



CITIZENS HOUSING BANK

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

OVERVIEW

- The cost of housing in New England has put the dream of home ownership out of reach for thousands of our residents. It has also prompted many to leave the region for more affordable areas.
- “Out of reach 2003,” a national study conducted by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, ranked Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire among the top ten “least affordable states” based on housing costs. Massachusetts ranked first, Connecticut sixth, and New Hampshire ninth.
- The Citizens Housing Bank is an aggressive community development effort to increase the affordable housing stock in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island by providing needed funding and support to nonprofit housing developers.
- The initiative has two components:
 - Low rate affordable housing loans
 - *Citizens Bank Housing Heroes Award* program underwritten by the Citizens Bank Foundation

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Increased supply of affordable housing units (rental & home ownership)
- Increased neighborhood stability as a result of increased homeownership
- Increased number of properties paying real estate taxes

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Community Development Loan Program

- A \$200 million commitment (approximately \$50 million per state)
- 3% rate for three years, 25-year amortization; fixed at prime for remainder of term; 6% cap
- 1,200 units to be created

Housing Heroes Award program

- A *Housing Hero* in each state will be selected annually and awarded a \$50,000 grant, with \$10,000 of the award designated for a resident-related project (i.e., the development of a playground).
- Each *Housing Hero* will have the opportunity to tap into the expertise of our bank presidents for one year through our “President to President” program.