



CAPITAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

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Proudly Serving Communities Throughout New England

News, Updates & Features

May 2023



CAPITAL
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SOLUTIONS

A Women-owned Business Enterprise

Company Newsletter

MAY 2023

Weston is Forging Ahead to Design Water Security for Generations to Come

[#DrinkingWaterWeek](#)

Drinking Water Week is an annual event celebrated in the United States during the first full week of May. The event was first established by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) in 1988 to recognize the importance of safe and clean drinking water.

On May 8, 2023, the **Town of Weston** voted in favor of funding the design to replace the Paines Hill, Cat Rock and Doublet Hill Water Storage Tanks that are nearing the end of their useful life. Water storage is an essential component of a municipal water system, it stabilizes pressure fluctuations, provides a cushion to the system during peak demand periods and meets firefighting and emergency needs.

Click the button below to learn more about how Weston communicated the importance of investing in water security.



[Read More](#)

When Vacancies Arise Think Outside of the Box for Municipal Support Services with CSS

Municipal vacancies can present a range of challenges for communities, including employment struggles. When vacancies remain unfilled for an extended period, it can lead to a reduction in services provided to the community and increased stress among departments. This can impact public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and other essential services.

Together with our clients, we think outside of the box to provide support services that benefit our clients and the communities that they serve, and, in most cases, our services are less expensive than hiring full-time staff. Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) has specialized expertise, economies of scale, and greater flexibility, which can result in cost savings.

Find out more about our support services for our municipal clients by clicking on the button below.



[Learn More](#)

You Never Know What You're Going to Get Until the Excavator Pulls Back the Pavement

When underground utility lines are not accurately mapped, contractors may encounter unexpected utility lines during excavation, leading to delays and schedule disruptions. Unforeseen utility-related problems can also lead to cost overruns, and additional work may be required to reroute or relocate utilities, which can be expensive. They can also lead to unanticipated impacts to the public, such as a temporary disruption of service, travel related impacts, which is why keeping the community informed ahead of utility construction impacts is crucial.



By informing the community ahead of time, residents and businesses can make necessary arrangements and preparations to mitigate the disruptions caused by the construction, such as traffic detours, road closures, and changes to access points. Utility construction can pose safety risks to the community. By providing information in advance, residents can take necessary precautions to ensure their safety, such as staying away from construction zones, and following traffic rules.

Learn more about keeping a community informed during construction by clicking the button below.

[Learn More](#)

Featured Employee

Stephen Price **Senior Project Manager**

Stephen's extensive experience in Treasury and Collections in municipal government provides him with a strong set of financial management tools, including budgeting, accounts receivables/payables, billing and collections, and general ledger reconciliation. His ability to communicate effectively allows him to develop connections with employees, customers, and the banking community to maintain a seamless flow of information.

As the former Treasurer/Tax Collector for the Town of Natick, Stephen was responsible for the billing

and collection of Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, exceeding \$103 million and was able to maintain a collection rate of 98.6%. Stephen's knowledge, experience, and resourcefulness, coupled with his professional training as a municipal Treasurer/Tax Collector make him an extremely popular asset to our clients.

If your team could use assistance in your Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office, contact us.



Contact Us

We Know That CSS Is a Consulting Firm, but What Do They Consult On and Who Are They?



Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is our clients' best kept secret. We are comprised of municipal experts, who act as an extension of our client's workforce. Having extensive backgrounds in local and state government, our CSS team seamlessly integrates into the communities they serve providing the support when needed at a fraction of the cost of a full-time employee.

So, is CSS a temporary agency? No, CSS is not a temporary agency, however we do provide onsite support to multiple clients.

Our employees range from former Town Managers, Administrators, Public Works' Directors, Public Information Officers, Public Safety Leaders, Finance Professionals, etc. We are currently assisting the [City of Marlborough](#) by filling in a vacant position in the Mayor's office, while they prepare for the arrival of a new full-time Executive Assistant. We are also assisting the [Town of Pepperell](#) providing support to their Treasurer Collector's Office, and the [Town of Belmont](#) with Human Resources support services.

Still sounds like a temporary agency... We can see that, but we also provide project specific support. In smaller communities, like [Plainville](#) and [Easton](#) we are providing specific support relative to water quality and public communications. Both communities exceeded a maximum contamination level for PFAS6 and needed support services to answer questions from community members about their drinking

water. Our team responds to the incoming inquiries that would very much overwhelm the office staff.

The staff at CSS have been assisting several communities with compliance for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding they received. CSS professionals are well versed in the federal requirements for ARPA funding, having gone through a similar process with the American Rescue and Recovery Act of 2009. We've been assisting the **City of Lynn** with both compliance and community outreach, as well as 29 other communities across Massachusetts.

Our company is also providing support services to several other communities with grant funding opportunities, and the projects that this funding is supporting. Our team is assisting the **Town of Weymouth** and **Green International Affiliates** with the outreach services for the **Columbian Square Improvement Project**, which will change the trajectory of the square, improving the safety of pedestrians and vehicular traffic movements; as well as create a vibrant, walkable atmosphere spurring commerce within the historic village center. Team members are also supporting the **Town of Shrewsbury** and **Kimley-Horn** with the **Shrewsbury Multimodal Study**, and the **Town of Weston** with the **Weston Water Tanks Project**, educating community members about the impact that improvements may have on their quality of life.

"We are a municipal workforce on wheels, we go where we are needed and assist our clients through the challenges that they face. Having worked in municipal government, it allows us to roll up our sleeves and jump right in," **said Nichol Figueiredo, CEO.**

Are you only supporting projects in Massachusetts? No, we are supporting communities throughout New England. In Rhode Island, we are working with the **Town of Burrillville** supporting the **Department of Public Works** with funding opportunities and project management. We recently signed on with the **Town of Putnam, CT** to assist them with grant funding opportunities. We have partnered with **BETA** and **EJ Prescott** to support communities throughout the northeast. CSS is licensed to do business in **Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire**. We currently possess our **Women-Owned (WBE)/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certifications** and have been certified through the **Small Business Purchasing Program (SBPP) in Massachusetts**. Additionally, we are pursuing disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) certification in **Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire**.

That's a lot of certifications, why are they important? The certifications provide an edge for minority business owners. They provide a more level playing field, and the opportunity to expand our market under state and federal contracting requirements.

Interesting, so we've covered onsite support, finance and community outreach – is there anything else that CSS does that sets CSS apart from other consulting firms? Yes, we provide much, much more and have experts in the fields of 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 onsite support services. Our clients range from cities, towns, state agencies, engineering firms, contractors, private firms, etc.

"We are excited to be delivering much needed support to our clients in so many different areas. Providing solutions and assistance to communities and agencies, is what we do best, and we are incredibly grateful that we get to share the amazing skills and experience of our staff members with clients," **said Jennifer Thompson, CDO.**

To learn more about CSS, our team and how we may be of assistance to you - click on the button below to visit our website.

Visit our
Website



Lunch & Learn with Us!
— **FREE WEBINAR** —
**ENHANCE
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUR
BUSINESS WITH THE
SUPPLIER DIVERSITY
OFFICE (SDO)
PROGRAMS &
CERTIFICATIONS**
May 18, 2023
1 PM - 2 PM

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 **Supplier Diversity Office**

REGISTER

Join **Capital Strategic Solution, LLC (CSS)** and the Commonwealth of **Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (SDO)** on **May 18, 2023**, at **1:00 p.m.** to learn how to grow your business through the SDO's Programs and Certifications.

Nichol Figueiredo, Chief Executive Officer and Jennifer Thompson, Chief Development Officer of CSS will provide insights on how becoming a certified women-owned business/disadvantaged business has contributed to their success story in growing their business.

Wanda Colon-D'Angelo, Director of Certification and Katherine Thomas, Training and Policy Manager of the SDO will provide an overview of the Supplier Diversity Certification Program, as well as the Small Business Purchasing Program (SBPP). These programs are free and are great marketing tools that can be used to enhance a firm's ability to do business in public and private markets.

Click on the button below to register for this informative webinar. There will be time for Q&A following the presentation.

Register
Today

Grant Watch



\$4.5 Million available to Cities & Towns through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP)

The State's annual grant program to support recycling, reuse of materials, source reduction and composting is open through June 14th, and communities are eligible for up to

\$300,000 in funding depending on population and the types of programs they offer. Communities where private haulers perform trash and recycling collection are also eligible to apply as long as they have adopted certain policies. The program essentially offers grants dividends for materials that can be used to further a community's efforts in these areas. Specific grant amounts depend upon the number of initiatives a community has taken in this

area. The small-scale initiatives are based upon population. Grants are also available for specific items such as mattress recycling containers, food waste carts, sheds for collection of universal waste and others. Applications must be submitted electronically through Re-TRAC Connect.

Massachusetts Planning Assistance Grants Available For FY24

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has announced that applications for technical assistance grants to improve land practices are available, due on May 26th.

Municipalities or a group of communities may apply for up to **\$50,000** to retain technical assistance to improve practices such as zoning for sustainable housing production, zoning that results in permanent land conservation, or mitigation of climate change through zoning. There are a wide variety of tasks that would be eligible under these categories.



Contact Us



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