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**Contact:**

**Liz Wainger for City First**

**301-340-6831**

**[liz@waingergroup.com](mailto:liz@waingergroup.com)**

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## **City First Bank affiliate Receives \$70 Million in New Market Tax Credit Awards**

*Allocation Among Largest in the Nation*

Washington, DC, February 24, 2012...City First New Markets Fund II, LLC, an affiliate of City First Bank of DC, the only Washington, DC area bank founded specifically to finance community development, recently was selected by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund of the Department of the Treasury to receive tax credit authority of \$70 million for investments under the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program. The bank will use the credits to spur equity investments in eligible low-income communities, primarily for community facilities such as health centers and charter schools. This is the 5th such allocation received by City First bringing total awards to \$370 million.

“The New Market Tax Credit has been a powerful tool to create jobs and stimulate economic development in low wealth communities. Through NMTC, we have been able to finance critical projects that otherwise would not have been able to move forward. Our NMTC authority enables us to attract substantial investment capital and deploy it in highly distressed communities with high levels of poverty and unemployment. We are extremely proud of our leadership in Community Development finance through the NMTC Program and our continuing partnership with the CDFI Fund.” said Brian Argrett, President & CEO of City First Bank.

“Our NMTC niche is community facilities such as charter schools and other educational facilities, community health clinics, and multi-purpose facilities that serve low income families and children. With this allocation, City First may finance projects in the District of Columbia plus four states: MD, VA, DE and PA.” added Marie Bibbs, Executive Vice President of City First.

Established by Congress in December of 2000, the NMTC Program is designed to stimulate private investment in low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate taxpayers to receive a credit against federal income taxes for making equity investments in investment vehicles known as Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit equals 39 percent of the amount of those equity investments, spread over seven years.

City First's NMTC allocations have helped to finance projects that are transforming low and moderate income communities in Washington. These include:

- Financing of the new facility for Mary's Center in Petworth and the renovation of the Adams Morgan facility
- The expansion and renovation of Bread for the City's facility in the Shaw community on 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- The development and construction of the new 110,000 square foot warehouse and distribution center for the Capital Area Food Bank in NE
- The expansion and renovation of KIPP DC's Shaw campus at 4<sup>th</sup> and P Streets NW
- The construction of a new campus for the E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Petworth, Georgia Avenue, NW

#### **About City First Bank**

City First Bank of DC is a nationally chartered commercial bank with a mission to provide financial and other services in low to moderate income communities. With year-end 2011 assets of \$170 million, loans of \$128 million, and deposits of \$128 million, the bank targets neighborhoods east of 16th Street including far SE and NE Washington and other economically challenged suburban communities. Last year, in excess of \$47 million in loans were originated, 80% of which were for community development. City First Bank has been certified as a Community Development Financial Institution by the CDFI Fund of the US Department of Treasury and has won five rounds of authority under the New Markets Tax Credit Program totaling \$370 million. City First Bank operates its sole branch in the bustling and historic U Street corridor at 1432 U Street, NW, Washington, DC and has a robust electronic delivery platform that allows its customers to bank from any location 24/7.

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