



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

Proudly Serving Communities Throughout New England!

EPA Finalizes PFAS Reporting Rule, Will Help Local Governments Craft Policies and Laws to Better Protect Communities from Forever Chemicals

According to a recent news release issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agency finalized a rule that will provide EPA, its partners and the public with the largest-ever dataset of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) manufactured and used in the United States. The new rule will produce actionable data that can be used by EPA, as well as state, local, and Tribal governments to craft policies and laws that protect people from dangerous “forever chemicals.”

EPA Finalizes PFAS Reporting Rule,

Will Help Local Governments Craft Policies and Laws to Better Protect Communities from Forever Chemicals



508-690-0046
WWW.CAPITAL-STRATEGIC-SOLUTIONS.COM

**Learn
More**

It's a Busy Time of Year and CSS is Here to Help

As Town leaders prepare for the upcoming budget season, we are reminded of how quickly deadlines can arise, especially when it comes to strategic financial planning for a community. Faced with less

resources and staff, but more work and responsibilities, Town and City Managers and their financial staff have less and less time to perform much needed strategic planning and preparation for their operating and capital improvement budgets.

Did you know that Capital Strategic Solutions offers assistance to cities and towns in planning, preparing and presenting operating and capital budgets? Our professional staff have decades of experience developing these critical components of local government. Whether you need some extra assistance with launching your operating or capital programs or would like to revamp or institute a more comprehensive system and approach to fiscal management and transparency in financial presentations, let CSS provide you with additional resources and assistance to help you reach your goals.

Our team of former municipal leaders have been in your shoes and understand the complex nature of public finance and constituent relations. We also understand the financial challenges faced by municipalities and offer low-cost solutions and assistance to support your city or town. Interested in learning more about how CSS may help you with your operating and capital budget planning?

Contact our Chief Development Officer **Jennifer Thompson** at **jennifer@capital-strategic-solutions.com** or via phone at **(508) 690-0046, ext.702**.



**Learn
More**



Pioneering Paths to Community Connectivity

The Indispensable
Role of Outreach



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

Pioneering Paths to Community Connectivity: The Indispensable Role of Outreach

In the mosaic of community engagement, the first tesserae — invariably vivid and vital — is outreach. This initial stride towards crafting strong, interwoven communities is far more than just the initial touchpoint; it is the creation of a dialogue, an open invitation for communal involvement, and a catalyst for collective action.

**Read
More**

**PROJECT
SPOTLIGHT**
**TOWN
OF
MONSON**

Classification and Comp Study



Jennifer Thompson



Blythe Robinson



Tim Goddard

Project Spotlight: Town of Monson Compensation and Classification Study

In partnership with Mary Beth Bernard of HR Key Solutions, CSS has embarked on a comprehensive Compensation and Classification Study for the Town of Monson. As a highly credentialed and professional in the field of municipal human resources, Mary Beth brings with her a wealth of experience, especially in terms of evaluating and performing compensation and classification studies for municipalities throughout New England. Her skills are complimented by the dedicated staff at CSS who have decades providing human resources and financial services for cities and towns throughout their careers.

[Learn More](#)

Welcome Aboard! Have you met our new team players?

Earlier this month we officially welcomed Mark Dempsey and Libby Bolling to the Capital Strategic Solutions team.

Mark Dempsey

Mark joined our team as a Senior Project Manager bringing his extensive background in in municipal government and expertise with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to serve our clients. Our team has had the pleasure of working with Mark in the past and looks forward to bringing his expertise to communities across New England. Mark has also served on the Massachusetts

Architectural Access Board for more than a decade. With his breadth of experience, Mark is an asset to any team, and we're excited to have him on ours. Welcome aboard, Mark!

Meet Mark

Libby Bolling

Libby joined Capital Strategic Solutions as our Communications Specialist. With more than 40 years of experience in the field of communications, Libby brings a diverse set of skills to benefit our clients. Prior to joining CSS, she worked more than 23 years with Pinellas County, Florida, government as a Public Information Specialist, video producer, reporter and voice talent and has worked with client departments in water and wastewater utilities, public works, planning and building, human resources, animal services, transportation, solid waste and floodplain management. We are delighted to have Libby on board and know our clients will be too!



Meet Libby



Funding Available to Train Future Wastewater Treatment Operators

The State, recognizing that there is a need for certified wastewater treatment operators, has announced a grant program focused on creating or taking

advantage of existing training programs to expand the workforce. The State has allocated \$500,000 and anticipates making two awards of \$250,000 each to a public or private entity, with an emphasis on businesses that qualify for the Diversity and Small Business Purchasing Program. Successful applications will demonstrate how the funds will have the greatest positive impact on the largest number of individuals in the wastewater operations industry. Successful grantees may either utilize existing training programs or develop their own in order to enable more individuals to become certified. The deadline for electronic submission of this grant is October 27th at 3:00 PM, and grant funds must be spent by June 30, 2027.

EPA Seeking Applications to Fund Water System Research to Yield More Effective Manganese Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking to fund research to evaluate the effectiveness of common manganese treatment technologies in small drinking water systems. Public water systems, institutions of higher education (IHEs), research institutions or foundations, regional water organizations and certain nonprofit organizations located in the U.S., or its territories or possessions are eligible to apply.

Manganese (Mn), an essential trace element in the human diet, is naturally occurring in the environment and prevalent throughout the United States in groundwater and surface water. Mn in drinking water is typically considered an aesthetic issue because it can leave stains on tubs, showers, plumbing fixtures and laundry. However, recent evidence suggests that exposure to levels previously considered to be safe can cause cognitive and motor deficits in children.

EPA is funding research demonstrations to inform states, Tribes, utilities, communities' consultants and state regulators about more effective Mn management in small, rural and Tribal systems. This includes increased ability to implement Mn treatment technologies based on source water characteristics, capital, operations and maintenance costs, and maintenance requirements enabling more effective management of Mn removal in small systems.

Two distinct areas of research are sought: evaluating the performance and sustainability of treatment and treatment technologies, and the costs and capacity of Mn treatment over time. Applicants should address both areas in their application.

Solicitation closing date is **November 15, 2023**, 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

To view the full details of the request for applications and how to apply, visit

<https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/treatment-technology-demonstrations-using-practical-and-affordable-manganese>

Sewage Notification Assistance Grant Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is seeking applications from municipal or regional wastewater utilities or systems that meet the definition of a "permittee" to expand their efforts to notify the public about sewer overflows or discharges and related events. Eligible projects would include, but are not limited to, new or improved signage at public access points, services to design/implement a public notification system, consultant services for design/improvement of a website, purchase/installation of meters to increase reliability or speed of discharge detection and flow measurement.

MassDEP anticipates grant awards between \$10,000 and \$563,289 with no match required (though applicants are encouraged to report any possible matching funds) and will give preference to environmental justice communities.

Applications must be submitted electronically by **November 10, 2023**, at 5 p.m., and funds must be spent by June 30, 2024.

MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program

Again, this year, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is seeking proposals from groups of towns, stormwater coalitions and regional planning agencies for innovative projects that will help multiple communities meet the requirements of the 2016 Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit.

The purpose of the grant is to expand efforts to meet these requirements and reduce pollution through coordinated partnerships that emphasize resource sharing. Examples of projects include but are not limited to assessment tools for identifying retrofit sites, data intake & field certification tools, formation of a new MS4 coalition where none exist, MS4 capital investments, outreach and education, survey research to identify needs for smaller MS4 communities, asset management tools and MS4-related job training opportunities that benefit environmental justice populations.

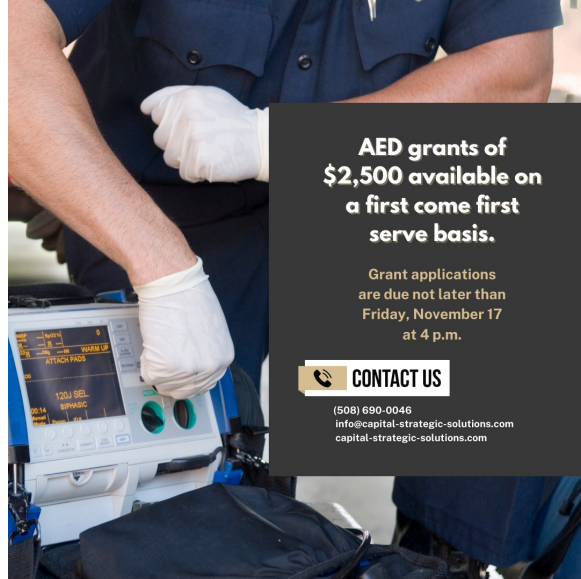
MassDEP anticipates grant awards between \$50,000 and \$300,000 for projects that can be completed by June 30, 2024. No match is required; however, applicants are encouraged to report any possible sources of funds.

Applications must be submitted electronically by **November 10, 2023**, at 5 p.m.

**AED grants of \$2,500
available on a first come
first serve basis**

The State of Massachusetts has set aside funds for purchase of an

automated external defibrillator (AED) for public safety and first responder vehicles. Prioritizing communities with a population of less than 20,000 people that have not received this grant in the past, the applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis until the \$330,000 available is exhausted. Communities may apply for one unit by submitting an both an online and hard copy application to obtain funds to place a unit in a vehicle that doesn't have one, or one that needs to be replaced, along with a written quote for the unit.



AED grants of \$2,500 available on a first come first serve basis.

Grant applications are due not later than Friday, November 17 at 4 p.m.

CONTACT US

(508) 690-0046
info@capital-strategic-solutions.com
capital-strategic-solutions.com

Grant applications are due not later than **Friday, November 17** at 4 p.m. and funds must be spent by June 30, 2024.

Contact Us



Taming the Storm

Ensuring Effective Communication During a Crisis



CAPITAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

Taming the Storm: Ensuring Effective Communication During a Crisis

When a crisis unfolds, chaos can quickly permeate through a community, sending people into panic and destabilizing your governmental operations. Ensuring clear, transparent and timely communication is paramount to reducing uncertainty and volatility, safeguarding trust and maintaining a semblance of control. Here are the essential elements of effective communication during a crisis.

Transparency and Honesty

Setting the Tone: In times of crisis, conveying messages with transparency and honesty establishes trust amongst employees, stakeholders and the public. Clearly communicate the nature of the crisis, the steps being taken to address it and the anticipated impact.

Consistency is Key: Ensure consistent messaging across all channels and spokespeople to avoid confusion and misinformation.

[Read More](#)



What to know about \$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24... *Massachusetts Municipal Association*

Will New Hampshire Soon See Its First Stormwater Utility... *New Hampshire Municipal Association*

Find Us...

<p><i>Find Us!</i></p> <p>NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL 82ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION</p> <p>NOV 15 16</p> <p>DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON MANCHESTER DOWNTOWN</p>	<p><i>Find Us!</i></p> <p>MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND TRADE SHOW 2024</p> <p>JAN 19 20</p> <p>HYNES CONVENTION CENTER AND SHERATON BOSTON HOTEL</p>	<p><i>Find Us!</i></p> <p>NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION'S 2024 SPRING JOINT REGIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION</p> <p>APR 3 4</p> <p>WORCESTER DCU CENTER</p>
---	--	---

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

[Unsubscribe info@capital-strategic-solutions.com](mailto:info@capital-strategic-solutions.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@capital-strategic-solutions.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!