

Energy Assistancep2
 Update on STRIDE Programp2
 CAHS Celebrates Centennial.....p3
 PCCMp3

CABHN FEVER

Change in Care 4 Kids Program Effective November 6, 2010

The Care 4 Kids Program will close eligibility to new applicants who exceed 50% of the state median income, effective November 6, 2010. This applies only to new applicants; they can re-apply if their income falls below 50% of the state median income. Families currently in the program at this income level will continue to receive assistance as long as they meet eligibility guidelines. DSS is required to give 30-day notice about the change in eligibility as a result of legislation passed this past session. Therefore, the change won't take effect until November 6.

Visit <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?Q=466702&A=2345> for more information.

Connecticut Experiences Rise In Poverty Over Decade

The U.S. Census Bureau released updated data on state and national poverty levels on Sep. 16, 2010. Nationally, 3.7 million more people fell into poverty in 2009, raising the national percentage from 13.2% to 14.3% of Americans living in poverty. This means that one in seven Americans now live at or below the federal poverty line. The rate for children is even higher with one in five living in poverty (20%). In addition, more families are being classified as "low-income" as one-third of Americans (33%) had incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line.

In Connecticut, 9.4% of residents (320,554) had incomes under the Federal Poverty Level in 2009, an increase from 7.3% in 2001. The poverty rate for Hispanics at 26% and African Americans at 19.9% was significantly higher than the rate for White, non-Hispanic residents (5.6%).

I Care About Kids and I Vote! Campaign

Parenting is the most important and challenging job any of us will ever do. We have always worked together as a community to help our children grow healthy, safe and ready to learn. By joining the "I Care About Kids and I Vote" campaign, you can help make sure candidates seeking our votes---and the people we ultimately elect---know:

- We need strong leaders who will take charge of Connecticut's early care and education, schools and health care initiatives, and help our children become healthy, creative, and productive Connecticut residents.
- We should spend dollars for kids and families where it makes sense and really helps.
- We must make sure that Connecticut's early care and education, school and health opportunities are easy to access, parent-friendly and expand our choices.

It's the right thing to offer every child the best chance in life we can. We sometimes miss that it's the smart thing, too. When we work together to support all our kids, we create a brighter future for all of Connecticut.

A project of the Connecticut Association for Human Services, CT Parent Power, the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, and CT Voices for Children.
 For more information, visit <http://icareaboutkids.com/index.shtml>.

For Connecticut children under the age of 18, 12.1% (96,893) lived in families with incomes under the federal poverty level in 2009. This number is particularly striking when looking at the percentage of children in poverty in Connecticut's cities.

Poverty Rates by City:

City	Total % in poverty	Percent children in poverty
Bridgeport	21.1%	25.8%
Hartford	31.9%	39.2%
New Britain	23%	35.7%
New Haven	26.7%	31.2%
Norwalk	15.1%	18.9%
Waterbury	22.8%	33.8%

Although there was no statistically significant increase in statewide poverty between 2008 and 2009, Connecticut experienced its largest increase in

poverty of any state between 2007 and 2008, rising from 7.9% to 9.4%.

Connecticut did not see a significant difference in the number of residents

(See Poverty p. 2)

Energy Assistance Benefits - Apply Now!

Application deadlines—apply early in case funds run out:



- May 2, 2011 for most households
 - May 16, 2011 for utility heated households with a shut-off notice.
1. Energy assistance will help pay your heating bills. You may be eligible for benefits even if heat is included in your rent payment (depending on your income and rent amount).
 2. Apply if your income is less than the amounts listed below:

no. of people in household	monthly income
1	\$2,643
2	\$3,456
3	\$4,269
4	\$5,082
5	\$5,895
6	\$6,708

3. Apply at the local Community Action Agency, or call INFOLINE (211) for information on the closest application site. Bring proof of income for everyone in the household and a copy of your fuel or utility heating bill.
4. If you heat with electricity from CL&P or UI, or gas from Yankee Gas, SCG or CNG, ask the Community Action Agency to calculate a budget payment for the arrearage forgiveness program. If they cannot help you, contact the utility company and apply for the arrearage forgiveness program. If you can't afford the payment amount offered by the utility company, ask for referral to a social service agency for calculation of a reduced payment.
5. Assistance is available for heating equipment start-ups and tune-ups. Ask when you apply for energy assistance.

(See Fuel Assistance p. 3)

STRIDE To Replicate Program at Three More Prisons in CT

The state of Connecticut and its visionary state leaders have allocated \$770,000 for STRIDE to replicate its award winning STRIDE Program at Bridgeport Correctional Center in Bridgeport, Gates Correctional Institute in Niantic, and New Haven Correctional Center in New Haven. STRIDE will continue its programming at Bergin Correctional Institute in Storrs and York Correctional Institute in Niantic, CT.

The increased funding will enable the STRIDE Program in Connecticut to continue to expand its efforts to enhance public safety and drastically reduce recidivism rates. Participants in the program have retained their employment and have become productive taxpayers in their communities.

The STRIDE program is in the process of hiring five additional staff members to operate the growing program. STRIDE has worked collaboratively with all of the Correctional Facilities, Quinebaug Valley Community College and Gateway Community College in New Haven to provide the necessary office space needed to commence the programming.

The program seeks to break the cycle of violence, recidivism and increase retention to those participants it serves.

For more information on STRIDE, see www.qvcc.commnet.edu/STRIDE/index.html.



Hartford Public Library is one of 75 organizations across the country to be selected from of a pool of 1,000 applications to be awarded a \$100,000 grant from the US Citizenship and Integration Services.

The money is will help the library expand a program that prepares lawful permanent residents for citizenship and

Poverty (cont. from p.1)

without health insurance coverage from 2008 to 2009. 8.8% of people in Connecticut are without health insurance and 3.8% of children do not have coverage. Connecticut Voices for Children emphasizes that the absence of a significant rise in the uninsured, particularly uninsured children, demonstrates the success Connecticut has in enrolling uninsured children into the state's HUSKY program, calling on lawmakers to maintain support of HUSKY. The 2007 and 2008 increases to income eligibility for parents and pregnant women enrolled in the program has addressed the growing need, increasing program enrollment by about 81,000 over the past three years.

It is important to note that although many people fell into poverty in both CT and the U.S. since 2007, millions have actually been prevented from falling into poverty through the expansion of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and the poverty-moderating effects of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Federal and state UI benefits rose by \$78 billion in 2009 alone, due in large part to temporary expansion of the benefits enacted through the ARRA. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that this expansion kept an estimated 3.3 million Americans out of poverty. In addition, the ARRA kept people out of poverty in 2009 through its increases in tax credits for low-income households and increases in food stamp (SNAP) benefits in response to the economic downturn.

Information obtained from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (www.cbpp.org) and Connecticut Voices for Children (www.ctkidslink.org).

the naturalization process.

To find out more about Hartford Public Library's services to immigrants, stop in, call (860) 695-6337 or go to www.hplct.org.

Organizations Call For Pursuing Statewide PCCM; Medicaid Council Includes It As One Of Husky Restructuring Options

On September 2, 2010, thirty-two advocacy, provider and consumer organizations sent a letter addressed to Sen. Toni Harp and all other members of the Medicaid Care Management Oversight Council urging the Council to seriously pursue the option of statewide PCCM (Primary Care Case Management), coupled with an administrative services organization (ASO), in place of the current HUSKY system of capitated managed care through HMOs. (http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/pccm/20100902_advocates_letter_capitation.pdf)

Since PCCM does not involve insurance companies or HMOs, and, under it, primary care providers are paid extra to coordinate care and keep their patients out of more expensive settings, this Medicaid model could deliver better quality care at a lower cost.

The Medicaid Council is pursuing statewide PCCM as a fourth specific option for HUSKY restructuring and is seeking consultative help through the CT Health Foundation to review each of these options and possibly others. The immediate focus is to produce a recommendation for restructuring of the HUSKY A and B programs and the new Medicaid group of low income non-disabled adults without minor children (referred to as “Low Income Adults” or “LIA”), hopefully by November. (see <http://www.ctmirror.org/story/7726/husky-changes-917>)

For more information, please contact Sheldon Toubman, New Haven Legal Assistance Assn., at 203-946-4811, ext. 148 or stoubman@nhlegal.org

Fuel Assistance (cont. from p. 2)

6. Ask for weatherization assistance – it is available to renters and homeowners.
7. Repairs or replacements of unsafe furnaces or furnaces that are not working are available to homeowners. Ask when you apply for energy assistance; if you receive cash assistance from the Department of Social Services, ask your DSS worker.
8. Protect yourself from a winter shut-off by applying for “hardship status” at your electric and gas companies.

New Legislation Effective Oct. 1st

The Connecticut General Assembly has posted a list of the new public acts that became effective on October 1, 2010. For details, visit <http://cga.ct.gov//asp/Content/ActsEffective1010.asp>.

Justice Mapping Center Launches First National Atlas Of Criminal Justice Data

The Justice Mapping Center recently launched the National Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections—an online tool that shows a neighborhood-level view of where prison inmates, probationers, and parolees are from and where corrections spending is highest. Go to <http://www.justiceatlas.org/>.

This serves as a resource for policymakers, the media, researchers, and members of the public looking for neighborhood-specific criminal justice data. Users can learn the number of people in prison, the number released from prison each year, the number on probation or parole, what share of the state's total population this data represent, and the total dollar amount spent on corrections. The next update is scheduled after March 2010 and Connecticut information should be included in the update at that time.

CAHS Celebrates 100 Years!



Join the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) for a centennial celebration on November 10, 2010 at the Bushnell Theater. The forum “Reclaiming the American Dream” will feature Newark Mayor Cory Booker and Yale Professor, Jacob Hacker, author of Winner-Take-All-Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer—and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class. Forum moderator will be Stephanie Robinson, president & CEO of the Jamestown Project. The speakers will be joined by Dr. Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, Peter Hurst, Founder, President and CEO of the Community’s Bank in Bridgeport, and Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra.

CAHS celebrates 100 years of working to reduce poverty and create prosperity for all Connecticut children and families. Consistent with its history of promoting policies and practices that move people from poverty, the Centennial celebration will be a provocative forum. The forum will be followed by a reception and award ceremony honoring Bill Cibes and the founders of today’s CAHS.

Space is limited so please register today. \$25 per person for the 4 PM - 6 PM forum, \$100 for Cocktail Reception & Award Ceremony. To register, go to www.cahs.org/100years.asp, email ltaylor@cahs.org or call 860.951.2212, ext. 229.

(Call Soon! CAHS is offering 100 free tickets to the forum to low-income residents.)

Subscribe and receive CABHN Fever Newsletters and Alerts electronically. Contact Ellen Billard (ESmall@larcc.org) or call 860-278-5688 x208)

Make Your Vote Count On Nov. 2nd!



TANF ARRA Success Story: The Diaper Bank



The Diaper Bank received over \$400,000 from the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund to distribute diapers to TANF eligible CT residents with children in partnership with the state's 12 Community Action Agencies. All of the diapers needed to be manufactured, purchased and distributed by September 30, 2010. Over 2 million diapers were distributed in six weeks! That is as many diapers as are normally distributed in one year!

Thanks go out to the CT DSS, TANF ARRA Work Group, BJ's Wholesale Club, CAFCA and everyone who helped make this distribution a success, especially TDB's Program Director, Kym Hunter.

Employment Rights Training

The Southeastern Employment Network presents Employment Rights Training offered by the Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP) on November 9, 2010 at SMHA, 401 W. Thames Street, Norwich, CT, 9:30-3:30.

The training will be conducted by Kirk W. Lowry, Legal Director for CLRP and some of the topics are:

- Applications & Interviews
- Medical inquiries-the law and practical issues
- Reasonable Accommodation – the how, when, and what of it
- Criminal histories & Credit histories
- When is substance abuse a covered disability and when it is not?
- Social Security Benefits and Employment and much more.

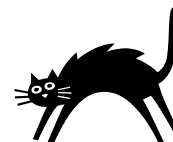
Call for information and rsvp
860.859.4506

Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting

**Friday
November 12th
9:30-11:30 A.M.**

Location:

**To Be
Announced**



The Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) is a statewide network of individuals, community groups and organizations which supports and promotes advocacy on low-income issues. For more information, please call (860) 278-5688.

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44 Capitol Ave., Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106