



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

Proudly Serving Communities Throughout New England!



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**
A Women-owned Business Enterprise

**CSS has attained
certifications, for both
a certified woman-
owned,
disadvantaged
business enterprise in
MA and RI and a
certified
disadvantaged
business in NH**

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Unlocking Success

In today's dynamic government and business landscape, collaboration is often the key to success. When it comes to providing added-value to a project's success, partnering with a certified woman-owned business enterprise—known as WBE—and disadvantaged business enterprise—or DBE—comprised of municipal experts can offer a myriad of benefits.

Massachusetts-based, New England-grown Capital Strategic Solutions has attained both certifications, including certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and a certified disadvantaged business in New Hampshire. Read on to explore how working with Capital Strategic Solutions can lead to innovation, diversity, regulatory compliance, tax savings and sustainable development.

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Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is a critical regulation designed to control lead and copper levels in public drinking water systems. In recent years, the EPA has made significant improvements to this rule to ensure safer drinking water for

communities across the country. These enhancements, often referred to as the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), have far-reaching implications for public health and require robust community engagement to be effectively implemented.

Understanding the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

The LCRI mainly focuses on tightening the standards for lead and copper in drinking water. This includes stricter testing protocols, more rigorous water quality control measures, and enhanced public notification requirements. The goal is to minimize the presence of these harmful elements in drinking water to protect public health, especially for vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women. While these regulatory enhancements are a positive step forward, they also bring about challenges, particularly in terms of community engagement and compliance.

This is where the expertise of public engagement specialists becomes crucial...

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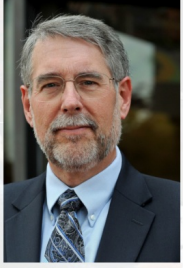


Growing Municipal IT Departments with Leadership and Persistence

It's an open secret that municipal entities tend to fall behind when it comes to updating information technology and software. And updating entire systems while



Insight from Experience:
Mike Gallagher



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maintaining day-to-day operations can seem almost impossible. But don't despair.

Capital Strategic Solutions' Senior Project Manager, Mike Gallagher, has a wealth of experience managing these IT issues and obstacles. Mike's insights into these complex issues are fueled by both his IT expertise in the private sector with large organizations like the Boston Globe, The New York Times and Fidelity Investments, dovetailed with his experience in town administration, serving as Town Manager in North

Attleborough and Interim Town Administrator in several other communities. Here, we share his insights to help your team take on the challenge...

frequent obstacles for municipal IT departments include:

- Data management and record keeping
- Security: data security, network security and systems security
- Obsolete software and slow system upgrades

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Project Spotlight:

The Town of Upton contracted Capital Strategic Solutions to assist them in completing two procurements. First, the Town recently opened a new community center which houses both the Library and Department of Elder and Social Services (Council on Aging). Rather than add full-time staff to provide custodial services for the new building, the Town has chosen to outsource this work to a private sector firm for both this building and Upton's Town Hall. Capital Strategic Solutions staff researched the procurement requirements and recommended that the Town seek quotes from vendors who are pre-qualified on a state contract. We are currently in the process of finalizing the RFQ package and advertising it so vendors can be notified of the project, attend a site visit and submit their pricing for the Town's consideration.



The second project is to assist them in obtaining bids to replace the HVAC controls at the Town's Fire Station, for which the Town received a state grant. A state contract also exists for HVAC work, so we are in the process of preparing

the procurement package to send out to eligible firms. Once we've received responses for both projects, we will assist the Town with the analysis of the pricing and make recommendations on contract awards.

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Welcome Aboard!

Patti Grigas

Please join us in welcoming Patricia Grigas to the CSS team. A dedicated and accomplished leader with more than 30 years of progressive experience in law enforcement, Patti's expansive skillset will be a powerful addition to our team. Working collaboratively across the board to strategically plan public safety and officer training programs, Patti is an experienced public information officer with expertise in public safety policy, audits, action plans and evidence organization.

As a seasoned commander, Patti oversaw administrative services for the Framingham Police Department, including directing daily operations for the Records Bureau where she supervised evidence room staff ensuring the security and proper inventory of all seized property. In this role, Patti developed and implemented a streamlined process for evidence tracking and reporting which continues as standard practice today for the Department.

[Meet Patti](#)

John DeLuca

Capital Strategic Solutions is pleased to announce that John DeLuca has joined the team as a Senior Project Manager. A seasoned professional with more than 40 years of experience in the water, wastewater, fleet management, and construction industries, John brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that is unmatched in the industry to serve our clients.

Accumulating a rich history of technical and leadership experience, John's career is marked by significant contributions in various roles.

Here's a brief overview of his impressive career:

As the founder of Edgewater Career Training, John has been pivotal in providing the construction industry in Massachusetts with hoisting license preparation courses and is certified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety for Hoisting License Continuing Education. John has been a hoisting license instructor for over 24 years and holds a hoisting license. John has conducted over 1,000 classes for hoisting license exam preparation and the

required continuing education. His expertise in this area is unparalleled.

**Meet
John**



Massachusetts Announces \$4 Million Available for FY25 Inland Dredging Pilot Program Grant

The State of Massachusetts has announced that \$4 million is available for a pilot round of funding for final design and construction grants to communities for the dredging of freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and drinking water reservoirs, as well as dredging required for the removal of municipal dams. The most competitive applications will focus on projects that are advanced in design and permitting and provide public benefit through restoration or improvement of drinking water storage, recreational boating, ecosystem health and/or hazard mitigation such as dam removal.

Applications are due on March 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m., utilizing the state's grant portal.

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294 Massachusetts Communities Eligible to Apply for the Fy24 CDBG Program

The State of Massachusetts has announced that 294 communities in the Commonwealth are eligible to apply for the Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG) Program. FY24 grants to individual communities will range from \$100,000 – \$950,000, with higher amounts for joint applications with another community or regional initiatives.

Applications must be submitted through the State’s web-based application system by **Monday, March 25, 2024, at 3 p.m.**

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Early Planning Key to Receiving Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant

The State of Massachusetts has released the Drinking Water Supply Protection grant opportunity again for FY24 that provides financial assistance to purchase land in DEP approved drinking water supply protection areas, or land in estimated protection areas for future water supply wells or reservoirs.

Early planning is encouraged as applications must include a property appraisal as well as a vote of the local governing body, and comments from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

Applications are due on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 3 p.m., electronically via email.

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Massachusetts State Grant to Support Inclusive, Accessible Outdoor Recreation Events Now Open

The State of Massachusetts has released a new grant opportunity designed to make the Commonwealth welcoming, inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible outdoors. The grant targets outdoor recreation events that are scheduled prior to June 30, 2024, that propose new inclusive or accessible outdoor recreation events that specifically target new or underserved audiences or boost existing events with new and/or accessible components.

Applications are due electronically by 5 p.m. on February 3, 2024.

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More](#)

Contact Us



State House News Service to Host In-Person Panel Discussion about Achieving Health Equity in Massachusetts, Jan 23

EPA Offers Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Focused on Tools, Training and Technical Assistance, Jan 30

Find Us...

A red banner with white text. At the top, 'Find Us!' is written in a white cursive font. Below it, in white sans-serif font, is 'MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND TRADE SHOW 2024'. In the center, there are three white rounded rectangular boxes containing 'JAN', '19', and '20' respectively. At the bottom, in white sans-serif font, is 'HYNES CONVENTION CENTER AND SHERATON BOSTON HOTEL'.

A blue banner with white text. At the top, 'Find Us!' is written in a white cursive font. Below it, in white sans-serif font, is 'NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION'S 2024 SPRING JOINT REGIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION'. In the center, there are three white rounded rectangular boxes containing 'APR', '3', and '4' respectively. At the bottom, in white sans-serif font, is 'WORCESTER DCU CENTER'.

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.

**Visit our
Website**

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