



A Catalyst for Change

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Eastern Bank Foundation Recognizes Lowell's Community Teamwork for Advancing Immigrant Services

BOSTON, MA – Eastern Bank Foundation is honoring Lowell's Community Teamwork CEO, Carl Howell, as one of the 2025 recipients of its *Community Advocacy Awards*. The annual awards recognize outstanding leaders and organizations dedicated to advancing services and support for immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

"Immigrants in our communities face extraordinary challenges everyday—and yet they continue to pursue the American dream: to work, go to school, raise families, and prosper. Twenty percent of the Massachusetts workforce and 8% of the New Hampshire workforce are immigrants and they pay more than \$21 billion in taxes and contribute more than \$55 billion in spending power in these states," said **Nancy Huntington Stager**, President & CEO of the Eastern Bank Foundation. "The leaders of these organizations show up everyday guiding with vision, courage and care to help our newest neighbors. We are proud to celebrate the work of these inspiring trailblazers and to learn from their powerful examples of resilience, equity, and community transformation."

Each year, Eastern Bank Foundation recognizes individuals and nonprofits making a meaningful difference on urgent community issues. This year's awards spotlight leaders working at the forefront of immigrant services—developing innovative models of support for newcomers, empowering communities, and ensuring equitable access to housing, education, legal advocacy, and economic opportunity.

"At Community Teamwork, we believe that every individual deserves the opportunity to build a safe and stable life. Through our work with the immigrant community at the Inn and Conference Center (ICC) emergency shelter in Lowell, we have helped hundreds of immigrant families find secure housing, access workforce training, and connect with meaningful job opportunities. This recognition by the Eastern Bank Foundation is truly an honor, and it reflects the tireless dedication of our staff, partners, and the immigrant community itself. Together, we are creating pathways to independence." Said Carl Howell, CEO, Community Teamwork.

This year's other honorees include:

- **Angela Bovill**, *President & CEO, Ascentria Care Alliance*
- **Kris Dower**, *Executive Director, Community Action Committee of Cape Cod and Islands*
- **Dr. Geralde Gabeau**, *Founder & CEO, Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA)*
- **Henry Harris**, *Managing Director, International Institute of New England – Manchester, NH*
- **Helena DaSilva Hughes**, *President, Immigrants' Assistance Center*
- **Gamaliel Lauture**, *Executive Director, Brockton Interfaith Community*
- **Iván Espinoza-Madrigal**, *Executive Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights*
- **Natasha Soolkin**, *Executive Director, New American Association of Massachusetts*
- **Liz Sweet**, *Executive Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)*
- **Gladys Vega**, *President & CEO, La Colaborativa*

The leaders and organizations honored by the Eastern Bank Foundation are providing foster care to unaccompanied refugee minors, connecting families with shelter and essential benefits, offering legal services, advancing policy reform, and organizing communities for lasting change. Their collective impact reaches across Greater Boston, the South Shore, North Shore, Cape Cod, Merrimack Valley, and Southern New Hampshire.

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About Eastern Bank Foundation

Eastern Bank Foundation (EBF), the philanthropic arm of Eastern Bank invest with community-led organizations working to build economic inclusion, mobility, and social justice in four strategy areas -- advancing equity in the small business ecosystem, enriching early childhood development, securing safe and affordable housing, and promoting workforce development. Knowing the roots of social and economic injustice are as stubborn as they are old, we employ a variety of levers -- Philanthropy, Employee Volunteerism, Advocacy, and Collaboration -- to lift up and rise with our communities, especially in our region's Gateway Cities. Learn more here [Eastern Bank Foundation | Eastern Bank](#).