



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2023

Proudly Serving Communities Throughout New England!

Seizing the Moment: A Community Blueprint for Navigating Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding



**CAPITAL
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A Women-owned Business Enterprise

The BIL provides a blueprint for historic improvements to the nation's infrastructure. For communities, being ready to seize this moment is critical.

508-690-0046
INFO@CAPITAL-STRATEGIC-SOLUTIONS.COM
WWW.CAPITAL-STRATEGIC-SOLUTIONS.COM
11 APEX DRIVE, SUITE 300A, MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

The passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) presents a once-in-a-lifetime funding boom for U.S. communities. With approximately \$1 trillion earmarked for infrastructure projects, local governments and community leaders stand at the precipice of an era of transformation. However, with great opportunity comes the significant task of preparation. To ensure that communities are in a prime position to benefit from BIL

funding, strategic, inclusive, and forward-thinking preparation is essential.

This blog offers a guide to navigating these waters, from understanding the law to executing funded projects effectively.

Understanding the BIL Funding Landscape

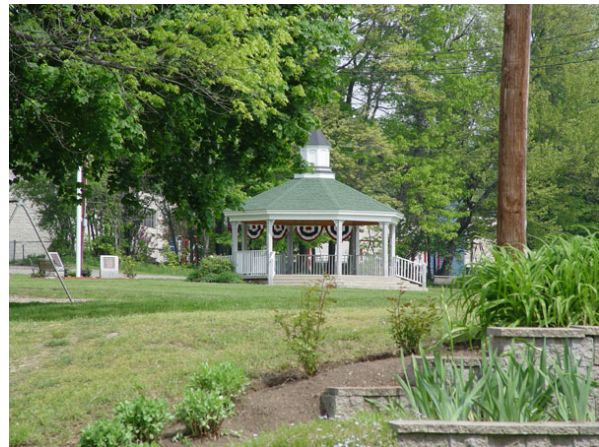
Before diving into application processes, it's important for communities to thoroughly understand the BIL's offerings. The legislation covers a wide range of infrastructure areas, including:

- Transportation (roads, bridges, public transit, ports, airports, EV charging stations)
- Utilities (water, sewer, electric grid, broadband)
- Environmental remediation
- Resilience and sustainability (against climate change impacts)

[Learn More](#)

Project Spotlight: Town of Pepperell, Interim Treasurer Collector

For the past several months, Capital Strategic Solutions has been assisting the Town of Pepperell by providing interim support services. CSS Senior Project Manager Stephen Price took the lead on the project and served as the Interim Treasurer/Tax Collector for the town, filling a position that had been vacant. During his time in Pepperell, Stephen has not only fulfilled the duties of this essential position, but he has also been able to make several meaningful contributions to the office while serving.



Starting back in April, Stephen worked for Pepperell for a few weeks before returning and providing wider support in July. Since then, Stephen has provided broad operational support for the office, including oversight of tax collections, tax bill issuance, cash management, banking, customer support, staff training and reconciliations. These operational functions are a necessity to any treasurer collector's office, and the ability to provide high quality coverage during times of transition is a cornerstone of our support services.

[Learn More](#)

New EPA Get The Lead Out Initiative Will Fund Accelerated Removal of

Lead Service Lines Nationwide

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced a new initiative to Get the Lead Out (GLO) of potable water systems across the nation, ensuring safer drinking water for communities. Through the GLO initiative, which is funded entirely by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is in partnership with the Department of Labor, EPA will partner with 200 underserved communities nationwide to provide the technical assistance needed to identify and remove lead service lines.



New initiative will help 200 underserved communities access technical assistance and funding to identify and remove lead service lines to ensure safer drinking water.

800-888-0204
INFO@CAPITAL-STRATEGIC-SOLUTIONS.COM
WWW.CAPITAL-STRATEGIC-SOLUTIONS.COM
11 APEX DRIVE, SUITE 300A, MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752



GLO will specifically help participating communities identify lead services lines, develop replacement plans, and apply for funding from the \$15 billion dedicated to removing and replacing lead pipes. Communities seeking to access GLO Initiative resources can request assistance by completing the Water Technical Assistance request form on **EPA's Water TA Website**

Learn More

Project Spotlight Town of Concord



Annual reports can help ensure residents are well-informed, engaged and share a common vision.



Capital Strategic Solutions Can Design Your Municipal Annual Report Quickly and Efficiently

Recently, Capital Strategic Solutions' Mike Tusino assisted the Town of Concord, Massachusetts, with preparing their 2022 Annual Town Report for public release. The comprehensive report highlights the

Town's notable achievements of the previous calendar year and outlines their forward-thinking goals for the current calendar year. Moreover, the report encompasses insightful updates from the Town's major boards and committees, election results and essential Town meeting information.

Read More

Welcome Aboard!

Have you met our new team players?

Earlier this month we officially welcomed Justin De Jesus and Amy Putney to the Capital Strategic Solutions team.

Justin De Jesus

Capital Strategic Solutions is pleased to welcome project specialist Justin De Jesus to the team. Justin earned his bachelor's degree in graphic design and studio art from UMass Boston. Before joining CSS, Justin worked as Lead Graphic Design Artist for Young Culture Entertainment in Boston. His work there included developing logos, custom illustrations, typography, and artwork for product packaging and promotional materials for various clients.

Justin will be instrumental in our community outreach and engagement strategy with his fluency in Spanish and English.



[Meet Justin](#)



Amy Putney

It is with immense pleasure and great anticipation that we announce the newest addition to the Capital Strategic Solutions family, Amy Putney, who joins us as Procurement Senior Project Manager. Amy comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and a trove of experience in state and federal procurement, as well as contract and compliance laws. Her expertise will be pivotal in steering procurement strategies for our clients and ensuring the success of municipal projects.

Amy has carved a niche for herself in the procurement domain through years of dedicated service and continuous learning, most recently with the City of Framingham. With a career spanning over a decade in the field, she has honed her skills in navigating the complex labyrinths of procurement processes and compliance regulations at both state and federal levels.

[Meet Amy](#)



Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Program now open for FY24

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program from the National Park Service for fiscal year 2024 is open for applications through January 11, 2024. The federal grant program is administered by the State of Massachusetts and provides grants to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

The goal of the program is to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and facilities and stimulate non-federal investment to protect and maintain such resources. Possible projects include acquisition of parkland, development of new parks, renovation of existing facilities, development of trails in existing conservation or recreation areas, and acquisition of conservation land. Projects that contribute to climate resilient communities are encouraged.

The deadline to submit a grant application, which consists of both an electronic and hard copy submission, must be received by January 11, 2024, at 3 p.m.

[Learn More](#)

Senator Markey's Office Announces Federal Grant Opportunities.

The Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) passed by Congress includes a number of programs that will contribute to

transforming the State's physical infrastructure and providing opportunities to enhance safety and promote equity through increased funding for passenger, rail, public transit, bridges, roads, clean water, and broadband throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While some programs such as the FEMA Building Resiliency Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) are familiar, others have come about through this legislation.

The Senator's office will be holding a virtual meeting to discuss these opportunities on Friday, November 17, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. ET. Interested participants should register at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpdetrDIiHtJlHo2ddsWlRhnl9mSRdG3Q#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpdetrDIiHtJlHo2ddsWlRhnl9mSRdG3Q#/registration)

Specific Programs Include

- **USDOT: Thriving Communities Program**
- **EPA: Clean School Bus Program Rebates**
- **Economic Development Agency Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program**
- **DOE: Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program**
- **FEMA:**
 - **Building Resiliency Infrastructure & Communities**
 - **Flood Mitigation Assistance**

[Learn More](#)

New MCC Grant Program Launched for Creative Individuals

The Massachusetts Cultural Council is offering the Grants for Creative Individuals to Massachusetts artists to advance an equitable expression of creative thought in the commonwealth's diverse communities. These are unrestricted grants of \$5,000.

The council is holding an information session about these grants on December 5th, 2023, and the final date to submit an application is December 11, 2023. The MCC is now accepting applications.

[Learn More](#)

EPA Launches New Resources for Local Climate and Environmental Justice Programs

According to a recent news release, the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) is launching the Community, Equity & Resiliency initiative, an effort to help communities across the nation navigate EPA's Inflation Reduction Act investments and other new funding opportunities.

Through this new initiative, EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights will facilitate community-driven partnerships and provide a space for communities to learn, connect and cultivate ideas about how to access historic resources, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

[Learn More](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Staff Appreciation & A Time to be Thankful

As we celebrate the holiday season, we wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude to our CSS team. Everyone of our employees fills us with pride at the talent, dedication, and passion that fuel CSS.

This year has been filled with challenges and achievements that have pushed us to new heights. We've launched successful projects, formed valuable partnerships, and continued to innovate in ways that make a real difference in the communities we serve. Each success is a testament to the hard work and perseverance present in this team.

The holidays are a time of reflection, a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the journey we've undertaken together. It's also a time for rest, to recharge, and to spend precious moments with friends and family. We hope everyone is able to relax and revel in the accomplishments of the past year.

Celebrate the joy of the season, and the satisfaction of a job well done. Here's to a prosperous New Year filled with health, happiness, and continued success.

Thank you to our CSS team, and all our community partners near and far.





MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20...
Massachusetts Municipal Association

AWWA Repeats Calls for Strong Cybersecurity Measures
after EPA Withdraws Rule... *American Water Works
Association*

Changes Proposed for CDBG One-Year Action Plan for
FY24... *Massachusetts Municipal Association*

New Updated Guide for Snow and Ice Control Coming
from AASHTO... *American Public Works Association*

Find Us...

A graphic divided into three vertical panels, each with a "Find Us!" header and event details. The first panel (blue) is for the New Hampshire Municipal 82nd Annual Conference & Exhibition on Nov 15-16 at Double Tree by Hilton Manchester Downtown. The second panel (red) is for the Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show 2024 on Jan 19-20 at Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Boston Hotel. The third panel (blue) is for the New England Water Works Association's 2024 Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition on Apr 3-4 at Worcester DCU Center.

Event	Location	Dates
New Hampshire Municipal 82nd Annual Conference & Exhibition	Double Tree by Hilton Manchester Downtown	NOV 15 - 16
Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show 2024	Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Boston Hotel	JAN 19 - 20
New England Water Works Association's 2024 Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition	Worcester DCU Center	APR 3 - 4

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**

Capital Strategic Solutions LLC | 11 Apex Drive, Suite 300A, Marlborough, MA 01752

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