Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Preferred provider program
Overseen by the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (OSBA)

EMPLOYMENT WORKS PROGRAM

Contract Entities buy from preferred providers first.

Work, Wages and Wealth!

The **Employment Works Program** is one of Maryland's preferred provider programs. It connects Contract Entities with community service providers and Individual-with-Disability-Owned Businesses (IDOBs) for services such as janitorial, landscaping, and document work. On October 1, 2025, oversight moved from the Department of General Services to OSBA at the Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM). Maryland Works, Inc. coordinates the program.

Why join?

A preference in State buying
Contract Entities must buy certain supplies and services from preferred providers, including Employment Works vendors, before they buy elsewhere.

Work that fits your business
Opportunities include janitorial, landscaping, document, and other services that Contract Entities need across Maryland.

One point of contact
Maryland Works receives requests from Contract Entities and sends them to eligible community service providers and disability-owned businesses.

Part of a larger ecosystem
Disability-owned businesses can also pursue Certified Small Business (CSB) and Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification.

Individual-with-Disability-Owned Businesses
Majority owned, and run day-to-day, by individuals whom the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) has determined to have a disability.

Community service providers
Nonprofits that serve people with disabilities and are accredited by DORS for the Employment Works Program.

Maryland Works vendor requirements

How to join and how Contract Entities buy are on the other side.

EconomicMobility.Maryland.gov

410-697-9600 | economic.mobility@maryland.gov | 100 Community Place, 4th Floor, Crownsville, MD 21032

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

HOW TO JOIN EMPLOYMENT WORKS

Overseen by the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (OSBA)

For Contract Entities

Maryland law requires Contract Entities, including State agencies and entities the State aids or controls, to buy certain supplies and services from preferred providers before they buy elsewhere.

When more than one preferred provider offers the item, consider them in this order:

1. **Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE)**
2. **Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM)**
3. **The Employment Works Program**

Ref: COMAR 21.11.05 and State Finance and Procurement Article, Section 14-103.

How Contract Entities request work

Contact Maryland Works

Call 410-381-8660 or email opportunities@mdworks.com to request products or services.

Exceptions apply

Exceptions exist when a provider cannot deliver on time or meet reasonable specifications.

Good to know

Preferred provider purchases do not count toward MBE participation goals. Disability-owned businesses that want to compete for State contracts can also seek CSB or MBE certification through DoSEM.

For businesses: three steps to join

1

Get your DORS letter

The MSDE Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) determines whether the majority owners have a disability and issues a certification letter.

2

Review the requirements

Read the Maryland Works vendor requirements at mdworks.com before applying.

3

Apply to Maryland Works

Apply as a new vendor and include your DORS certification letter. For assistance, call Maryland Works at 410-381-8660.

Get connected

Maryland Works vendor requirements

Preferred provider programs at DoSEM

Maryland Works, Inc.
410-381-8660
opportunities@mdworks.com

DoSEM, OSBA
410-697-9600
economic.mobility@maryland.gov