

Supplier Diversity Timeline

1953

President Dwight D. Eisenhower creates the Small Business Administration to provide support for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

1958

Small Business Act of 1958 requires that all government subcontractors place a “fair portion” of their business with small business enterprises.

1968

President Richard Nixon establishes the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) and the Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) within the Department of Commerce to support minority-owned businesses.

1971

President Nixon expanded the scope of OMBE by authorizing grants to organizations to provide technical and management assistance to MBEs.

1972

The National Minority Purchasing Council (precursor to the National Minority Supplier Development Council) is founded to advance business opportunities for minority-owned businesses and connect them to corporate members.

1979

The OMBE was renamed the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).

1981

The Minority Business Development Center program is established. It works with minority-owned businesses to generate increased financing and contract opportunities and to create and retain jobs.

1983

President Ronald Reagan gives the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration

authority to oversee the establishment, preservation and strengthening of federal MBE programs.

Reagan declares the first week of October Minority Enterprise Development Week, and MBDA holds the first Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference.



1994

The Business Leadership Network is founded to drive disability inclusion awareness and advance employment for individuals with disabilities.

1997

The Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is founded to provide third-party certification of women-owned businesses.

1999

MBDA Internet Portal is established to offer online business development services.

2000

WBENC held its first Women in Business Conference, now known as the Women in Business National Conference and Business Fair.

2001

Congress creates the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor.

The U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce is founded to support women in the economy.

The Billion Dollar Roundtable (BDR) begins to recognize companies that achieved spending of at least \$1 billion with diverse-owned suppliers.

The National Veteran-Owned Business Association was founded to create corporate contracting opportunities for America's veterans and service-disabled veterans' business enterprises.

2002

The Business Leadership Network is renamed the U.S. Business Leadership Network (USBLN).

The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), now the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce – is founded.

2004

The NGLCC launches the first (and only) third-party certification program for LGBT-owned businesses.

2005

MBDA creates the Office of Native American Entrepreneurship and Trade to help indigenous entrepreneurs and business owners.

2008

The WBENC launches a Global Business Initiative to mentor international WBEs and to help U.S. WBEs enter global supply chains.



2009

WEConnect International was founded to certify WBEs based outside of the U.S. and connect them to corporate buyers.

2010

The USBLN launches the first third-party certification program for disability-owned businesses.

2011

MBDA launches a redesigned MBDA Business Center program, combining the Minority Business Enterprise Center and the Minority Business Opportunity Center programs.

2014

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce files a brief in support of Peggy Young, who successfully sued UPS for discriminating against her when she was pregnant. Young ends up winning the case.

2017

The NGLCC publishes its first-ever "America's LGBT Economy Report," which details the impact LGBT-owned businesses have on the U.S. economy.

2018

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) awards \$451 million in contracts, committed to building a diverse supplier base and utilizing minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

2022

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announces steps to advance equity and supplier diversity in federal procurement, supporting the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses by 50% by 2025.

2023

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reports that 32 companies are members of the Billion Dollar Roundtable (BDR), meaning each contributes at least \$1 billion a year to supplier diversity.