

# **CITY** *of* **BOSTON**



PHOTO BY MANU SCHWENDENER VIA UNSPLASH

## **Important Info About Your Water**

Boston Water and Sewer Commission's lead and copper sampling results exceeded the acceptable action level in 2023. The BWSC recently tested a number of homes in our community for lead and copper in drinking water. More than 10 percent of the

homes we tested were above the federal action level for lead in drinking water. Boston's water quality sampling taken of 33 homes during the fall of 2023 found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in 6 homes. As a reminder, **all of Boston's water mains are lead free**. However, some older homes in Boston may have a lead water service line. Please call BWSC's Lead Hotline with any questions, at 617-989-7888. Please [read this important brochure](#) on the city's no-cost lead replacement incentive program.

BWSC offers a free lead service map which can be found here:

[Lead Service Map](#)

Read more about Lead and Drinking water [here](#).

# SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## GET 1:1 ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

### OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

**Legal support**  
**Business strategy**  
**Digital marketing**  
**Financial forecasting**  
**and more!**



Send your inquiry to:

[emily.patrick@Boston.gov](mailto:emily.patrick@Boston.gov)

**617-869-1622**



City of Boston  
Economic Opportunity  
and Inclusion

Apply Now to Be a Small Business Technical

# Assistance Provider

ARE YOU A CONSULTANT OR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT?



## APPLY NOW TO BE A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER

The City of Boston will pay you to work with small business owners on various needs, including:

- legal
- accounting
- marketing
- business planning
- and more!

Visit: [bit.ly/BostonTA](https://bit.ly/BostonTA)

 City of Boston  
Economic Opportunity  
and Inclusion

# 2024 NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARDS

Now Accepting Nominations!



[sba.gov/nsbw](https://sba.gov/nsbw)

## The Small Business Administration (SBA) is now accepting Nominations for the National Small Business Week Awards!

The National Small Business Awards highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and community members from all 50 states and U.S. territories.

### Submission Deadline:

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 4:00pm EST.

### 2024 Award Categories:

There are DISTRICT awards and two NATIONAL awards categories: "Small Business Person of the Year" and "Exporter of the Year".

Learn more at: [sba.gov/nsbw](https://sba.gov/nsbw)

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## Boston Community Choice Electricity

Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) gives Bostonians greater control over the electricity that powers their homes, places of worship and small businesses. The Program allows the City to secure electricity at a competitive rate. By using the City's collective buying power, we aim to provide affordable and renewable electricity to the program's customers. BCCE ensures that energy decisions are made locally and reflect the values of Boston's community.

[Learn more](#)

# Get a No-Cost Energy Assessment for your Small Business



Reduce overhead costs, increase profit margins and boost the comfort of your customers and employees.

The Mass Save Sponsors offer up to 70% off on efficiency upgrades like:



Refrigeration



Hot water savings



Electronics



Pipe insulation



Indoor and outdoor lighting



Insulation and air sealing



Custom Energy Efficiency Measures



And new substantial rebates for heat pumps and HVAC systems



**Get started today:**

[masssave.com/boston](https://masssave.com/boston)

(857) 376-6220

Boston is a Mass Save Community First Partner, increasing participation in energy efficiency programs.



WE ARE MASS SAVE®

EVERSOURCE

nationalgrid

## Free Small Business Office Hours

We are excited to continue our free weekly small business "office hours" on Fridays from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. To join, please click this link at the right time: <http://bit.ly/BizGrowOfficeHours>

We are here to help! If you need free legal assistance please email [BizGrow@lawyersforcivilrights.org](mailto:BizGrow@lawyersforcivilrights.org) or call BizGrow at 857-264-1810.

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## M/WBE Certification Office Hours

Join the Supplier Diversity team every Wednesday from 11:00am - 1:00pm via zoom for our weekly Certification Office Hours! Their team is available to answer any questions from small business owners interested in becoming a certified Minority/Woman-Owned Business Enterprise with the City of Boston. Click the link below to register/enter.

Join the Office Hours [here](#).

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## External Grants Available for Businesses

[Amber Grant](#): WomensNet funds several grants for women-owned businesses throughout the year. Fill out one application and you will be eligible for the **monthly \$10,000 general business grant**, the monthly business category grant, or the **annual \$25,000 grant**. Apply today!

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## SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

*We support you as you start, stabilize, or grow your small business. Our team can help you identify challenges and goals, and pair you with our business experts.*

**Contact**  
**[smallbiz@boston.gov](mailto:smallbiz@boston.gov)**

### RESTORE

*Want to find out how you can improve the outside of your building, or your storefront signs? Want to learn more about our design services?*

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## Join us - Community Preservation Act Committee Public Meetings: November 13th, December 4th and 7th

All CPC meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to join the meetings to hear more about the project proposals under consideration during this round. You can find the public notice for the CPC meeting [here](#).

This CPC meeting will be held virtually. Members of the public can participate in the meeting by going to our **Zoom Meeting link** [here](#) or calling **1-929-205-6099** and entering the meeting ID **810 7303 1655** and passcode **059112**.

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# How will CPA Impact Your Neighborhood?

The FY2024 application round is off and running. The most recent eligibility form deadline resulted in **over 90 projects invited to apply and over \$48M** in funding requests across all 3 categories: affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation. The majority of neighborhoods in the city are represented in this round.

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## What's Next?

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will begin meeting to review the FY2024 applications and recommend projects for funding to the Mayor and City Council by February 2024. A schedule of all CPC public meetings is listed below. Everyone is welcome to join us and learn more about CPA!

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## Schedule of CPC Virtual Meetings for FY24 Funding Round:

Meetings are subject to change:

**TIME CORRECTION: Monday, December 4, 2023 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**TIME CORRECTION: Thursday, December 7, 2023 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**Monday, December 11, 2023 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**Monday, January 22, 2024 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Thursday, December 14, 2023 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm (optional, if needed)**

**Monday, January 29, 2024 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (optional, if needed)**

**Break for holidays, 2024 CPC Public Meetings**

**Thursday, February 8, 2024 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (CPA Hearing)**

**Monday, January 8, 2024 | 12:00 pm -**

**February TBD: Mayor's Order sent to City Council; City Council Public**



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## Questions about the CPA Program?

CPA staff is here to answer your questions, talk through a potential project, and assist you through the application process. Please contact us.

**Thadine Brown, Director**

[thadine.brown@boston.gov](mailto:thadine.brown@boston.gov)

**Rakia Islam, Manager of Engagement and Operations**

[rakia.islam@boston.gov](mailto:rakia.islam@boston.gov)

**Amber Delgado, Grant Compliance Manager**

[amber.delgado@boston.gov](mailto:amber.delgado@boston.gov)

**Gillian Lang, Historic Preservation Consultant**

[gillian.lang@boston.gov](mailto:gillian.lang@boston.gov)

**Rachel Guilfoil, Open Space and Recreation Consultant**

[rachel.guilfoil@boston.gov](mailto:rachel.guilfoil@boston.gov)

**Contact us:** If you would like our staff to do a CPA presentation for your neighborhood association or organization, contact us [here](#).

Please visit the [CPA's webpage](#) for updates and events.

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# RE-FRESH PROGRAM



*The Revitalization of Food Restaurants and Establishments to Stabilize Holistically program or Re-FRESH is an effort to support brick and mortar micro businesses negatively effected by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## Awards between \$2,000-15,000.

This grant opportunity is for food businesses, restaurants, bars, taverns, and juice shops.

Businesses that are located in low-to-moderate-income communities will be prioritized.

**CITY of BOSTON**

The City of Boston RE-FRESH grant program is now open. This grant opportunity is for food businesses, restaurants, bars, taverns, and juice shops. Businesses that are located in low-to-moderate-income communities will be prioritized.

- Awards will be between \$2,000-15,000.
- For more information [visit the grant page on Boston.gov](#)
- Here is a [guide for the application](#). (includes criteria, list of questions, and necessary documents)
- And here is the direct link to the [application form](#).

The **submission deadline is Friday December 15th**. Please share this information with the businesses in your districts. If you have questions, or know of businesses that need assistance with the application, please reach out to your nbm.

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**CITY of BOSTON**

# Fare-Free Bus Program



**Do you ride the 23, 28 or 29 bus?  
We want to know what you think!**

**Earn \$50 in a 90-minute virtual focus group**

In 2021, the City of Boston kicked off a three-month program of free fares on the MBTA's Route 28 bus. Now, Boston has expanded fare free service to Routes 23, 28 and 29 for two years until March 2024.



**Scan the QR code  
to sign up**

Or enter [tinyurl.com/bostonfarefreebus](https://tinyurl.com/bostonfarefreebus)

Let the city know what you think about fare-free buses in your community! This work will help determine the future of transit in Boston. Make your voice heard and earn 50 dollars!

Want to know more? Email us at [farefreeboston@gmail.com](mailto:farefreeboston@gmail.com)

## FREE BUS ROUTE

MBTA Routes 23, 28, and 29 are still free to board at all doors.

[Learn More](#)



## Download the 311 App

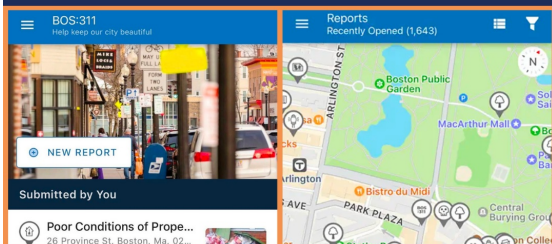
The Boston 311 app helps residents and visitors **improve** City neighborhoods. You can report non-emergency issues, like potholes and graffiti.

BOS  
:311

**It's Easy!**



Snap a pic and help your neighborhood!



**See a Pothole?**



**Call 3-1-1 to report all city needs  
or download the app  
Link in the bio**

**DOWNLOAD THE 311 APP TODAY!**

Did you know that there's an easy way to solve problems in your neighborhood?

311 is Boston's hub for non-emergency city services

Welcome to **AGE STRONG UPDATES**, our new e-newsletter! We email you Boston Seniority Magazine and our new monthly To-Do Activities Calendar. Now, you'll also get important information for older Boston residents to Age Strong city-wide. Learn about Medicare Open Enrollment, health tips for winter, Memory Cafe, and ways older adults can save money.

**Click here to read...**

[Age Strong November Updates](#)

[Boston Seniority Magazine - November 2023](#)

[Select Boston Seniority Magazine articles in Spanish](#)

[November's Monthly "To-Do" Free Activities Calendar for Older Adults](#)

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MAYOR MICHELLE WU, THE AGE STRONG  
COMMISSION, AND AT&T PRESENT:

# Holiday Connections

**Friday, December 8, 2023**

**7:00am-2:00pm**

**Boston City Hall, 5th Floor**

**1 City Hall Square, Boston, 02201**

**EVENT FEATURES:**

- Free calls to anywhere in the world
- Presentation on using smart phones
- Games, prizes, and tech support
- Complimentary breakfast/lunch
- Fun photos and a surprise visitor

**TO RSVP, CONTACT:**

Marybeth Kelly / 617-635-3959 / [marybeth.kelly@boston.gov](mailto:marybeth.kelly@boston.gov)

**AGE+**

City of Boston  
Age Strong Commission



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## George Wright Golf Course is Seeking a Concessions Vendor

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is seeking vendors willing to lease and operate the food operation area at George Wright Golf Course, an eighteen-hole, Donald Ross designed public golf course in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood, for the sole purpose of providing Food and Beverage Concession. [You can access this RFP and related documents here.](#)

## MAIN CONTACT INFORMATION:

Scott Allen | [Scott.Allen@boston.gov](mailto:Scott.Allen@boston.gov)

All questions should be emailed with the RFP number (EV00013142) in the subject line.



SBA Massachusetts  
District Office  
10 Causeway Street  
Room 265  
Boston, MA 02222  
617-565-5590  
[www.sba.gov/ma](http://www.sba.gov/ma)  
@SBA\_MA

## The SBA Advantage 2024

### Three upcoming sessions:

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 / 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 / 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 / 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Location: The Tip O'Neill Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, RM265, Boston, MA**

The [Massachusetts District Office](#) will be hosting a series of in-person events at the SBA district office in Boston to help you get connected with our resource partner network and prepared for 2024!

If you have the entrepreneurial dream of starting a business or already established one and want to improve your success; then this is the session for you! Come for networking and meet representatives from the SBA and our resource partners to get connected with everything your business needs to maximize your advantage and success in the new year!

Find out about:

- SBA's resource partners for consulting and technical assistance
- SBA loan programs
- Government Procurement
- Contracting Program Certifications
- Export assistance
- SBA disaster programs, and more!

SBA's cooperation does not constitute or imply endorsement of any opinions, products, and/or services. All SBA programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Handicapped accessible.

Register for Dec 7th

Register for Jan 4th

[Register for Feb 13th](#)

[Download Document](#)



Climate Justice & Health Equity

# Upcoming Events

Join us! For an Fun and Inspiring Family  
Friendly Movie Night & the Final CSCJA  
Meeting of the Year!





## Join us, December 8th, for the First Ever FICC Hosted Movie Night!

**When:** Friday, December 8th from 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Where:** Auditorium of the Perkins Community Center, 155 Talbot Ave 02124, Boston MA

**Who:** The FICC staff and other advocates, community members, and residents that are interested in learning more about climate change without feeling a sense of hopelessness! This film is informative, entertaining, and solutions oriented! You can watch the trailer [here](#), and find the detailed flier below!

**What:** There will be a variety of snacks and candy, and free admission!

TRAILER

RSVP HERE

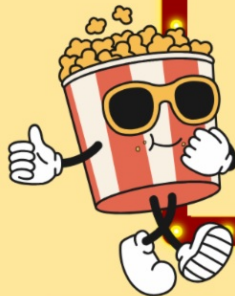
# JOIN US!

FOR AN FICC HOSTED  
MOVIE NIGHT!

**FAMILY  
FRIENDLY**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**SNACKS  
PROVIDED**



**Featured Film:  
2040**



**DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

**TIME: 6PM-8PM**

**WHERE: PERKINS COMMUNITY CENTER**



**RSVP AT [TINYURL.COM/2040FICC](https://tinyurl.com/2040FICC) OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



December 12th 5-7PM  
Museum of Science  
Boston, MA 02114



THE ROAD TO SUCCESS:  
**AN END OF YEAR  
CELEBRATION**  
OF OUR ACCESS BOOT CAMP GRADUATES

The ACCESS closing celebration will be an evening of learning, connecting, and strategizing pathways to building diversity into the clean energy construction ecosystem. Team BGS and partners will be celebrating the graduation of our second cohort of ACCESS (Accelerating Contractors of Color for Sustainable Success) and the end of the year! Join us for an opportunity to connect with others in the clean energy construction community in Massachusetts and beyond while listening to the ACCESS participants pitch their closing presentations that they've developed through our business training boot camp.

**Questions? For more Information contact Hadas Webb**  
**[hadas@browningthegreenspace.org](mailto:hadas@browningthegreenspace.org)**

*Light refreshments will be served. This event is invitation-only due to capacity limits.  
Please RSVP by 5pm on November 28, 2023, to attend!*

**RSVP TODAY!**

[Learn more about the ACCESS program!](#)

### Calling all Community and Economic Leaders!

Receive 3 months of virtual training and 12 months of in-person partnership support.

Application deadline:  
**Dec. 13th, 2023**

## BDO Network

### Equity Impact Investments

Keep an eye out for applications for the next round of the Equity Impact Investments cohort! Cohort 2 of Equity Impact Investments is just around the corner and is set to launch on Wednesday, Nov. 15th. You are encouraged to apply for this opportunity by **Dec. 13th** to receive three months of training and explore new partnerships.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Microsoft TechSpark Community Engagement Fellowship Grant](#) Community organizations focused on creating inclusive economic opportunities will have the opportunity to apply to receive a mix of funding and contextual technical assistance through in-person and virtual support. Awarded organizations will select a member of their team to represent their organization as a TechSpark Fellow. Applicant must be US-based non-profit. Funding up to \$50,000

[Etsy Disaster Relief Fund](#) As a part of its commitment to assisting creative entrepreneurs in times of crisis, Etsy is working with CERF+ (a nonprofit organization focused on helping artists prepare for and recover from emergencies) to provide disaster relief funds to its sellers. Eligible Etsy sellers who have been active for at least one year and have accounts in good standing can apply for a grant if they have experienced a federally declared disaster within the past year. CERF+ and Etsy collaborate each quarter to award grants to a select number of eligible sellers.

## INTERESTING READS

- [“We Actually Secured a Five-year Contract with the City of Charlotte”: Entrepreneurs See Real Results with Help from LISC & Verizon | Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#)



- [Readout of SBA Administrator Guzman's Veterans Roundtable with U.S. Chamber of Commerce | U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
- [Verizon Small Business Digital Ready \(verizonwireless.com\)](#)



## Community Health Impact Fund Reminders:

MGH Info Session tomorrow at noon

BWFH scheduled timeslots still open



The [LOI application process](#) is now open for \$22.5 million in funding to support innovative upstream approaches to Housing and Mental/Behavioral Health in the communities that we serve. Read the [full announcement](#).

Questions? Join tomorrow's MGH Info Session if your organization is interested in funds that support affordable housing. Sign up for Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital's Office Hours if your organization is interested in mental/behavioral health funding.

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## Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital - Mental Health Available Timeslots

**\$4.5M for Mental/Behavioral Health**

[Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital](#) is now accepting LOI submissions for proposals that support mental and behavioral



health activities, including substance use disorder.

To learn more, schedule a 15 minute timeslot during BWFH's **Office Hours**.

[Schedule a 15 minute timeslot](#)

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**Stay connected!**

**Please share this with anyone who may be interested.**



And, don't miss upcoming Community Health Impact Funds announcements, newsletters, and updates! If someone has forwarded you this email, be sure to sign up for our mailing list.

[Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

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# S1053. An Act Establishing a Commission to Study Reparations in Massachusetts

Senator Liz Miranda



## WHAT IS REPARATIONS?

Reparations refer to **compensation, restitution, or amends made to individuals or communities who have been wronged or harmed**, usually as a result of historical injustices or systemic discrimination. The concept of reparations is often applied in the context of addressing past injustices such as slavery, colonialism, segregation, genocide, or other forms of institutionalized oppression.

## WHY DO WE NEED REPARATIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS?

Even after the abolition of slavery, **African Americans in Massachusetts faced segregation, discrimination, and unequal treatment in housing, education, employment, and other areas. Redlining practices and discriminatory policies led to significant disparities in wealth, housing opportunities, and access to resources between Black and white communities.**

Reparations in Massachusetts aim to address systemic injustices and inequalities that continue to affect African American and Indigenous communities. **It's not only about acknowledging past wrongs but also about rectifying ongoing systemic issues and creating a more equitable society.**

## WHAT WOULD THIS BILL DO?

This legislation will create a commission in Massachusetts aimed at **studying and addressing the historical and ongoing impact of slavery and systemic discrimination against African Americans.**

The commission will comprise a diverse group of members, including **experts from academia, social sciences, civil society organizations, grassroots organizers, and legislative representatives, to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the issues and fair representation of affected communities.**

## THE COMMISSION IS TASKED WITH:

- Investigating the **historical context of slavery**
- Examining the **ways in which slavery and discrimination have affected various aspects of life**
- Identifying the lingering negative effects of slavery and discrimination and recommending ways to rectify these issues
- **Conducting research, gathering evidence, and compiling documentation** related to the history and impact of slavery in Massachusetts.
- Recommending educational initiatives to inform the public about the commission's findings and the historical realities of slavery.
- **Proposing remedies and reparative actions**, including possible compensation and policies to rectify the injuries caused by slavery and ongoing discrimination.
- **Hold hearings, request testimonies and documents, conduct research**, and make recommendations to the Massachusetts government for further action.
- **Provide a comprehensive report within two years of its formation**, detailing its findings and proposals for reparative actions, which may include financial compensation, educational initiatives, and policy changes.

FOR QUESTION, PLEASE REACH OUT TO SENATOR LIZ MIRANDA AT [LIZ.MIRANDA@MASENATE.GOV](mailto:LIZ.MIRANDA@MASENATE.GOV)

## Around the Community



Ed Gaskin presenting at the Smart Growth Rhode Island Conference.



Ed Gaskin with Sabina Matos the Lieutenant Governor for Rhode Island.

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