

**For Immediate Release
Photo Included**

Citizens Named SBA Community Lender of the Year



(Pictured L-R: SBA WV District Director Karen Friel and Senior Vice President & Chief Lending Officer Frank Hinzman)

Citizens Bank of West Virginia was recently named 2024 Community Lender of the Year by U.S. Small Business Administration West Virginia District. The bank was recognized by the SBA at an awards ceremony held at the Robert H. Mollohan Research Center in Fairmont, along with other Small Business Week award winners.

In the past year, Citizens Bank authorized twelve SBA loans totaling \$2.7 million for small businesses in north central West Virginia. Senior Vice President & Chief Lending Officer Frank Hinzman was the leading producer.

“We are pleased and honored to once again receive this award from the Small Business Administration,” said President & CEO Nathaniel S. Bonnell. “Our partnership with SBA provides flexible financing solutions to assist our small businesses in opening, expanding, and creating jobs in our communities.”

Citizens Bank is an SBA Preferred Lender and offers SBA guarantee loans of up to \$5 million dollars with reasonable terms and conditions commonly used for acquiring land, purchasing equipment, or working capital.

About Citizens Bank of West Virginia

Citizens Bank of West Virginia, with assets of \$680 million, is headquartered in Elkins, WV. From six office locations in North Central and northern West Virginia, the bank provides integrated financial services including retail and commercial banking, wealth management, and mortgage services. Citizens Bank was recognized for the third consecutive year by *American Banker* magazine in the Top 200 Publicly Traded Community Banks Under \$2 Billion of Assets in the Nation, ranking 26th on the prestigious list and #1 among WV banks. Citizens was also named to Newsweek’s America’s Best Banks 2023 list as the Best Small Bank in WV, ranked #7 as one of the 2023 Best Banks to Work for in the Country by American Banker, 2023 Best of West Virginia Corporate Citizen by WV Living, The Inter-Mountain’s 2024 People’s Choice Best Bank & Mortgage Lender and 2024 SBA WV Community Lender of the Year.

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