

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Molly Morter  
Fractional CMO  
mmorter@firstwomens.bank

### **First Women's Bank Announces 2024 CGI Commitment to Action**

Expands mission to close gender lending gap by launching The FWB Collective

**CHICAGO, IL** - First Women's Bank (FWB), the nation's only bank with a strategic focus on supporting the women's economy and closing the gender lending gap, is proud to announce its 2024 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Commitment to Action, The FWB Collective, at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) 2024 Annual Meeting. Targeted to go live in 2025, The FWB Collective will be an online resource hub that aggregates best-in-class resources to help women create, build, and scale their businesses.

For over two decades, the number of women-owned businesses has increased at twice the national average. Despite this progress, women are not scaling their businesses to their full potential due to significant barriers in accessing information, support and capital. The FWB Collective will be a pivotal piece to help move forward First Women's Bank's mission of closing the gender lending gap and supporting women on their entrepreneurship journey.

"The gender lending gap is a complex and layered issue, and while providing loans is crucial, it's just one piece of the puzzle," said Marianne Markowitz, President and CEO, First Women's Bank. "To truly bridge the financing gap, there's a need to equip women entrepreneurs with the financial knowledge, networks, and encouragement to connect with the best forms of capital to start and scale their businesses. We are incredibly proud to partner with CGI to deliver on that mission and launch The FWB Collective."

The FWB Collective will feature online training, a variety of information resources, and access to grant programs from government, corporate and private resources. Through the support of the CGI community, The FWB Collective expects to reach women across the country at various stages of the entrepreneurship journey.

The FWB Collective compliments the work of First Women's Bank and will be focused on consolidating resources to elevate women within the economy.

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#### **About First Women's Bank**

First Women's Bank is the only commercial bank in the country with a strategic focus on supporting the women's economy and closing the gender lending gap. The Bank serves a national lending and deposit market from its flagship location in Chicago. First Women's Bank is a Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender. For more information, visit [www.FirstWomens.Bank](http://www.FirstWomens.Bank).

#### **About the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)**

Founded by President Bill Clinton in 2005, the Clinton Global Initiative is a community of doers representing a broad cross section of society and dedicated to the idea that we can accomplish more together than we can apart. Through CGI's unique model, more than 10,000 organizations have launched more than 4,000 Commitments to Action — new, specific, and measurable projects and programs — that are making a difference in the lives of more than 500 million people in 180 countries.