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**Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
Receives \$508,483 Grant**

**Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. awards grant directed to assist in workforce training
for older job-seekers aged 55+**

Fall River. August 2, 2021– Citizens for Citizens, Inc. announced today that it was awarded a \$508,483 grant from the Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. (Center). Almost 90 percent of this grant – originally from the U.S. Department of Labor – will provide temporary employment to no less than 53 low-income older Bay Staters living in Bristol and Plymouth Counties. These older adults will participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), a cornerstone program of the Older Americans Act that is celebrating its 56th anniversary this year.

SCSEP, the only federal job training program targeted exclusively to low-income older job-seekers, promotes personal dignity and self-sufficiency through work. Its temporary part-time community service jobs provide a hand-up for older, unemployed low-income Americans. The program allows eligible persons to participate for up to four years, but the average tenure nationally is 19 months with the experience and training they receive leading them to permanent employment.

As the joint largest U.S. Department of Labor National Grantee of SCSEP, the Center works through a network of local partners delivering various career training programs for eligible 55-plus-year-old workers in 34 states. To date, the Center has placed over 90,000 older workers into permanent employment through SCSEP. “Our long-term, local partners are a key to the strength of the Center and provide the systems to train older Americans into strategic advantage for employers and the country.” said Gary A. Officer, Center for Workforce Inclusion President and CEO. “We are very pleased to continue our support of the Citizens for Citizens, Inc. for the 53rd consecutive year.”

“SCSEP was a god send during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Elizabeth Berube, Executive Director at Citizens for Citizens, Inc. By having SCSEP participants continue training from home, they were able to continue receiving funds that prevent homelessness. Participants are now safely returning to their training sites where they help local community, faith-based, and public agencies carry out their mission, such as Fall River Re-Creation, Marshfield Council on Aging, Fall River Public Library, and Brockton Central United Methodist Church.

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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 job seekers, attract employers, and transform communities. The Center provides employment opportunities 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 14 states. For more information, please visit www.centerforworkforceinclusion.org.