

Hartford Promise Neighborhood Funding Workgroup Meeting
January 4, 2010

Attendees: Sandy Santy, CT Humanities Council; Ray Ferrarri, Asylum Hill Learning Zone; Hector Glynn, Village for Families and Children; Cynthia McKenna, Catholic Charities; Sandra Ward, Hartford Public Schools; Emily Sharkey, Hartford Foundation; Richard Sussman, Hartford Foundation.

This meeting focused on the further development of a Promise Neighborhood application to the federal government and highlighted the following issues:

- **Need for Input from the Mayor and Superintendent of Schools**

The group felt strongly that it was important in the near future to ascertain interest in this federal grant opportunity by the Mayor and Superintendent, and to learn if these two key community leaders have any specific foci that would impact the group's work on the development of a strong application (e.g., neighborhood focus, organizations to be involved, etc.).

Towards this end, Sandra Ward will have a preliminary discussion with Kelvin Roldan in the Superintendent's office. Richard Sussman will speak with Jose Colon-Rivas, Hartford Office for Young Children, to learn if the Mayor has expressed interest in this project and to learn of any particular issues or concerns.

- **Need to Analyze Community Resources**

Building upon a grid developed by Cynthia McKenna that identifies areas in which data might be collected for an application (that was generated from the information provided in the Promise Neighborhood How-To Guide), the group decided to reformulate the grid and use it to identify the locations of various community resources. The question of whether an application would be stronger if it were from a resource-rich neighborhood as opposed to one more in need was raised, but not resolved. There was some agreement that the final grant guidelines may suggest which approach is best. Further, the upcoming visit to HCZ could shed light on this question. A revised grid will be forthcoming.

The issue of what will constitute Hartford's program design was raised and it was decided that this question will be determined in part by the resources currently available that could be built upon and the requirements of the application that have yet to be released.

- **What will make Hartford stand out among the myriad of applications**

The group identified 8 unique characteristics of Hartford that might be considered important reasons to support a Promise Neighborhood in Hartford, including: 1) the presence of a Hartford Office for Young Children (HOYC) as a critical municipal intermediary that does not exist anywhere else in CT; 2) The initial application of ETO (Efforts to Outcomes), the measurement tool used by HCZ; 3) Hartford Public Schools, Community Schools efforts; 4) the Hartford Foundation's 20-year commitment to early childhood, Brighter Futures; 5) the Hartford Family Civics Initiative emanating from the HOYC as an example of institutionalized parent engagement; 6) the high-level of involvement of higher education, in particular, the University of Connecticut and its multiple schools and department; 7) Hartford Public Schools, Reform Efforts; and 8) the reality that Hartford represents some of the most impoverished census tracts in the nation.

- **Promise Neighborhood Leadership**

There was considerable discussion about the need to begin to create a Leadership Team that would shepherd the application from its release to its submission. Rather than discuss the involvement of specific individuals, the group highlighted the need to have the following types of individuals on the team: 1) school personnel; 2) parents; 3) city officials; 4) representatives of higher education; 5) funders; and 6) social services providers, including recreation.

Further, the group also addressed the question of engaging political leaders in the process and it was decided that the involvement of state representatives and federal representatives should wait until there is at least some indication from the Mayor and Superintendent as to their preferences.

- **Making room at the table**

Participants proposed a number of additional agencies that would be helpful in moving forward on a Promise Neighborhood application, including: Community Renewal Team, YMCA, CREC, and the United Way.

Further, there was discussion centered on determining if there were other groups in the city considering an application and how to jointly discuss Hartford as a potential site, without getting into the issue of precisely where in the city the project would be developed. No decision was made as to how to proceed in this area.

The next meeting of this group is scheduled for January 19, 2010, 9 -10 a.m. at the Hartford Foundation