



NEWS RELEASE
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Citizens Bank Foundation Awards \$113,500 in Technical Assistance Grants to 15 Community Groups

Citizens Bank Foundation has awarded nearly \$1million in Technical Assistance grant over the last 10 years

MANCHESTER, NH –Citizens Bank Foundation has awarded a total of \$113,500 to 15 community groups through its tenth annual Technical Assistance Grants program. The grants, ranging in size from \$3,000 to \$10,000, were awarded to local community groups which provide technical assistance specifically in the area of credit services.

“Now more than ever, we believe that by providing necessary funds for technical assistance services that help consumers understand and access credit, we can help improve the quality of life for many and serve to strengthen neighborhoods and communities throughout New Hampshire,” said Cathleen A. Schmidt, president of Citizens Bank, New Hampshire. “Community groups across the state will receive this grant money to assist them in their ongoing efforts to provide support and counseling to those who need it most. Especially in these slower economic times, we are very pleased to assist these dedicated groups reach out to so many people.”

The following organizations received the grants:

- AHEAD, Co., Littleton, *Save AHEAD*, \$10,000
- Belknap County Economic Development Council, Laconia, *Small Business Technical Support*, \$5,000
- CATCH Neighborhood Housing, Franklin, *Homebuyer Education Center*, \$10,000
- Consumer Credit Counseling, *Educational Counseling for Financial Literacy*, \$7,000
- Families In Transition, Manchester & Concord, *Budgeting 101 Workshops*, \$10,000
- HGM Development, *Incubating Rural Small Development*, \$10,000
- Housing Partnership, Rockingham & Strafford Counties, *Homeward Bound*, \$8,500
- Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Belknap County, *Homeownership Initiative*, \$10,000
- Nashua Pastoral Care Center, Nashua, *C.A.R.E. Financial Literacy Program*, \$3,000
- NeighborWorks Greater Manchester, *Start Home Program*, \$10,000
- Rockingham Economic Development Corporation, Rockingham County, *Business Plans and Pre-Loan Packaging Program*, \$3,000
- Strafford Economic Development Center, Strafford County, *Small & Community Based Business Development Program*, \$8,500
 - The Way Home, Manchester, *Housing Counseling Program*, \$5,000

- Wentworth Economic Development Corp, Carroll & North Strafford Counties, *Technical Assistance in Business Development & Financing*, \$5,000
- Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN), Northern NH, *In-house Entrepreneurial Training Program*, \$8,500

"The Citizens Bank Foundation Technical Assistance grant will help us meet the growing demand for our home buyer education program," said Dick Ingram, executive director at Housing Partnership. "Many of the families we work with have limited resources available to help them become homeowners. The counseling program provides access to more resources, education and guidance to help them achieve their goals. We are especially grateful that Citizens continues to recognize the need for these educational services and provides this type of support."

Citizens Bank and the Citizens Bank Foundation have awarded \$960,500 in the past ten years to eligible community groups through the Technical Assistance Grant program, with a total of \$20,000 going to Seacoast area non-profits this year alone.

About the Citizens Bank Foundation

Citizens Bank Foundation is a charitable contributions vehicle of Citizens Bank. The foundation's support is focused on housing, community development and basic human needs. Citizens' Web site is citizensbank.com

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