MassCyberCenter
at the MassTech Collaborative

Resources to Support
Municipal Cyber Resiliency

The **MassCyberCenter** working with the **Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Working Group** has identified key resources and protective measures Massachusetts' cities and towns can put in place to establish an initial defensive foundation to safeguard against cyberattacks.

Understanding the Risk

How do cybersecurity risks and attacks affect municipal departments?

Personally Identifiable Information of students and staff-citizens is valuable to cyber criminals who will hold it for ransom or steal it to sell on the black market.

Municipal Operations & Finance

A cyberattack will stop the flow of business, potentially draining funds meant for community services and other initiatives for citizens.

Public Safety

A cyberattack may have both immediate and long-term effects on public safety systems that impact life, health, and security. Technology solutions and data provide the foundation of a public safety agency's ability to provide services and to prepare, enforce and respond to security events.

Schools

A cyberattack may prevent school systems from maintaining day-to-day business operations, including denying educators access to the school's network for lessons, keeping attendance, and connecting with students and parents.

Establishing a Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity

The purpose of defining a **Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity** is to encourage municipalities to improve their cybersecurity posture, inspire collaboration, and engage with other cities and towns to strengthen cybersecurity resiliency. These "basics" can be done fairly inexpensively, but require an investment of time for municipal employees.

Trained and Cyber-Secure Employees

Improved Threat Sharing

Cyber Incident Response Planning

Secure Technology Environment and Best Practices

Learn more at: masscybercenter.org/municipalities

Municipal Cybersecurity Toolkit

Understand your municipality's cybersecurity posture and identify next steps for protecting infrastructure against cyber threats. The toolkit provides federal, state, and non-profit online resources to get the conversation started around cybersecurity preparedness and ultimately protect municipal infrastructure against cyber threats before they occur.

Most importantly, municipalities should prepare for contingencies and build a cyber incident response plan. The MassCyberCenter has materials to help the planning process, including templates, checklists, and guidance on planning.

Commonwealth Municipal Cybersecurity Resources

MassCyberCenter
Municipal Cybersecurity

Provides tools and educates municipalities statewide on best cybersecurity practices and threats. *masscybercenter.org/municipalities*

Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS)
Office of Grants & Research
Homeland Security Grant Program

Advocates and helps with preparedness and planning for the event of a national, state, or local emergency. *mass.gov/service-details/homeland-security-grants*

Operational Services Division (OSD)
ITS78: Statewide Contract for Data, Cybersecurity, and Related Audit, Compliance, and Incident Responses Services

Provides a list of approved vendors that offer a range of tools for municipal organizations to protect their IT infrastructure and data, including baseline assessments, remediation strategies and implementations, and cyberattack recovery solutions.
mass.gov/doc/its78/download

Community Compact Cabinet
Community Compact Program

Champions municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies, and to develop, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards and best practices for both the state and municipalities. *mass.gov/best-practices-program*

Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS)
Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program

Offers cybersecurity end-user training, evaluation, and threat simulation to municipal governments and school districts with the goal of improving the overall cybersecurity posture. *mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-cybersecurity-awareness-program*

Office of Municipal and School Technology
IT & Cybersecurity Health Check Programs

Provides opportunities for local government to access basic cybersecurity services at no cost. *mass.gov/orgs/office-of-municipal-and-school-technology*