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CABHN FEVER

U.S. Census Bureau Delivers Connecticut's 2010 Census Totals

The U.S. Census Bureau has released more detailed 2010 Census population totals and demographic characteristics to Governor Malloy and leadership of the state legislature in Connecticut. These data provide the first look at population counts for small areas and race, Hispanic origin, voting age and housing unit data released from the 2010 Census.

The official 2010 Census Redistricting Data Summary File can be used to redraw federal, state and local legislative districts under Public Law 94-171. The census data are used by state officials to realign congressional and state legislative districts in their states, taking into account population shifts since the 2000 Census.

Data for Connecticut show that the five most populous cities or towns and their 2010 Census counts are (1) Bridgeport, 144,229; (2) New Haven, 129,779; (3) Hartford, 124,775; (4) Stamford, 122,643; and (5) Waterbury, 110,366. Bridgeport grew by 3.4 percent since the 2000 Census. New Haven grew by 5.0 percent, Hartford grew by 2.6 percent, Stamford grew by 4.7 percent, and Waterbury grew by 2.9 percent.

For more information: www.factfinder.census.gov

If you have any questions or concerns or need help navigating to your data, please contact the Boston Regional Office at 617-424-4510 or boston.pdsp@census.gov.

Information provided by the Boston Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Two Important SNAP (Food Stamp) Changes

As of April 1, 2011, some SNAP benefits have decreased.

Why? The USDA is lowering the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) which is used to calculate a household's benefit amount.

In the winter of 2009 the USDA allowed Connecticut to increase the SUA to \$720 due to the high cost of heat the previous winter. Last fall, DSS worked with the USDA to delay the decrease until January 1st, and a coalition of anti-hunger groups in the northeast (including End Hunger Connecticut!) worked with our Congressional teams to urge the USDA to hold off on the decrease. Congresswoman DeLauro and Congressman McGovern (MA) spearheaded a letter signed by the entire northeast delegation and Senator Sanders (VT) spearheaded the effort on the Senate side. The decrease was delayed until April 1, 2011.

On April 1st, the SUA changed to \$662 or an average of a \$10-\$20 drop in benefits **for some people – not all.**

There is a good chance that the SUA will be increased again in the future, but for now, this is the harsh reality for many.

Please visit EHC!'s online benefit calculator www.ctfoodstamps.org to verify SNAP benefits for anyone currently receiving them who has a change due to the SUA decrease.

Beat Of The Street Created By and For Homeless Population

Check out "Beat of the Street: Keeping a pulse on Hartford's homeless population". This is an online news blog created by and for those who are homeless in Hartford. You can access the website at www.beatofthestreet.org.

More on SNAP: Periodic Reporting Forms

One of the biggest delays for many receiving SNAP is the redetermination process. DSS is implementing a new program to make it easier. The Periodic Reporting Form (PRF) takes the place of the 6 month redetermination. There is no phone call or information gathering (unless something has changed in income or expenses) **but** the form **must** be filled out and returned to DSS.

The PRF is easy to fill out. Check off "yes" or "no" to the questions, sign the form and return it to DSS by the due date. (Be sure to make a copy!) ***If the form is not returned by the due date, benefits will be terminated and a new application will have to be filled out to get back on.***

The PRF may be confusing to some people, but it is **much** easier than the redetermination process and help is available (see below). The USDA requires **all** SNAP beneficiaries to fill it out.

For more information or questions, call Infoline at 2-1-1 or EHC! at 860-974-SNAP (7627).



SNAP Outreach Workers

EHC! is looking for SNAP Outreach Advocates for the following areas: Hartford and Tolland Counties, Windham County and New London County.

Outreach is fun! If you'd like to speak before groups, help individuals get on the SNAP program, be a liaison between DSS offices and community, and become an expert on one of the most necessary programs in the country, please apply!

Go to www.endhungerct.org for job description and application instructions.

What Is The Consumer Law Project for Elders (CLPE)?

The Consumer Law Project for Elders (CLPE) is a project of Connecticut Legal Services, a not-for-profit law firm. CLPE advocates (attorneys and paralegals) provide free legal assistance to seniors with consumer legal problems through a statewide telephone hotline.

Who can call the Hotline?

People 60 years of age or older can call the CLPE Hotline with questions about rights as a consumer (purchaser of goods or services), or with a consumer problem. Seniors of any income or asset level, or people acting on their behalf, can call the CLPE Hotline.

What are some examples of consumer problems that CLPE can help you with?

- Billing, debt or collection problems, including medical or credit card debt or harassment by debt collectors.
- Receiving bills for things that were not bought.
- Considering bankruptcy.
- Identity theft, healthcare fraud or a consumer scam.
- disputes over goods or services.
- unfair loan.
- problems with a contract or a contractor.
- Summons or notice about a court hearing involving your debt or your property.

CALL CLPE HOTLINE Today!

1-800-296-1467

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness Annual Training Institute

The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness is pleased to announce its 9th Annual Training Institute on May 5-6, 2011. The training will take place at:

**Four Points By Sheraton
275 Research Parkway
Meriden, CT 06450**

Register now at www.cceh.org/pdf/ati/2011_registration.pdf.

Each year, CCEH holds a two day Training Institute designed to advance best practices in preventing and ending homelessness. The Institute is an opportunity for providers to:

- ✓ *Network*
- ✓ *Gain a better understanding of emerging local and national best practices*
- ✓ *Incorporate new knowledge and skills into their work*
- ✓ *Foster a deeper understanding of their role in the broader state and national movement to prevent and end homelessness*

The Annual Training Institute offers a diverse array of workshops, presentations, and panels benefiting executive directors, managers, direct care staff, consumers, advocates, policy makers, and community members. Topics covered range from chronic homelessness and family homelessness, to re-entry, employment and income, data and research, ten year plans, and special populations such as youth and veterans.

This year's guest speaker (invited) is:
Commissioner-Designee
Roderick L. Bremby
CT Department of
Social Services

New Haven Reentry Initiative Grant

The City of New Haven has just released the RFP for the Reentry Initiative Mini-Grants! The deadline for submission is May 3, 2011.

Proposals must be submitted in the form and manner specified in the request. Forms and specifications may be obtained from the Bureau of Purchases, website: www.cityofnewhaven.com/purchasingbureau. Hardcopy submission: One (1) Original. Electronic submission is submitted through your login on our website: www.cityofnewhaven.com/purchasingbureau/CheckSubmissionIP.asp.

For the full RFP, visit the link below.

Title: Reentry Initiative Service Capacity Building Grants

Solicitation #2011-04-780

Solicitation is available for viewing and downloading from the web site: www.cityofnewhaven.com/purchasingbureau.

If you have questions, please contact the City's Bureau of Purchases at 200 Orange Street or 203.946.8201 (Office Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday -Friday).

RFP's will be accepted until 11:00 AM EST on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at which time all responses will be publicly opened and read aloud.

2011 Legislative Guides Now Available Online

You can access contact information for all state legislators, including committee membership, at www.cga.ct.gov/olm/guides/guide/Guide.pdf.

Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Food Drive

Easter Seals Goodwill Industries is hosting a food drive for the entire month of April to benefit Connecticut Food Bank. Goodwill retail center shoppers who donate a non-perishable food or personal care item receives a \$5 off coupon for purchases of \$10 or more, redeemable through the end of the year at Goodwill retail centers.

Governor Malloy Appoints Roderick Bremby As New DSS Commissioner

Roderick Bremby comes to Connecticut from Kansas to head the Department of Social Services.

Bremby was appointed to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2003 and was the longest serving KDHE Cabinet Secretary in the state. There, he led a department which had an annual operating budget in excess of \$230 million and employed more than 1,015 full-time staff. At the Department of Health and Environment, Bremby refined the employee evaluation system and introduced new systems designed to better manage personnel, purchasing and document routing.

He also improved efficiencies through the implementation of web-based systems.

For more information on the appointment: www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?Q=474966&A=4010.

Town-by-Town 2010 Now Available Online

How many need social services in your community? Check out "Town by Town: Why Connecticut needs Social Service programs. You can access the document at: http://www.larcc.org/files/larcc_files/documents/town_by_town_2010.pdf.

CAAs Fight Poverty and Budget Cuts

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are government's official partners in fighting poverty and helping people rejoin the economy. When people escape cycles of debt and dependency, the whole community wins. CAAs benefit everyone! Unfortunately, in this time of tenuous economic recovery, President Obama and the House Majority have proposed cutting the federal investment in CAAs' comprehensive poverty-fighting work.

The federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is critical funding that allows CAAs to remain responsive to local community need. CAAs are accountable to the State and the federal government for every penny, and the positive impacts are well-documented through Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA). Cuts to the CSBG would harm important programs statewide, shutting thousands of people out of job training and other services essential to economic recovery.

Through holistic case management, CAAs help struggling families overcome issues of hunger, job training, health care, child care, housing, home

heating, and empower families to change their lives in positive, lasting ways.

In response to the proposed cuts, CAAs in Connecticut and across the nation have embarked on a campaign to educate policy makers at every level about the positive impact of CAAs on local families and economies. As elected leaders learn more about how the CSBG equips people to climb out of poverty and back into the job market, they realize how truly important it is to sustainable economic recovery.

CAAs have worked hard to share the message of their service, but they know that their most important campaign, and most effective advocacy strategy, is continuing to empower Connecticut families to live in economic security sustained through well-paying jobs.

Now, while plans are being made for this year and the years ahead, concerned voters should call their Members of Congress and tell them to preserve this vital poverty-fighting funding!

*Submitted by: Ben Daigle, MPA,
Public Policy Director
Connecticut Association For
Community Action (CAFCA)*

Community Presentations Available

Topic: Prescription Drug Help for Medicare Beneficiaries

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Connecticut (NAMI-CT) is offering free presentations on the Medicare Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Plan (MSP). If you or your organization serve people on Medicare Part D and would like to learn about saving money on prescription drugs, this presentation will offer valuable information.

Presentations are understandable and thorough *and* application assistance will be provided after presentations.

For more information, contact Thomas Burr of NAMI-CT at policystaff@namict.org or call (860) 882-0236 or (800) 215-3021. See below for a list of scheduled presentations:

4/19/2011 - 10:30AM
Community Renewal Team
35 Clark St., Hartford

4/26/2011 - 11:00AM
Community Renewal Team
160 Coventry St., Bloomfield

5/12/2011 - 2:00PM
Manchester Sr. Ctr.
549 E. Middle Tpk., Manchester

5/19/2011 - 1:00PM
Avon Sr. Ctr.
635 W. Avon Rd., Avon

Please Note: Do you or your organization serve people on Medicare Part D? NAMI is looking for organizations in Regions 1 and 4 (Hartford and Fairfield County) which serve the Hispanic Community, and are willing to host Spanish Language presentations. If you are interested, please call to schedule a presentation.

Funded by a grant from the Connecticut Department of Social Services

Save the date for C.L.A.S.S. Annual Conference

CT Local Administrators of Social Services (C.L.A.S.S.) announces its annual conference: "Increasing Opportunities." Save the date for September 15, 2011. Keynote speaker will be Shirley Bergert of Connecticut Legal Services, Willimantic. Workshop topics include Basic Benefits, the Jobs First program, and Aging in Place. For more information visit www.class-ct.org.

Stay Connected with CABHN on Facebook

CABHN is now on Facebook! This is an important tool that will allow us to post action alerts and other important opportunities in a more timely manner. Because CABHN Fever only comes out once a month, we often have to pass up a lot of information that would be very helpful to our members because it is time-sensitive and will expire before CABHN Fever reaches readers. This will allow us to post timely information on our facebook page.

If you have any information you'd like us to post on facebook, let us know!



If you're on facebook, please take a moment to visit and "like" us!

<http://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutAllianceforBasicHumanNeeds>

Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting

**Friday
April 15th
9:30-11:30 A.M.**

Location:

**AARP
21 Oak Street**

**Corner of Oak & Capitol
Avenue
Hartford**

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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**Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and
CABHN (Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs)**
44 Capitol Ave., Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106



April 2011

Dear Friend,

We are writing to ask for your support at a critical time for CABHN, the CT Alliance for Basic Human Needs. **We are turning to you, as past supporters and current participants in CABHN, to ask that you renew your support so that we can continue to produce and distribute *CABHN Fever* and to bring the voices of low-income people to the policy discussions that affect their lives.**

Throughout 2010, we gratefully received continuing support from dedicated supporters.

With these resources, we have:

- **published ten editions of *CABHN Fever* per year**, with articles updating readers on health care, welfare, the state budget, and other important state and federal issues; maintained an **e-mail alert and information network** for immediate contact with the most active members of CABHN;
- convened twelve joint meetings of **CABHN** and the **Family Economic Success Network**.
- co-sponsored “Increasing Opportunity: Improving the Jobs First Employment Services Program” with the Welfare Working Group, a forum held in January 2011 and aimed at educating legislators on the challenges facing participants in CT’s family welfare program
- Produced the report, “Increasing Opportunity: Improving the Jobs First Employment Services Program,” which offers state and federal policy recommendations to increase access to education and job training options for participants in the family welfare program. This report can be accessed at www.larcc.org under Publications

Unfortunately, CABHN faces reduced funding and the necessity of finding new financial resources. ***The majority of CABHN funding goes to publishing CABHN Fever.***

Please help us continue to publish this important resource. Organizational donations of \$100 or more and individual donations of \$25 or more would help us continue the work of CABHN in the coming year.

Thank you for your support and for all the important work that you do.

Sincerely,

Ellen Small Billard
CABHN Coordinator

Jane McNichol
Executive Director, LARCC

YES, I would like to support the important work of CABHN through my contribution of:

- _____ **\$100**
- _____ **\$75**
- _____ **\$50**
- _____ **\$25**
- _____ **Other amount**

Please send donations to:

CABHN
c/o LARCC
44 Capitol Avenue, Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106

or

Donate on-line

[Donate to
CABHN](#)

In addition, I would like to be added to the following CABHN email lists:

- _____ **CABHN Fever electronic version**
- _____ **CABHN action alerts and important updates**
- _____ **CABHN's monthly request for submission list**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Organization Name: _____

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!