



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Certified WBE/DBE/SBPP Business Enterprise

Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023

Proudly Serving Communities Throughout New England!

Long-Range Capital Planning for Public Works

When it comes to managing and maintaining a city's infrastructure, few departments play as crucial a role as the Public Works Department. From road construction to wastewater management, public works ensures our cities function smoothly. However, the scale and longevity of many of these projects mean that merely managing day-to-day operations isn't enough. Enter long-range capital planning, a critical tool for ensuring the success and sustainability of a Public Works Department.



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The Importance of Communicating Municipal

Finance Challenges to a Community

The financial health of a city or town is everyone's concern, and thus it should be everyone's business. Effective communication about municipal finance challenges is not just a task for local governments but a collaborative effort that can yield tangible benefits for communities. By emphasizing transparency, education, and collective problem-solving, municipalities can turn challenges into opportunities for community growth and enrichment.



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CSS BELIEVES IN THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATING MUNICIPAL FINANCE CHALLENGES TO COMMUNITIES



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Project Spotlight: Town of Avon Housing Rehabilitation Program

Capital Strategic Solutions has been working with the Town of Avon, Massachusetts to embark on a Housing Rehabilitation program. Project Manager Tim Goddard has been working closely with Town Administrator Jonathan Beder along with the Town's Finance and Building Departments, Board of Health and CoA to provide a resource that supports residents and improves quality of life. The project consists of a limited scope program that utilizes \$200,000 from the program and miscellaneous income remaining from a previous housing program the Town ran from 2009-2014. These funds are being offered as 15 year, 0% interest, deferred payment loans that homeowners can use to make improvements to their property that resolve code violations and remove health hazards. Eligible projects may be funded in any amount up to \$35,000 for projects in single family and multi-family properties, for improvements like removing lead paint and asbestos.



CSS PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

TOWN OF AVON HOUSING REHABILITATION PROJECT

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Building a Resilient Tomorrow: The Role of Community Outreach in

Climate Resiliency Projects

In the face of the growing challenges posed by climate change, no single approach will suffice. It requires a collective, concerted effort from all sectors of society. Community outreach is not merely a formality but a necessity in building climate-resilient communities. By engaging communities in the planning, implementation, and maintenance stages, we not only utilize local knowledge but also foster a culture of resilience and sustainability that will benefit current and future generations.



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Grant Funding Available to Address Gang Violence and Offer Prevention & Intervention Programs

Again, this year the State has announced \$10.8 million in funding for the Shannon CSI grant program. The purpose of the program is to support regional & multi-disciplinary approaches

to combat gang violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution & reintegration programs for youth between 10 - 24 years of age. The State strongly encourages collaborative efforts within a community or region, and preference will be given to applications that propose

working with multi-disciplinary partners & commitment to regional strategies, target geographical locations which have high levels of gang violence, provide a 25% match to awarded grant funds, and identify the community serving as the grant fiscal agent. Awardees will need to maintain a steering committee, have a site program director, and contribute crime data to various agencies. Grant applications are due by October 17th at 4 PM, with a grant period anticipated of January - December 2024.

MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program



The State has released a grant to assist municipal and private property owners with conserved lands (Conservation restriction/easement, agricultural restriction, Chapter 61, 61 A/B, land under the care of a municipal conservation commission, etc.) to conduct work to enhance habitats for native wildlife species, especially climate vulnerable habitats to make them more resilient to climate change, and to promote public access for wildlife

associated recreational opportunities. The specific priorities for this program are to improve habitat(s) for species that can be legally hunted, fished and trapped in the state, enhance habitat in ecological communities disproportionately susceptible to climate change, and manage habitats for species of greatest conservation need as identified in the State's wildlife action plan from 2015.

Applicants are eligible for grants between \$10,000 - \$75,000 with no grant match required. The State anticipates that projects will take approximately six months to complete and must be finished by June 30, 2024. Some examples of allowable expenses include mowing, tree clearing, control of invasive plants, fencing, tree planting, pond/shoreline restoration, staff time for on the ground project implementation (base salary only), materials, signs, equipment rental. Applications must be submitted electronically by October 31, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Marine Fisheries Small Grant Program

For the 11th year in a row, the State has released this grant again to enhance recreational saltwater fishing opportunities through improved public access. This grant is open to all municipalities that have waters requiring a Massachusetts saltwater fishing license. Winning proposals will receive technical

assistance from Marine Fisheries staff, technical services or direct funding. The criteria for a winning proposal include improvement to existing access, creating new fishing access, and/or provide an educational service that enhances fishing opportunities. The grant limit is \$25,000 per project and the closing date for this grant is October 6, 2023.



MARINE FISHERIES SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

Applications must be submitted by **October 6, 2023**

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Urban & Community Forestry Challenges Grant

Urban and Community Forestry grant funds are provided by the USDA Forest Service and administered by DCR with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing livability of all of Massachusetts' communities.

These 50-50 matching grants (75% - 25% for environmental justice communities) will provide grants from \$1,000 - \$40,000 seeks to make sustained improvements in local capacity for excellent urban & community forestry management in six key areas: community wood banks, developing adopting tree & forest ordinances and policies, securing or training professional staff, developing & implementing systematic urban forest management, completing strategic tree plantings, and other projects that result in sustained improvements to urban & community forestry management.

Communities who are interested in applying must first submit an "Intent to Apply Form" at least one month before formal applications are due (November 1, 2023). Final applications must include a letter from the community's tree warden indicating their involvement with the project, and all funded projects must be completed within one year, with funding provided on a reimbursement basis.



URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHALLENGES GRANT

Applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2023**

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NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPT. 17 & 20 2023

HILTON BURLINGTON LAKE CHAMPLAIN BURLINGTON, VT

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MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND TRADE SHOW 2024

JAN. 19 & 20 2024

HYNES CONVENTION CENTER AND SHERATON BOSTON HOTEL

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.

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