MassCyberCenter
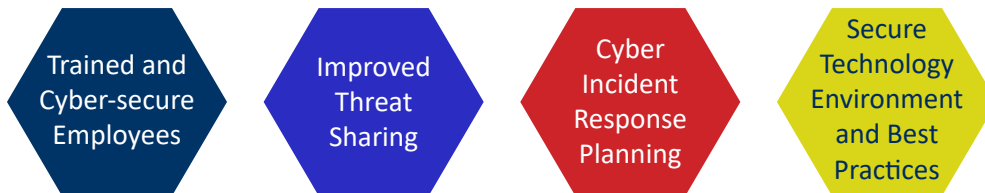at the MassTech Collaborative

Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity

Introducing the Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity for Municipalities—a framework for helping Massachusetts municipalities improve their cybersecurity posture and protect their municipality from cyberattacks using people, process, and technology.

The purpose of defining a "minimum baseline" – the foundational level of cybersecurity municipalities should achieve – is to encourage municipalities to improve their ability to protect and defend themselves from a cyberattack, inspire collaboration, and strengthen cybersecurity resilience across Massachusetts.

The Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity is made up of four goals:

- Trained and Cyber-secure Employees
- Improved Threat Sharing
- Cyber Incident Response Planning
- Secure Technology Environment and Best Practices

Goal Overview

Trained and Cyber-secure Employees

According to the 2021 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, phishing accounts for over 80% of all Social Engineering incidents.

Benefit:
Reduce the risk of cybersecurity incidents by improving the training and awareness of system users.

How:
- Implement annual individual employee cybersecurity awareness training
- Make it easy to do the training
- Put incentives in place to get it done

How can having a cybersecurity awareness training program help?

1. Training employees will improve their ability to recognize threats, including phishing emails and malicious links, and lower the chance that they will fall victim to an attack.

2. Training will also familiarize employees with municipal policies and provide them with a process to follow for when they encounter a threat.