

Press Release Template

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**Center for Workforce Inclusion Awards \$491,068 Workforce Inclusion Grant
to Citizens for Citizens, Inc. for Older Jobseekers 55+**

FALL RIVER Nov. 7th, 2022 – Citizens for Citizens, Inc. announced today that it was awarded a \$491,068 workforce inclusion grant from the Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. (the Center). Almost 90 percent of this grant – originally from the U.S. Department of Labor – will provide on-the-job training to no less than 45 low-income older Bay Staters living in Bristol or Plymouth Counties. This workforce inclusion grant will support Citizens for Citizens, Inc. operate its Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

For sixty years, the Center has worked with older, low-income job seekers overlooked by traditional workforce programs. Both directly and through a nation-wide network of local partners, the Center empowers older job seekers to attain in-demand skills, overcome barriers to employment, and secure employment. Workforce inclusion grants, including those grants supporting the operation of SCSEP, are a critical element of the Center’s mission.

In its 56th year, SCSEP is a cornerstone program of the Older Americans Act and the only federal job training program targeted exclusively to low-income, older jobseekers. Job seekers who participate in SCSEP become skilled, reskilled and/or upskilled to meet the local employment needs in their community.

“Older adults will soon be the largest single segment of the American workforce.” said Gary A. Officer, Center for Workforce Inclusion President and CEO. “It is an economic necessity that we ensure our older jobseekers are equipped with the tools required to be successful in the workforce. Therefore, I am very pleased to continue our support of the Citizens for Citizens, Inc. for the 54th consecutive year.”

“SCSEP was a godsend during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Elizabeth Berube, Executive Director. “Jobseekers participating in SCSEP were able to keep training from home. And now, all SCSEP jobseekers are back at their training sites where they help local community, faith-based, and public agencies carry out their mission, such as Fall River Re-Creation, Plympton Council on Aging, Fall River Public Library, and Brockton United Methodist Church. SCSEP is providing hope and dignity to low-income jobseekers 55 and older who have the toughest employment challenges. The grant from the Center is essential to our being able to deliver this program in our community.”

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About Citizens for Citizens, Inc.

Since 1965, Citizens for Citizens (CFC) has offered assistance and hope to individuals and families living in poverty in Southeastern Massachusetts. The mission of Citizens for Citizens is to advocate on behalf of low-income residents and address the causes and effects of poverty through the provision of direct and integrated services, the promotion of self-sufficiency and the advancement of social change.

About the Center for Workforce Inclusion

The Center for Workforce Inclusion is the only national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to employment for older workers in both the public and private sectors. Since 1962, the Center has provided workforce development and support services to nearly half-a-million older workers. Our mission is to deliver workforce readiness programs that empower local jobseekers, attract employers, and transform communities. The Center provides employment opportunities for low-income and other older adults aged 50 and older in 34 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For 56 years, the Center has operated the Senior Community Service Employment Program and currently partners with a diverse network of local organizations in 12 states. For more information, please visit www.centerforworkforceinclusion.org.