



**ERIE COUNTY
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY**

REGISTER HERE



Elevate & Connect

All Access – Resource & Networking Day

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

NORTHLAND WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER

9-10

AM

BREAKFAST & WELCOME ADDRESS

- Check-In & Brief Networking
- Welcome Address from Erie County
- Breakfast provided by Half Luna Empanadas & Unapologetic Coffee

10-10:30

AM

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MWBE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Breakdown of the City of Buffalo/Erie County MWBE application process
- Discussion of what it takes to become certified with Buffalo/Erie County

10:30

-11:30

AM

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH

- Panel discussion on how to build meaningful business relationships in the MWBE/SDVOB space
- Hear from Stephanie Pennington of LeChase Construction, Darius Myles of DMyles, Inc. and Shannon Howard of Heartfelt Construction

11:30

-12:30

AM - PM

BUSINESS RESOURCE LUNCHEON

- Business Resource Expo with over 15 organizations
- Networking with other businesses
- Lunch provided by Meraki Collective & Nia Juicery

12:30

-1:30

PM

HOW TO BID ON COUNTY & STATE PROJECTS

- Learn the bidding process and necessary documentation
- Hear from Jasmine Rivers of Niagara Small Business Development Center, Vallie Ferraraccio of Erie County's Division of Purchasing and Luis Rodriguez of Rodriguez Construction Group

1:30-3

PM

BUSINESS RESOURCE EXPO & CLOSING REMARKS

- Continuation of Business Resource Expo
- Discussion of next steps for participants & Closing Remarks

For more info please reach out to deo@erie.gov