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News, Updates & Features

December 2023





A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

lewsletter

DECEMBER 2023

Proudly Serving Communities Throughout New England!



This year has been a remarkable one, marked by unique challenges and extraordinary achievements. We are immensely grateful to our employees, clients and partners for playing a pivotal role in our success.

A Year of Exceptional Growth and Gratitude - Thank You from Capital Strategic Solutions

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Project Spotlight

2023 A Year of Collaboration, Growth, and Community Impact



A look Back at our Partners, Projects, and Progress

2023 presented us with a myriad of opportunities and challenges, and we are impressed by the consistent resilience and dedication shown by our team in every situation. Across New England, our team has worked in cities and towns, big and small, on projects that keep communities thriving. As we approach the close of another year, we reflect on the growth of our team, the success of our community partners, and the impact that every project has on communities.

We also extend our gratitude to the experienced professionals who have been our steadfast support throughout this year, enabling us to concentrate on creating a lasting impact in the cities and towns we serve for the benefit of future generations. Our work would not be the same if it weren't for our community partners. Many projects require a large team with a wide array of skills and knowledge. Frequently this past year, we were able to reunite with community partners on multiple projects, combining our skills to achieve incredible results. We would like to recognize and thank Clifton Larson Allen, BETA, Environmental Partners, EJ Prescott, Green International Affiliates, HR Key Solutions, Kimley-Horn, and Woodard & Curran. 2023 would not have been as successful as it was without these partners, and we look forward to working with them again in a prosperous 2024.

The journey this year across projects and towns has pushed us to new heights across departments and disciplines. Thank you to our team and community partners on the impressive accomplishments they have achieved this year...

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Capital Strategic Solutions Completes Initial Grant Assistance for Town of Burrillville, RI

Capital Strategic Solutions staff have recently completed initial grant assistance for the Town of Burrillville, RI in

support of two significant capital projects. The first is a new Community Center under the Town's Capital Projects Fund program of the Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office (PRO). The second project is a new, reconstructed dam/spillway at Wallum Lake under the Town's Community Resilience Building (CRB) Fund for the Rhode Island Municipal Resilience Program.

Community Center

CAPITAL

PRO.

The Town proposes building a multi-purpose community center on a townowned parcel located at 65 Union Ave in the village of Harrisville, RI. The Town of Burrillville conducted community surveys and reviewed 2020 U.S. census data which identified the need for a local social services network to support Burrillville's growing low to moderate income population who often struggle with food and housing insecurities as well as having access to transportation, healthcare, internet and recreational activities...

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Service Spotlight: **Building Support** for Your School **District Budget**

It is that time of year when cities and towns are preparing their budgets for presentation to the community for the coming year and Capital Strategic





Solutions suggests that it is an opportune time to think about the message you wish to communicate in your budget document. Your district has already developed a system and a structure that has been used in the past and hopefully with great success. However, with the advent of electronic communications and the proliferation of sources for all kinds of information, school districts must invest time and energy into their own communication strategies and information sharing to ensure strong community support for their budget.

We believe that school districts can communicate their goals and challenges by developing a budget document that will inform and educate the community while also making a compelling and responsible case for support of the school district budget that is often the single largest piece of any city or town budget. There are many stakeholders in the budget approval process, so it is vital that the budget document addresses a wide range of interests and concerns while maintaining its focus on the ultimate approval of the budget.

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Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Applications, Due Jan. 8

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities(BRIC) grant program is an annual FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant funded by FEMA and administered through a partnership with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

The priorities for the program are to incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public

infrastructure and disadvantaged communities; mitigate risk to one or more community lifelines; incorporate nature-based solutions; enhance climate resilience and adaptation; and to increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes.

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has the authority and responsibility for the collection and review of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program sub-applications, recommending technically feasible and cost-effective sub-applications to FEMA and providing pass-thru funding for FEMA approved and awarded project grants to eligible sub-applicants.

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Massachusetts Cyber Security Awareness Grant Program Now Open, Due Jan. 10

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024.

The program improves overall cybersecurity posture by helping organizations mitigate their human risk through awareness training and monthly threat simulations like phishing campaigns. The program is open to all local government agencies, including municipalities, public

school districts, libraries, police departments, fire departments, planning commissions, and municipally run utility departments and airports, as well as members of the PERAC Retirement System.

The Office of Municipal and School Technology, within the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, procures the user licenses and manages the program, making it free to participating organizations. Applications are now available, and the application period will close when all available seats are taken, or on Jan. 10, 2024, whichever occurs first.



EPA Proposes Strengthening Lead and Copper Rule Requiring Water Systems to Remove 100% of Lead Pipes within 10 Years

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a proposal to strengthen its Lead and Copper Rule that would require water systems across the country to



EPA Proposes Strengthening Lead and Copper Rule to Require Water Systems to Remove 100% of Lead Pipes within Ten Years



replace lead service lines within 10 years. EPA is also proposing additional improvements to protect public health, such as lowering the lead action level and improving sampling protocols utilized by water systems.

The proposed action significantly advances removal of every lead service line in America through the Get the Lead Out Program, including investing \$15 billion through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to replace lead service lines, providing technical assistance to communities, and supporting the development of a national inventory of lead service lines.

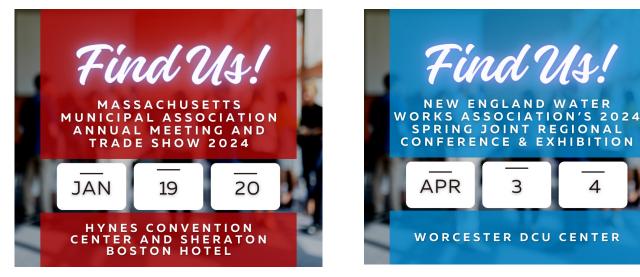




Massachusetts State Administration Launches Statewide Coastal Resilience Strategy... *Massachusetts Municipal Association*

Massachusetts Closeout FY 23 Supplemental Budget Enacted and Signed into Law... *Massachusetts Municipal Association* Massachusetts Division of Local Services Offering Winter Municipal Finance Online Training... *Mass.GOV*

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About Us...



Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusetts-based certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise comprised of municipal experts. We deliver creative and cost-effective services that maximize success while minimizing risk for our clients. We have hands-on experience that allows us to formulate and implement strategies tailored to the communities we serve. We specialize in public administration and municipal finance, human resources and policy development,

emergency management services and public safety, public works and infrastructure operations, public relations and community engagement, project management and oversight, grant writing and administration, and public management and support services.

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