



**For Immediate Release
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Helping CT Communities Address Health in their School Readiness and Early Childhood Plans

Farmington – The Children’s Fund of Connecticut (CFC) collaborated with the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund (WCGMF) to award grants to 17 communities as part of the larger Discovery Initiative. The WCGMF Discovery Initiative supports a total of 52 communities in building early childhood systems that ensure early learning success for children age birth to eight.

The Children’s Fund contribution supports communities integrating a health and mental health component in their early childhood plans. This is the third round of health grants awarded. Each of the following 17 Discovery communities received a \$40,000-\$50,000 collaboratively funded grant for 2012.

- Thirteen communities received renewal funds to implement their comprehensive plans, including health strategies (*Bridgeport, Bristol, Colchester, Danbury, East Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Torrington and Waterbury*)
- Four communities were newly funded to develop a comprehensive plan with an integrated health component (*Wethersfield, Manchester, Branford and Vernon*).

“For children to succeed in school, attention to their health and social-emotional development, beginning at birth, is essential,” said Judith Meyers, President and CEO of CFC and its non-profit subsidiary the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI). “As a result of our ongoing work, many communities are promoting healthy births, screening for developmental delays, addressing behavioral health concerns, and preventing obesity, all important components to ensure children are ready to learn.”

In addition to the grant money, CHDI continues to provide technical assistance to communities to engage health professionals, assess health needs and gaps, and develop and monitor health results and indicators for health related objectives. **CHDI has also developed a free [Community Tool Kit](#) and statewide [Framework](#) available to all communities throughout the state**, which provides a lasting blueprint for early child health services integrated within a comprehensive state system.

The Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) is the operating arm of the Children’s Fund of Connecticut (CFC) a public, charitable foundation. CHDI works to advance policy, system, program, and practice change that will result in better health and developmental outcomes for children in Connecticut. *For further information contact Julie Tacinelli [tacinelli@uchc.edu], Communications Director, CHDI, 860-679-1519.*

The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund works collaboratively to improve education for Connecticut’s children by and strengthening the involvement of parents and the community in education, promoting school change and informing the public debate on educational issues. *For more information contact Nancy Leonard [nleonard@wcgmf.org], Public Policy Officer, WCGMF at 203-230-3330.*

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