



Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
- Administration -
264 Griffin Street
Fall River, MA 02724
P: 508 - 679 - 0041
F: 508 - 324 - 7503

Jackie Cummings
Board President

Elizabeth M. Berube
Executive Director

Garth Patterson
Deputy Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/26/21

Contact: Nate Goncalo

Director of Planning, Development & Communications

508 - 679 - 0041 ext. 317

nathaniel.goncalo@cfcinc.org

Fall River Early Head Start Receives \$3.3 Million Expansion Grant

Funding will provide for a new facility, 75 additional slots, and new job opportunities.

[FALL RIVER, MA - MARCH 2021] In 2020, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Administration for Children & Families solicited grant proposals to expand Early Head Start (EHS) services for infants and toddlers. On March 15, 2021, ACF announced \$100 million in grant awards to 62 agencies in 32 different states, with Citizens for Citizens, Inc. (CFC) receiving \$3.3 million to benefit the EHS program they administer for the Greater Fall River area. Only 3 awards were granted from the 27 applications received from the 6 states within New England. The EHS program applied for a similar grant in 2009, but did not receive funding; the last significant expansion the program experienced was in 1999. The grant was supported by many local organizations, schools, and representatives, including Sen. Michael Rodrigues, Rep. Patricia Haddad, Rep. Paul Schmid III, Rep. Alan Silvia, Rep. Carole Fiola, Congressman Bill Keating, Congressman Jake Auchincloss, and former Congressman Joseph Kennedy III.

CFC will be utilizing the funds to purchase a new facility located at 302 Highland Avenue in Fall River that previously housed the Highland Optical office. The new facility will accommodate 24 infants & toddlers and 18 pre-school children. The grant will also allow for new slots in pre-existing child care centers, providing for a total of 48 center-based infants and toddlers, 24 Family Child Care infants and toddlers, and 3 other home-based children in addition to current operations. To accommodate the increase in service capacity, the Early Head Start program will be looking to bring on additional staff members in a variety of fields: education, family engagement, medical,



Citizens for Citizens, Inc.

- **Administration** -
264 Griffin Street
Fall River, MA 02724
P: 508 - 679 - 0041
F: 508 - 324 - 7503

Jackie Cummings
Board President

Elizabeth M. Berube
Executive Director

Garth Patterson
Deputy Director

transportation, and more. The program plans to have the facility in full operation by Q4 of 2021.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. This grant is just the beginning of a strong partnership between my office and Citizens for Citizens. Together, we will improve and expand access to education and tackle disparities that exist in our community by enriching the lives of our children."

- **Jake Auchincloss, MA Congressman - 4th District**

"This grant will enable CFC to provide continuity of care for families with children from birth to five under one roof in an integrated, coordinated, and seamless prenatal-to-five program. CFC will provide the highest quality services to the most vulnerable children and families, and deepen our meaningful work with all our community partners."

- **Pamela Wildnauer, Program Director for CFC's Head Start, Early Head Start, and Family Child Care Programs**

"We are very excited that this grant opportunity will allow CFC to expand our current educational and childcare services for the low-income families in our area as well as continue and grow our partnerships and collaborations. On behalf of myself and the board of directors, we want to thank all of our elected officials and community partners for their support."

- **Elizabeth Berube, Executive Director of CFC**

Citizens for Citizens, Inc. (CFC) is the Massachusetts Community Action Agency that assists over 30,000 individuals in the Greater Fall River and Taunton areas each year. We provide short and long term services that empower low-income individuals and families with the tools necessary to overcome the burdens of poverty and financial crises while creating and maintaining self-sufficiency. In keeping with the standards established over fifty years ago by Lyndon B. Johnson and the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the dedicated management and staff of Citizens for Citizens, Inc. continue to search for and develop innovative new programs to combat poverty and help low-income families lead healthier, happier, and more productive lives.