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Capital One Invests $400,000 in Just A Start to Advance Economic Mobility and Affordable Housing

Two-year grant will support affordable housing development, career training, financial empowerment services, and impact evaluation across Greater Boston

Cambridge, MA — July 9, 2026 — Just A Start has received a $400,000 grant from Capital One to support the organization's integrated approach to economic opportunity over the next two years. The investment will expand access to affordable housing, workforce training, and financial coaching while strengthening Just A Start's ability to measure outcomes and continuously improve services for low-to-moderate income individuals and families. The funding is part of Capital One's Community Benefits Plan, a $265 billion plan designed to help low- and moderate-income consumers, small businesses and communities increase their economic opportunity.

“We’re proud to support organizations like Just A Start, who are making a tangible impact and expanding economic opportunity in their local communities,” **said Jean Li, Managing Vice President and Head of Community Impact and Investment at Capital One**. “Safe and affordable housing is the foundation for financial security. It unlocks opportunities for families and individuals to save, build wealth, and achieve true financial resilience.”

Capital One has partnered with Just A Start for more than a decade, contributing more than $800,000 in grant funding since 2016, including support for the development of the Economic Mobility Hub at Rindge Commons in North Cambridge. In addition to financial support, Capital One has provided pro-bono services and strategic partnership to advance Just A Start's mission.

"We are very grateful for Capital One’s continued investment in our work and for their longstanding commitment to economic opportunity," **said Carl Nagy-Koechlin, Just A Start Executive Director.** "This grant recognizes that economic mobility requires multiple interventions. By investing in career pathways, financial well-being, affordable housing, and in our systems that help us understand and deepen our impact, Capital One is helping us create more equitable opportunities for individuals and families across our community."

Developing Affordable Housing in Porter Square

Just A Start currently owns and manages more than 750 affordable apartments and has approximately 350 additional affordable homes in its development pipeline. In addition, Capital One's investment will help advance predevelopment work for a future affordable housing development in Porter Square. Just A Start recently acquired two parking lots at 1826 and 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and plans to transform the sites into approximately 80 affordable homes. Grant funding will support early architectural, engineering, and consulting work that is essential to moving the project forward.

Advancing Economic Mobility

Through the Adult Career Training (ACT) program, low-income adults gain the technical and professional skills needed to enter high-demand careers in biotechnology and information technology. With the opening of new training labs at the Economic Mobility Hub, Just A Start has doubled annual training capacity and now serves more than 90 adult learners each year through its short- and long-term programs. The Financial Empowerment Collaborative (FEC) serves approximately 400 individuals annually through one-on-one financial coaching, tax preparation assistance, and specialized programs such as Families Moving Forward. Participants receive personalized support to improve credit, reduce debt, increase savings, navigate financial challenges, and build long-term financial stability.

Strengthening Learning & Evaluation

The grant will also support Just A Start's Learning & Evaluation initiatives, a key component of the organization's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan. Funding will help strengthen data systems, improve participant feedback processes, and deepen understanding of how individuals engage across multiple services. These improvements will enable Just A Start to better measure long-term outcomes and connect participants with additional resources that support their goals.

Together, these efforts advance Just A Start's mission of building homes, careers, and futures for people and communities across Greater Boston.

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About Just A Start:

Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs of individuals and families who have been systemically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region’s workforce.

About Capital One:

Capital One Financial Corporation (NYSE: COF) is a leading technology-based financial services company with $489.1 billion in deposits and $682.9 billion in total assets as of March 31, 2026. Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, the company operates as a premier global payments provider and diversified financial institution, delivering a broad suite of products and consumer lifestyle and shopping experiences through its Credit Card, Consumer Banking including its Global Payment Network, and Commercial Banking lines of business. As the only major U.S. bank to migrate entirely to the public cloud, Capital One leverages proprietary data and advanced analytics to democratize financial tools across its primary markets in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.