

Hartford Public Library Is Awarded A Connecticut State Department Of Education Grant

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August 31, 2012 Mary Crean, Hartford Public Library, Chief Development Officer, Hartford

The Connecticut State Department of Education awarded Hartford Public Library a \$35,000 Adult Education Program Improvement Project grant for English Literacy (EL)/Civics instruction. This project will meet the EL needs of Hartford's low literate refugee and immigrant populations by assisting them to become less isolated within the community, reduce barriers to their civic participation, and help them begin their path toward citizenship.

"Traditionally libraries have been viewed as a supplement to education and for furthering self-education," said Homa Naficy, multicultural services director. "We are very pleased that the Department of Education recognizes Hartford Public Library as a full-fledged community learning center with the ability to effectively meet the core educational needs of adult learners."

The program's two objectives are: 1) to offer an integrated EL/Civics instruction that incorporates contextualized civics content and hands-on technology applications, to increase English language proficiency, civics comprehension, and technology skills; 2) to prepare students to acquire the skills and knowledge to effectively navigate governmental, educational, workplace systems and key American institutions.

The program will be offered by the library through The American Place (TAP) which is a sustained and comprehensive program of services for Hartford's immigrant and refugee populations, and serves over 1,500 immigrants each year. The American Place is recognized by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Urban Library Council, and the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, as a model for best practices and over the years has established a wide network of relations among immigrant service providers, ethnic based organizations, and adult literacy providers, at the federal, state and local level. TAP is also recognized by the City of Hartford as the city's single most comprehensive program of services for immigrants and refugees.

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.