

**NEWS RELEASE
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**Citizens Bank, the Black Ministerial Alliance and the Boston Foundation
announce \$250,000 in summertime grants**
Grants provide employment and engagement activities for youth

BOSTON – Citizens Bank, the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston and the Boston Foundation recently announced \$250,000 in grants to organizations in support of employment for youth, including those with CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information), and other youth activities throughout the summer. In partnership with the City of Boston, the Citizens Bank Summer Enrichment Series and the Boston Foundation’s My Summer in the City program provide resources to organizations serving the city’s most underserved neighborhoods and seek to ensure that quality programs are available to youth and families during the summer months. The programs are a response to Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino’s appeal to engage youth in meaningful activities throughout the summer to prevent summertime violence.

Approximately 10,000 young people will be employed this summer through Mayor Menino’s initiative. Citizens Bank and the Boston Foundation will fund more than 300 of these positions. Nearly 100 of these slots will be reserved specifically for youth with CORI.

“We know from our years of research and advocacy for CORI reform in Massachusetts that the changes in the CORI system, while they were groundbreaking, aren’t a solution on their own,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. “This grant is designed to give young men and women with CORIs opportunities to earn an income and provide for themselves and their families in a job market that often excludes them.”

Citizens Bank and the Black Ministerial Alliance piloted the Citizens Bank Summer Enrichment Series in 2007 in response to a sharp increase in youth violence and the need to provide services for youth living in densely populated Boston neighborhoods. The Series consists of teen cafes and youth jobs. Both program components foster positive youth development and encourage relationships between the youth and leaders in their communities. The program’s success in its first year led to its replication throughout Boston, and violent crimes in the communities where cafes are located have declined.

“We are proud to join Mayor Menino, the Black Ministerial Alliance and the Boston Foundation to make summertime a productive and safe place for children,” said Jerry Sargent, President, Citizens Bank and RBS Citizens, Massachusetts. “We have seen the success of this program and applaud the many organizations that continue to make an impact in the lives of youth throughout Boston.”

“I am pleased that nearly 10,000 youth will have an opportunity to learn responsibility this summer through employment,” said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “I would like to thank the Black Ministerial Alliance, the Boston Foundation and Citizens Bank for funding jobs and promoting the Citizens Bank Summer Enrichment

Series and the My Summer in the City program. Programs like these protect our kids by giving them useful ways to spend their time when school is not in session.”

About BMA

The Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston, established in the early 1960s, is an alliance of more than 80 faith-based and community-based organizations with a 40-year history of serving the black community in Boston. The BMA’s mission is to provide spiritual nurture for clergy, and advocacy and program services for the larger black community. As part of its mission, the BMA demonstrates its ability to create positive change in the Boston area. BMA’s website is bmaboston.org.

The Boston Foundation

Founded in 1915, it serves as Greater Boston’s community foundation. It is one of the oldest, largest and most innovative community foundations in the nation. The foundation is made up of hundreds of separate charitable funds established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The foundation also serves as a major civic leader, provider of information, convener and sponsor of special initiatives designed to address the community’s and region’s most pressing challenges. For more information about the Boston Foundation, visit www.tbf.org or call 617.338.1700.

About 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’ website is citizensbank.com.

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