

In early December, Hartford residents, community-based organizations, city and school officials, UCONN Public Health and Education faculty, public policy organizations, and faith-based groups formed a working group committed to creating an area with integrated services and programming based on the Harlem Children's Zone (www.hcz.org). This group recognizes that to transform the lives of children and their families, we need to move beyond traditional approaches. It is not enough to focus solely on an issue, such as health, education, or housing, but instead to address the total environment of residents in order to end generational poverty. The working group believes that the provision of programs and services from prenatal through high school, and even college, graduation is a model that can and will change the life trajectory of Hartford's children. We propose to:

- 1.) approach the building of a Hartford model as a community effort in which children, families, community leaders and the organizations that make up the working group come together;
- 2.) enhance existing community partnerships, as well as form new collaborative relationships, that are both high quality and hold partners to a high standard of accountability;
- 3.) create an initiative comprehensive enough to meet community needs;
- 4.) select the initial community segment, and subsequent community segments, and design the plan with careful and thorough data-driven evaluation.

The Hartford working group has gathered demographic statistics on the 17 neighborhoods relating to child poverty, health, education, crime, housing, neighborhood stability, and community assets. We have narrowed the neighborhoods proposed as the first phase of the Hartford model--a South End combination of Frog Hollow and Barry Square or a North End combination of Clay Arsenal, Northeast and Upper Albany. We are currently collecting additional information on programs and services in each of these two areas. We would like to enlist your help in this process by providing us with information on your organization's programs and services in these neighborhoods.

Based on the guidance of the Harlem Children's Zone model, the following seven categories have been determined as pertinent areas of focus in assessing both needs and assets of the Hartford community.

Child Poverty-Youth Employment, Assistance for children and families

Education-School-based, academic enhancement, parenting education

Crime-Anti-Crime, Rehabilitation, Intervention

Health-Health Care, Sports/Physical Activity, Recreation, Food/Nutrition

Housing-Programs, Assistance

Neighborhood Stability-Civic/Cultural/Community Based Organizations, Adult Job Training

Community Assets-Arts/Music, Parks, Church Programs/Services

Please help us to identify the many positive efforts already in existence by completing the requested information on the attached spreadsheet as it applies to your organization.

Once completed, please email your spreadsheet to loren.darrington@uconn.edu

We appreciate your assisting us with progress toward creating for Hartford's children a version of the Harlem Children's Zone. For more information on the Hartford working group, please see www.education.uconn.edu/research/huskysport/hartford-zone