

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CFC Head Start Program Receives Multi-Million Federal Grant & Prepares to  
Open New Early Childhood Education Center**

**[FALL RIVER - MAY 2023]** The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Administration for Children & Families recently announced that Citizens for Citizens, Inc. (CFC) in Fall River will be receiving a grant award totaling \$7,371,585. These funds will be utilized for CFC's Head Start and Early Head Start program's '23/'24 school year that will support 480 children including the 40 children enrolled at the new Highland Birth to Five Center.

After just over 2 years in the making, the new Highland Birth to Five Center will be welcoming children, families, and staff to its state-of-the-art facilities this month with a grand opening slated for Wednesday May 31st at 10 A.M. A ribbon cutting ceremony will kick-off the day with tours and light refreshments to follow. The program is asking all of those who would like to attend to RSVP in advance with Administrative Coordinator Cory Santos at [cory.santos@cfcinc.org](mailto:cory.santos@cfcinc.org).

This center was made possible by a \$3.3M grant from the Office of Head Start received by CFC in March of 2021. Only 3 awards were granted from the 27 applications received from the 6 states within New England. The grant was supported by many local organizations, schools, and representatives, including Sen. Michael Rodrigues, Congressman Jake Auchincloss, Congressman Bill Keating, Rep. Patricia Haddad, Rep. Paul Schmid III, Rep. Alan Silvia, Rep. Carole Fiola, and former Congressman Joseph Kennedy III.

*“Early education has been a priority for me in Congress since day one. Citizens for Citizens’ Birth To Five Center is a model Head Start program and will make a meaningful difference for children in the Massachusetts Fourth. I look forward to continuing our partnership to assist families in the Greater Fall River and Taunton areas.”*

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

*“On behalf of Citizens for Citizens, Inc. I am happy to announce that we have been fortunate enough to obtain funding to purchase and renovate another child care facility as part of our Early Head Start and Head Start programs. This could not have been accomplished without the great teamwork of our Head Start staff as well as the contractors and everyone who worked on this project from beginning to end. We cannot thank our Federal, State and local legislators enough for their support and dedication to the services that CFC offers to our constituents. Without this grant funding, this could never have become a reality.”*

**- Liz Berube, Citizens for Citizens, Inc. Executive Director**

*“We are thrilled to finally open our newest Birth To Five Center which will provide comprehensive early childhood education and care for an additional 40 families. Undergoing a major renovation during the COVID-19 pandemic was no easy feat. Navigating illnesses and supply chain issues was a major challenge. We wish to extend thanks to Andy Digiammo from Compass Group Architecture and Al Castro from Castro Construction for their hard work and diligence to not only get the project complete, but to build a beautiful space for children to learn and grow.”*

**- Pamela Wildnauer, Head Start & Early Head Start Director**