



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

LANSING

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Buy Michigan First in Lansing draws more than 100 people

LANSING – More than 100 people from across mid-Michigan learned how to become state vendors at a Lansing session of Buy Michigan First. The event at Lansing Community College's West Campus generated positive feedback and helped build the potential pool of bidders for state government contracts.

Buy Michigan First, an initiative to increase the number of Michigan-based vendors doing business with the state, has been the focus of presentations in 14 Michigan cities. The programs guided participants through the vendor registration process and introduced them to the success stories of local businesses that hold current contracts.

Among those successful bidders is Tico Duckett Distributors, a minority-owned business supplying janitorial supplies to state government. The Lansing firm has \$652,735 five-year contract to supply industrial wipes.

"We can't stress enough how Michigan government is open and accessible to Michigan businesses," said Lisa Webb Sharpe, director of the Department of Management and Budget. "Michigan businesses are well-qualified to provide high-quality goods and services. When given a level playing field, they can win state contract awards."

Buy Michigan First carries forward Gov. Jennifer Granholm's directives to require competition for state contracts and to give contracting preference to Michigan businesses, whenever possible. It aims to build awareness of opportunities to supply the state with commodities, services, information technology, highway construction, building design, and construction. It also is working to boost the number of bid submissions from minority- and woman-owned businesses and those operated by disabled owners and service-disabled veterans.

Interested businesses owners may contact their area Procurement Technical Assistance Center and the Small Business and Technology Center for assistance. They also may find information at www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness.

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Three additional Buy Michigan First sessions have been scheduled: Detroit Urban League offices, Detroit, June 12; Evangel Church, Detroit, June 25; and Schoolcraft College, Livonia, June 28. Registration information is available at www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst.

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