

JUNE 2021

ABA Foundation Community Commitment Awards Deadline Approaching

ABA Foundation wants to recognize banker-driven programs and initiatives that amplify the industry's dedication to giving back. Banks of all asset sizes and charters may enter a program in up to [seven award categories](#), or nominate a current non-CEO bank employee for the George Bailey Distinguished Service Award.



The Awards will be judged by a panel of experts in each category, and winners will be honored during ABA's Annual Convention this October.

Tell us about your bank's dedication to the people and places you serve, and you may be the next winner. [Submit your entry now](#). View the [Best Practices for Entering the ABA Foundation Community Commitment Awards webinar](#) to learn more about the program and how to submit a successful entry.

American Housing Month—New Resources "Homeownership in America" Infographic

In recognition of American Housing Month, ABA Foundation [released an infographic](#) highlighting gaps in homeownership rates, barriers faced by younger generations and communities of color, and down payment assistance resources that can help address those barriers. Access the [free downloadable infographic](#), and be sure to also check out the Foundation's [other housing resources](#).



Upcoming Webinar: Expanding Black Homeownership

Over the past 15 years, Black homeownership in America has declined to levels not seen since the 1960s, when race-based discrimination was legal. On June 29, ABA will [host a webinar](#) featuring a panel of experts from banks, community organizations, and federal agencies to share how banks can serve as catalysts for change. Panelists will discuss available homeownership data, mechanisms to partner with faith-based organizations, ways to leverage down payment assistance programs, and specialized lending programs. [Register for free](#).

How Does Your Bank Engage with Older Customers?

ABA Foundation is looking for bankers to participate in its third Older Americans Benchmarking Survey to understand how banks engage with older customers, train staff to identify elder fraud and respond to fraudulent activity. Responses will be used to help guide the Foundation's elders work and advocate on behalf of banks. Forbes and Politico highlighted the 2019 report, underscoring industry efforts to safeguard seniors. All survey responses will be kept confidential and results will be aggregated. To ensure your bank's participation in this important endeavor, [click here](#) or contact [Sam Kunjukunju](#).

Financial Inclusion for Justice-Involved Populations

Every week, 10,000 ex-offenders are returning to their communities, and those prepared for this new life before their return have the best chance of success. Having a high school degree, job training, securing employment, accessing housing, obtaining health care, and being financially capable make a productive member of society. Being financially capable starts with having a bank account, which can be a significant hurdle for ex-offenders to overcome.

ABA Foundation intends to create an issue brief that highlights the challenges ex-offenders face regarding financial decision-making and recommended actions to address poor money management. We would like to hear from bankers with experience working to promote financial capability or specialized programs or products for people in or coming out of the prison system. If you would like to participate, please [email Corey Carlisle](#).

Banks in the Spotlight: Corporate Responsibility at Work

This month we spotlight the [2020 Community Commitment Award winner](#) for Protecting Older Americans, **Mizuho Americas** in New York City, for its program Friendly Phone Call. During COVID-19, in partnership with Encore Community Services, Mizuho employees made weekly calls to check on homebound seniors to help them feel connected, and bankers went the extra mile to arrange food deliveries or other key services.

Through regular contact by a caring volunteer, this vulnerable group is not only less isolated, but happier and healthier knowing someone is looking out for them. [Watch the video](#). [Listen to the podcast](#).



Photo: Teiji Teramoto, CEO, Mizuho