By Jason M. Clark

Thirty-seven years ago, the New York State Division of Minority and Women's Business Development (Division) was established to promote equality in economic opportunities for minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) in state contracting. The Division was created because New York values the importance of cultivating a vibrant, dynamic and inclusive economy that works for all New Yorkers. However, despite the progress that has been made, there continue to be barriers that make it tougher for MWBEs to prosper. We are proud of recent accomplishments, but we are also well aware that there's more to be done.


Under the leadership of New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Empire State Development Commissioner, President, and CEO Hope Knight, we are doing more than ever before to support our MWBE community. Following the historic elimination of our MWBE certification backlog, we have certified, and recertified, over four thousand

businesses since 2024. We have reduced the average time it takes to receive a final determination on a certification application to less than ninety days, and we have created innovative programming such as our "Trailblazers in Business" and "Second Chance Review" initiatives to assist businesses with completing the certification process.

However, more than just revamping our certification review process, we've taken meaningful steps toward improving the best MWBE program in the country. Below are some of our most memorable milestones in 2025:

New York Reaches the Highest MWBE Utilization Spend in State History: In FY 2024–2025, New York witnessed a \$369 million increase in payments to MWBEs, reflecting a twelve percent increase since last year. New York State's \$3.3 billion in disbursements (not awards) to MWBEs marks the highest MWBE utilization spend in the history of our program.

New York Reaches Governor Hochul's Thirty Percent MWBE Participation Goal for a Record Fifth Year in a Row: Since Governor Hochul assumed office, New York has reached the



highest, second highest, and third highest MWBE utilization rates in the history of New York State. The result is nearly \$15 billion in state procurement dollars being disbursed to MWBE businesses since FY 2020–2021. By reaching this year's

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Sub-Bid Requests

AB

American Bridge

American Bridge Company is seeking qualified subcontractors, suppliers

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EXCHANGE NORTHEAST

SBE OUTREACH SERVICES

With over 1.6 million businesses in our active database—the country's largest non-public diversity database—SBE sets the professional standard for diversity outreach across the nation. For more than four decades, we have served small businesses, prime contractors, and agencies—with proven results.

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PowerUp2030:

Prepare Your Business to Tackle Clean Energy Opportunities



Program Details

Next Cohort

Classes begin February 3rd 2026

Duration

10 week program

Time Commitment

Two and a half hours per week

Location

LaGuardia Community College
29-10 Thomson Ave.
Long Island City, NY 11101

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Education Center, C701

Limited space available, [click here to apply now!](#)

Contact Denise Espinal for more information at 718-663-8340 or powerup2030@lagcc.cuny.edu

Is this Program for You?

It is if you have been in business for at least 5 years in one of these fields:

- Construction
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- HVAC or another skilled trade

This initiative is also a good fit for those looking to grow a business through clean energy contracts in the public sector.

What You Will Gain

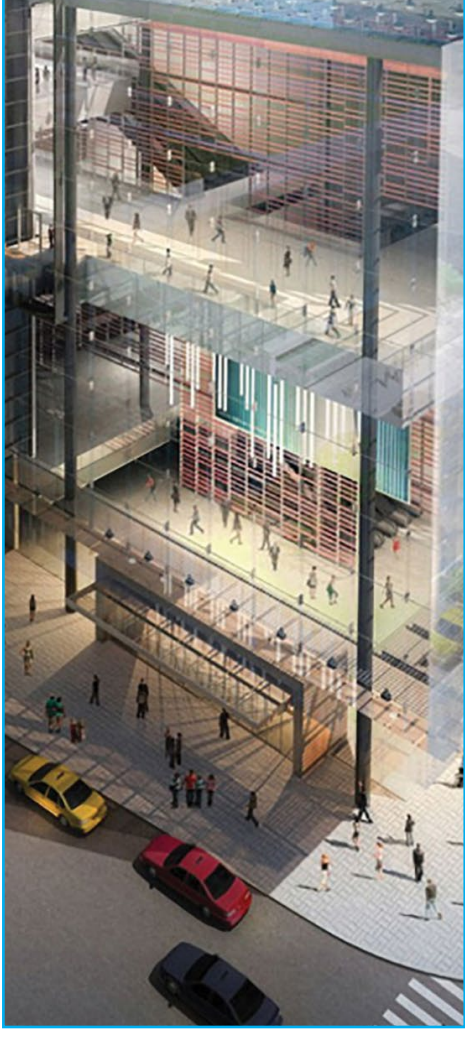
- Learn what public and private clean energy buyers look for
- Strengthen your approach to pricing, permits, partnerships, and capacity planning
- Meet NYPA representatives, project developers, and clean energy experts
- Build relationships with other business owners navigating the same landscape
- Prepare your business to work on NYPA projects

NEW YORK STATE

NY Power Authority

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National Minority Supplier Development Council



Small Business Exchange Northeast DEI

- Advertise
- ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) Certified Businesses
- Telephone Follow-Up (Live)
- Agency/Organization Letters
- Computer Generated Dated and Timed Documentation
- Customized Reports Available

For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

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VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2026



Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, January 13, 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-1977729716822>



SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 10:00 am–11:00 am Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island

District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/77580>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1977995825761>



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