



# CAPITAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

*A Women-owned Business Enterprise*

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News, Updates & Features

February 13, 2023



CAPITAL  
STRATEGIC  
SOLUTIONS

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*Company Newsletter*

FEBRUARY 2023

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## Partnering to Secure Funding for the Health and Future of Burrillville, Rhode Island

Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is assisting the Town of Burrillville, RI and its' Department of Public Works in preparing grant applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Grant/Loan program in support of both the State Rte. 102 (Bronco Highway) and Lapham Road water loop and sewer connection and Chapel Street sewer projects.



*"Having CSS take the ball and run with it to find alternative financial tools, such as grants allows us to focus on the project planning and design aspects of each of these critical projects in Burrillville. Tim has been a great resource and compliments our team's work ethic and mission to protect the health and wellbeing of our community,"* said **Jeffrey McCormick, Director of Public Works, Town of Burrillville**

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## Town of Bernardston Awarded \$74K for Police & Fire Radio Repeaters



Blythe Robinson, Capital Strategic Solutions Senior Project Manager assisted the Town of Bernardston in applying for an Emergency Rural Health Care (ERHC) grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA awarded \$74,411 through the ERHC grant for the purchase and installation of nine (9) radio repeaters which will be installed in the Town's police cruisers and fire trucks.

*"The funding provided by the USDA, Emergency Rural Health Care Grant will enhance public safety throughout the Town, providing our public safety departments with the tools that they need to respond to emergencies is a top priority for the Bernardston Selectboard. We are grateful for Blythe's insights and support applying for and winning these federal grant funds that will expand radio coverage throughout our community,"* said **Louis Bordeaux, Town Coordinator, Town of Bernardston**

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## Paul Normandin Joins the Team



*Welcome to the Team*

PAUL NORMANDIN

Capital Strategic Solutions is happy to welcome Paul Normandin into our fold. Paul joins us from Southbridge where he works as the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director. Paul's dedication in the public safety field has given him years of hands-on experience in managing fire and EMS provisions. His time in Southbridge especially has given him incredible insight into the unique financial planning necessary to operate robust and effective Emergency Medical Services. His approach is able to untangle complicated issues with dedicated research, and data driven solutions. During the beginning of the pandemic Paul was able to mobilize their services and messaging quickly, working with multiple departments within Southbridge to generate a comprehensive plan to adapt to the ever-changing situation at hand. It is this ability to jump in, and quickly adapt and problem solve that has made Paul so successful in what he does. We are extremely excited to work with him and share his expertise with cities and towns throughout New England.

Paul has served as the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director of the Southbridge Fire Department since 2019. Within this position Paul was responsible for managing the administrative business affairs for the department as well as working to establish short and long term policy objectives and procedures. This position allowed Paul to use his talent for meticulous planning and data analysis to build a more streamlined and cohesive billing plan for the departments EMS. Paul's knowledge of EMS was able to evaluate the town's existing financial position and find other options that best suited their needs. Paul has a deep understanding of the unique nature of municipal EMS, and the delicate balance required to fund services that can successfully serve the needs of the community. Using his knowledge of Procurement and grant research, Paul was able to establish a more successful and sustainable financial plan for the department. Over his time in the department Paul was able to build upon these decisions and plans to grow his department to better serve the community's needs.

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# Grant Watch



## SAFER SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE GRANT

### Safer Schools

The Commonwealth has announced a local equipment and technology supplemental grant opportunity to assist public schools and local municipalities with enhancing security for the safety of students and staff. Priority for the \$2,910,000 will go to applicants who demonstrate the greatest need and propose cost effective solutions to close high priority gaps or weaknesses in

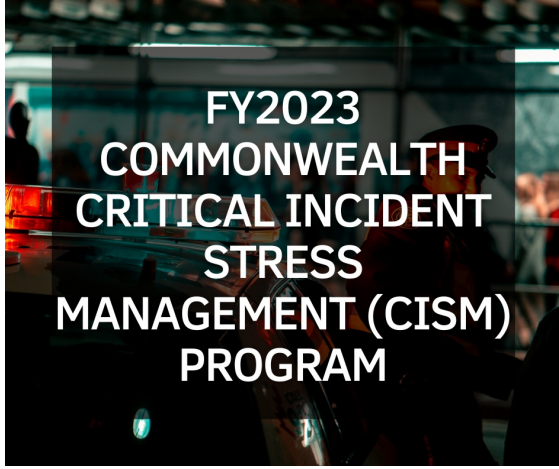
school security. Applicants who have not received funding for this purpose in the last five years will be given higher priority. Districts that certify they have a Multi-Hazard School Emergency Evacuation & Response Plan in place are eligible to apply, and they may apply for up to \$50,000 per school and not more than \$150,000 (for three buildings). Grant **applications** are due by February 17th at 4:00 PM.

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### Critical Incident Stress Management Grant

The Commonwealth has announced that \$950,000 is available to provide law enforcement agencies with access to critical incident stress management and peer support



## FY2023 COMMONWEALTH CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT (CISM) PROGRAM

programs to address police officer mental wellness and suicide prevention. This is a competitive grant for police departments that employ emergency services providers who are currently certified by the State Peer Support Network or International Critical Incident Stress foundation and who provide crisis intervention services.

An example of an eligible grant activity is hiring therapists/clinicians

to train service providers in techniques to cope with crisis or to provide emergency response to critical incidents. The grant will provide up to four months of funding from March – June 2023. Departments who wish to apply must fill out a **one-page intent to apply** form that must be submitted by February 10th.

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## RECYCLING - THERE IS A GRANT FOR THAT!

### Recycling - there is a grant for that!

Whether you are a small town, large city or a business that supports recycling, there is a state or federal grant available to further your goals. While recycling programs have been around for decades, there is renewed interest in programs in order to reduce waste going to landfills and incinerators that are harmful to the

environment. New requirements for waste diversion now require mattresses to be recycled, and textiles are now banned from waste streams. The good news is that there are a multitude of state grants and federal programs to support these requirements whether your town operates a transfer station or private firms handle curbside collection.

Is there a business in your town or that you depend on to process your recyclables? Grants and loans are available to help them purchase equipment so they can expand to meet this challenge. The [State Department of Environmental Protection](#) lists seven different grants which: support recycling, composting and source reduction, pay dividends for initiatives you've already started, training and tools to support your programs, microgrants for short-term waste reduction, and grants to businesses to expand their collection of materials. There are various Massachusetts and Federal loan programs to increase the use of recycled products, expand recycling capabilities of businesses, food management grants and others. The link below provides more information on all of these programs. Contact us today to learn how we

can assist you with a grant application to implement your recycling vision!

Contact Us

## Building Trust Through Transparency with a Monthly or Quarterly Newsletter

It happens to all of us. We get so busy with our day to day work and the crisis of the day that we rarely have time to do proactive and creative projects even though they are on our “to do” or “wish” lists. In a world where cities and towns are working with less resources and staff, creating and publishing a community newsletter for residents, businesses, employees, and visitors can sometimes end up on the back burner as the immediate and urgent needs take precedence.

Unfortunately, that can sometimes result in major events and happenings in the community not getting adequately communicated to constituents. Wouldn't it be great to encourage residents to volunteer for boards and committees by highlighting the opportunities in a newsletter that gets sent out electronically? Or how about highlighting the excellent work of an employee through a spotlight piece, or letting residents know about upcoming town events and public meetings? These important types of information are great examples of content for community newsletters. However, finding the time to compile and publish this information can often be challenging. That's where the staff at Capital Strategic Solutions can help!



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## Where to Find Us



**2023 MRPA State Conference and Trade Show**  
**March 27 – 29, 2023**  
**New Location – Four Points by Sheraton Norwood**



**2023 Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition**  
**April 5-6, 2023**  
**Worcester DCU Center, Worcester, MA**



**Identifying and tackling infrastructure projects will help to provide the foundations necessary for any society to function and thrive.**

It has been proven in towns and cities all across the country that any given community will see increased revenues if their infrastructure and related services are attractive to businesses, and that revenue will be spent on more sustainable improvements. The impact of taking on these challenging yet rewarding projects requires careful planning, financing, and implementation to manage a municipality's largest asset, its capital infrastructure.

A capital improvement plan (CIP) is a critical budgeting tool, and a good plan saves your taxpayers money. As you know, the assets which your community owns include municipal buildings, roads, bridges, equipment, vehicles and much more. All of these items have a life span and your CIP provides a working blueprint for how to sustain and improve these assets. It also aids your community in planning for the expansion of assets during a time of growth. Understanding and planning for the replacement of equipment or maintenance of buildings will help your community budget for those larger costs. For example, by doing so before something has reached the end of its useful life, a community can avoid an emergency repair or purchase.

**CSS understands common challenges presented in government...**  
Infrastructure projects can be expensive, and governments at every level have to balance limited funds across a range of competing priorities.

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# Central Mass CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

powered by *She's*  
Local

Our mission is to create lasting experiences for women, close to home. Since 2016, our She's Local team of volunteers have created and sustained local conferences for women in six regions of New England. We average 300 attendees at each in-person event, skillfully bringing together speakers, vendors, entertainers, sponsors, attendees, business owners and community leaders. For the second time, we are bringing a high-quality, affordable, in-person and live virtual experience to local women on **June 8th 2023** at the **AC Hotel by Marriott**, in **Worcester, MA**.

Help build a strong community of women, encourage others, share your knowledge, build your brand! Get involved:

## Central Mass Conference For Women

Nichol Figueiredo is a proud board member for the Central Mass Mass Conference for Women. The Central Mass Conference for Women aims to inspire, connect, motivate and move women through every stage along their path. She's Local brings together women with a shared objective to support, connect and inspire one another, close to home.

- **Attend the Conference**
- **Sponsor the Conference**
- **Be an Exhibitor**

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