



MIIA Quarterly Cyber Newsletter

November 20, 2024

Dear Members,

Several updates this month in the cybersecurity sphere.

Susan Noyes, Director, Office of Municipal & School Technology Commonwealth of Massachusetts shared the following information with us about the 2025 Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program now open for applications.

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) is pleased to offer the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program (MCAGP) for its sixth consecutive year!

- The MCAGP is open to all local government agencies (cities & towns, public school districts, libraries, police departments, fire departments, planning commissions, and municipally-run utility departments and airports) and members of the PERAC Retirement System. Our program improves overall cybersecurity posture by helping organizations mitigate their human risk. EOTSS' Office of Municipal and School Technology (OMST) procures the user licenses and manages the program, making it free for participating organizations.
- The application period is now open and can be accessed [here](#).
- This continues to be a competitive grant program, the application will remain open only until all licenses have been assigned.

EOTSS is offering an informational webinar session to provide an overview of the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program and will be available to answer any questions you may have. The webinar is optional. December 17th, 10-11 am [Register here](#)

[Read More](#)

The Theme of Cybersecurity Month was Secure our Data, Secure our Future

Meg Meg Speranza , Resiliency Program Manager, MassCyberCenter shares three important "take aways" from Massachusetts Cybersecurity Month.

In October, the Commonwealth celebrated its fifth annual **Massachusetts Cybersecurity Month** with dozens of events taking place across the state to raise cybersecurity awareness and emphasize this year's theme, **"Secure Our Data. Secure Our Future."** The theme underscores the critical connection between safeguarding personal information and ensuring long-term security and prosperity:

1. Data Security is Foundational for Future Stability

Safeguarding data isn't just about current protection of data, but also emphasizes the importance of ensuring a stable and secure digital future. Protecting sensitive information now can prevent identity theft, financial loss, and cyber threats that could have long-term impacts on individuals, businesses, and critical infrastructure.

2. Everyone Has a Role in Data Protection

"Secure Our Data" highlights that cybersecurity isn't just the responsibility of IT departments or cybersecurity professionals—everyone has a part to play. Whether it's using strong passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, or

staying informed about phishing tactics, individual actions contribute significantly to collective security.

3. Proactive Measures Protect Future Investments

"Secure Our Future" suggests that proactive data security measures help foster a safe environment for technological advancements. By focusing on securing data, organizations can innovate with confidence, knowing that they are protecting intellectual property, public trust, and sensitive information that drives progress.

For more information on Cybersecurity Month or to read the official proclamation, please click [here](#). To find ways to "Secure Our Data. Secure Our Future." please click [here](#).

MassCyberCenter Cyber Card Game

To assist municipalities in safeguarding their data through an incident response plan, the MassCyberCenter has created a unique, informative and entertaining **CyberSecureDeck tabletop exercise card game** which was recently shared at the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Summit. Information, instructions and download can be found [here](#). Physical decks are also available. **MIIA members can also earn MIIA Rewards credit for implementing the game in their municipalities.**

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