

*Proudly Serving Communities Throughout the United States!*



## May 2026 Newsletter

*CSS shares key updates, fresh perspectives, and emerging opportunities to help you build momentum and move your priorities forward. We're here to ensure you stay informed, adaptable, and positioned for what's next.*

### May is National Walking Month

May is National Walking Month, a time to recognize the many benefits of walking for both physical and mental health. As a team, we're proud to spend much of our time on the move, whether it's taking a quick walk during lunch breaks, getting outside between meetings, or walking neighborhoods and community streets as part of our public outreach efforts.

A large part of our work involves connecting directly with residents through outreach initiatives, including distributing door hangers, sharing project information, attending community events, and supporting municipalities with engagement efforts. These opportunities not only help us stay active, but also allow us to build stronger connections within the communities we serve.



Walking is one of the simplest and most accessible ways to stay healthy, reduce stress, and recharge throughout the day. During National Walking Month, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the warmer weather, get outside when possible, and enjoy the benefits of staying active — even a short walk can make a difference.



## CSS Partners with PIO Toolkit to Launch Live Virtual “Lunch & Learn” Training with Christine Townsend

CSS is excited to partner with PIO Toolkit to launch a new series of live, one-hour “Lunch & Learn” trainings led by globally recognized communications expert Christine Townsend. Designed for busy professionals, these sessions deliver practical, real-world strategies in a format that fits into your workday—no time away required.

### Focused Training. Real-World Impact.

Today’s communications landscape demands quick thinking and strategic responses. These sessions are built to provide clear, actionable guidance on the challenges professionals are facing right now.

### Featured Topics Include:

- Managing First Amendment Auditors & Influencers
- Responding to Misinformation in Real Time
- Crisis Communications Under Pressure
- Working Effectively with Leadership & Elected Officials

### Why Attend?

Each session is:

- Interactive and scenario-based
- Immediately applicable
- Designed to deliver tools you can use the same day

### Who Should Join?

- Public Information Officers
- Communications Directors
- Municipal & government leaders
- Public safety professionals
- Anyone responsible for public messaging

### Expert-Led, Accessible Training

With decades of global experience, Christine Townsend brings a practical, engaging approach to complex communication challenges—helping professionals respond with clarity and confidence.

### A Strategic Partnership

Through this collaboration, CSS and PIO Toolkit are expanding access to timely, high-impact training that helps organizations strengthen communication, build trust, and navigate today’s evolving media landscape.

### Details

Each session is **\$99** and includes live participation, a recording, and a practical takeaway resource. All attendees will also receive a discount code for 20% off membership to PIO Toolkit

Sessions are open to all government communicators, PIOs, emergency managers, and public sector comms staff. No prerequisites required.

All sessions are delivered via Zoom. You'll receive login details after registration. Spaces are limited. Register now to secure your spot.

## The Series

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026  
at 12:00 PM EST**

Handling Misinformation in the moment, develop strategies to quickly identify, address, and correct misinformation before it spreads.

[Register Here](#)



**Wednesday, June 3, 2026  
at 12:00 PM EST**

Crisis Communications Under Pressure. Communicate clearly and confidently during high-stress, time-sensitive situations when every message matters.

[Register Here](#)



**Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at  
12:00 PM EST**

Working with Leadership and Elected Officials. Communicate to support alignment and decision-making.

[Register Here](#)



## Employee Spotlight



### Meet Blythe Robinson

Strong municipal leadership requires more than experience — it requires vision, adaptability, and the ability to connect communities with the resources and strategies they need to succeed. At Capital Strategic Solutions, that leadership is exemplified by Blythe Robinson, Development Executive.

With decades of experience in municipal government, Blythe brings an exceptional understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and evolving needs facing

communities today. Her ability to assess what a municipality currently has, identify what it needs, and connect it with available resources makes her an invaluable asset to both CSS and the municipalities we serve.

Prior to joining CSS, Blythe served as Town Administrator for the Town of Norfolk, where she led the community through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, she ensured uninterrupted delivery of essential municipal services while navigating rapidly changing operational, financial, and public health demands. Her leadership during this critical period demonstrated her calm, strategic approach to problem solving and commitment to public service.

Blythe's expertise spans a wide range of municipal disciplines, including regionalization, grant management, budgeting and financial transparency, human resources, policy review, staffing analysis, executive coaching, and capital improvement planning. She maintains a strong pulse on the municipal landscape and remains highly engaged with emerging grant opportunities and evolving best practices that can benefit local governments.

Known for her collaborative mindset and creative problem-solving abilities, Blythe is especially passionate about strengthening intercommunity connectivity and helping municipalities identify innovative solutions to complex challenges. Her strategic perspective and deep understanding of municipal operations allow her to support communities of all sizes and varying needs with confidence and insight.

At CSS, helping municipalities navigate challenges and plan for the future requires experienced leaders who understand local government from the inside out, and Blythe's expertise, dedication, and leadership continue to make a meaningful impact across the communities we serve.

[Learn More About Blythe](#)



## Find Our Team

### 2026 IACLEA Annual Conference & Exposition

Thursday, June 25 - Sunday, June 28  
Caribe Royale Orlando



Capital Strategic Solutions is excited to attend the 2026 IACLEA Annual Conference & Exposition this June in Orlando, Florida.

As one of the leading gatherings for campus public safety professionals, #IACLEA2026 brings together leaders from across the country to share ideas, explore emerging challenges, and discuss the future of campus safety and security.

Our team looks forward to connecting with campus public safety leaders and learning more about the evolving needs of higher education institutions related to communications, public engagement, strategic planning, and operational support.



**Nichol Figueriedo**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Patti Grigas**  
Senior Project Manager



**Christine Townsend**  
Senior Project Manager

## **Smart Reads, Fresh Takes**

**See the  
Structure –  
Not Just  
the Shortage**

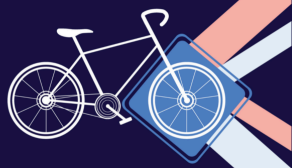


### **Stop Defaulting to “Just Hire Someone”**

Every municipal leader knows the moment. A department head leaves. A grant deadline hits. A major project lands on the calendar. And the reflex kicks in: “we need to hire.”

[Read More](#)

**BIKE  
SAFETY  
MONTH**



### **Bike Safety Month: More Than a Reminder to Wear a Helmet**

Every May, advocates, municipalities, and transportation agencies across the country use Bike Safety Month to raise awareness about the importance of protecting cyclists on our roads. In 2026, the opportunities are bigger than ever.

[Read More](#)

**WATER CONSERVATION  
STARTS WITH  
SMART PLANNING  
AND  
INFORMED COMMUNITIES**



### **Water Conservation Starts with Planning & Informed Communities**

As cities & towns face increasing pressure from population growth and more, water conservation has become a critical component of long-term planning and sustainability.

[Read More](#)



## Why MS4 Compliance Is More Than Just a Requirement

One of the biggest challenges with MS4 is keeping up with outreach and posting consistently. At CSS, we work with municipalities to take that piece off your plate.

[Read More](#)



## How to Highlight Community Events: A Guide for Municipalities

Community events are at the heart of local engagement. Here are key strategies to effectively highlight your community events and maximize engagement.

[Read More](#)



## Career Corner

Discover open positions with our municipal partners and find your next opportunity to support strong, well-run local government.

### Town of Nantucket: Director of Municipal Finance

**Salary Range: \$161,720-\$222,404**

The Town of Nantucket is seeking an experienced and forward-thinking Director of Municipal Finance to lead the Town's financial operations and help shape the long-term fiscal strategy of one of Massachusetts' most unique communities.

[Apply Now](#)

### Town of Millbury: Building Inspector/Zoning Commissioner

**Salary Range: \$100,000-\$107,000**

The Town of Millbury is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Building Inspector/Zoning Commissioner.

[Apply Now](#)

### Town of Ware: Director of Public Works

**Salary Range: \$125,000-\$145,000**

Lead the Town of Ware's public works operations, including streets, water/sewer, and solid waste, with at least 10 years of experience required.

[Apply Now](#)

## Town of Sherborn - Director of Assessing

**Salary Range: \$47 - \$55 per hour (based on qualifications and experience)**

This role provides leadership for the Town's assessing operations and supports accurate and equitable property assessments that help maintain the integrity of Sherborn's tax system.

[Apply Now](#)



# Grant Watch

*Insights, and Support to Drive Community Growth and Innovation.*

### Federal Grants

- [Fund Safer Roads Now: SS4A Grants Deliver Millions for Local Safety Projects](#)
- [Defense Community Infrastructure Program \(DCIP\): Funding Opportunity for Municipalities Supporting Military Readiness](#)

### Connecticut Grants

- [Up to \\$15 Million Available for CT Municipalities: VW Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program – Round 4](#)
- [Local Bridge Program \(CTDOT\) – April–May 2026 Application Window](#)
- [Now Accepting Applications: Clean Water Fund – Financial Assistance for Municipal Wastewater Projects \(Connecticut\)](#)

### Florida Grants

- [\\$150 M Available Through The Resilient Florida Program for Communities Focused on Integrated Coastal Flood Mitigation](#)

### Maine Grants

- [Future Funding Opportunity to Watch – Maine CDBG Economic Development Program \(EDP\)](#)
- [Community Action Grants – Round 7 Now Open](#)

### Massachusetts Grants

- [Unlock Funding for Accessibility Improvements: Grants Up to \\$250K Available for Municipal Projects](#)

- [Massachusetts Municipal & Tribal Technical Assistance Grant Program: A New Resource for Local Communities](#)
- [Up to \\$425K Available Through the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities \(PARC\) Grant Program](#)
- [Secure Up to \\$425K for Local Land Conservation with MA's LAND Grant](#)
- [Now Accepting Applications: FY2027 Emergency Medical Dispatch \(EMD\) Grant – Deadline December 30, 2026](#)

## New Hampshire Grants

- [Rural Business Development Grants Open New Doors for NH & VT Communities](#)
- [Protect Today, Prepare for Tomorrow: PREPA Grants Now Open for Municipalities](#)
- [NH Coastal Communities Invited to Apply for Resilience Grant Funding](#)
- [Secure Your Community's Water Future—Up to \\$500,000 Available Through the Source Water Protection Grant](#)

### New Mexico Grants

- [Funding Opportunity – New Mexico Overflow Sewer Grant \(OSG\) Program](#)
- [Get Inspired and Apply for the Creative Industries Public Development Grant](#)

### Rhode Island Grants

- [Unlocking \\$5M for Eligible Rhode Island Communities – Housing, Jobs, and Neighborhood Revitalization](#)
- [Turn Potential into Progress: Rhode Island's Site Readiness Program](#)

## Vermont Grants

[Rural Business Development Grants Open New Doors for NH & VT Communities](#)  
[Plan Smarter, Grow Stronger: VT's Municipal Planning Grant Announcement Coming in July](#)  
[Now Available – Vermont Brownfields Revitalization Fund \(State Program\)](#)  
[Vermont Municipalities: Don't Miss This Clean Vessel Act Funding Opportunity](#)

For help with your application, reach out to Capital Strategic Solutions. We specialize in grant management at every stage—from identifying opportunities and securing awards to ensuring compliance and managing budgets. Our public-sector expertise helps communities deliver sustainable, impactful projects. Partner with us to move forward with confidence.

## Contact Us

### About Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS)

CSS is a certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise of municipal experts delivering creative, cost-effective solutions that maximize success and minimize risk. With deep local government expertise, we craft tailored strategies to meet each community's unique needs.



**CAPITAL  
STRATEGIC  
SOLUTIONS**

A Women-Owned Business Enterprise

Our capabilities span public administration, municipal finance, human resources, policy development, emergency management, public safety, public works, water operations, interim municipal services, public relations, community engagement, project management, grant writing, and onsite support. We partner with clients to define clear goals, overcome challenges, and implement human-centered plans that drive performance and transform communities.

[Visit Our Website](#)



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