

Southwest Boston CDC awarded tax credits to stimulate neighborhood investment

Southwest Boston CDC, a community development corporation serving Hyde Park and Roslindale, is one of 36 community development corporations in Massachusetts to receive an allocation of a new Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. CDCs from across the state competed for a share of a \$3 million allocation of the new credits, which were approved by the legislature and governor in 2012. Last month, SWBCDC received a \$50,000 allocation of the CITC from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Under the CITC program, any donor to a CDC with an award of tax credits can receive a 50 percent tax credit from the Commonwealth. Thus, an individual who gives \$1,000 (the minimum dona-

tion that can receive a tax credit) to Southwest Boston CDC would get \$500 returned to him/her by the Commonwealth. The credit would either reduce the donor's Massachusetts income taxes or be paid out in cash by the Commonwealth. Donors who have no Massachusetts income tax liability — such as foundations, non-profit organizations, people or businesses from out of state — would collect the credit as a cash payment from the Commonwealth. Most donors would also be entitled to charitable deductions on their federal income taxes as well.

SWBCDC Executive Director, Mat Thall, said, "This is a huge opportunity for both the CDC and residents and businesses in our community to invest locally. The contributions that we receive under the CITC program will

help us to continue and expand the great work of the Hyde Park Green Team, undertake new youth employment activities, strengthen our community planning and Fairmount Line advocacy work, and develop housing for working families, including for-sale homes for families."

Diana Kelly, President of SWBCDC said, "We will of course accept with gratitude contributions from anywhere, but we really hope that Hyde Park residents and businesses see this as an opportunity to invest in their own neighborhood and see the fruits of their generosity."

Joe Kriesberg, President of Mass. Association of CDCs, which worked with the Governor and the legislature for several years in crafting the new tax credit, said, "There is no doubt that the State will be keeping track of where the contributions come from. The amount of contributions from a CDC's neighborhood will be one signal to other public and private investors of how strongly committed local folks are to their community. I think a strong outpouring of local financial support would be a magnet for increased public and private investment in the community down the road."

For information on how to make a CITC-eligible contribution, contact Mat Thall at 617 364 7300.