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# CABHN FEVER

## **Back-to-School Toolkit Options for Student Health Coverage**

*From the New England Alliance for Children's Health:*

Heading to college this fall? Don't let signing up for health care slip through the cracks. Health coverage is critical to keep students healthy and financially secure.

NEACH has partnered with Young Invincibles to bring students and families a free Back-to-School Tool Kit.

### The toolkit:

- breaks down student options for health coverage in every state
- gives up-to-date information on the costs and benefits of student health plans
- walks through how to stay on your parent's plan
- explains what to do if you have a pre-existing condition
- provides relevant updates on the Affordable Care Act (like new rules on birth control and preventive services for women).

It also has tips for young women, important information on young adults and cancer, and much more.

To download the Back-to-School Toolkit, visit <http://www.gettingcovered.org/>. Help to make sure that everyone has the information they need to stay healthy this school year.

## **School Supply Donations**

There are many families in Connecticut that need help providing basic school supplies for their children. Dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org), enter your town and search for "school supplies" to find information on where to donate or find school supplies.

## **The Power of ONE Conference**

"The Power of ONE: Building on the Positive to Make a Difference" a social justice conference, sponsored by the Collaborative Center for Justice will take place Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 8:45a.m. to 1:00p.m.

The Conference will be held at the Franciscan Center for Urban Affairs, 285 Church Street, Hartford and is free and open to the public. Keynote speaker is Ricardo Levins Morales. Ricardo is a Puerto Rican-born graphic artist and activist who has created artwork for social justice for over three decades. He believes that art can contribute to changing peoples' perceptions, hearts and understanding of what has been, what is and what's possible. Art can't do it alone; people getting together and acting together is the real source of social change. The dignity and possibility in all people is the underlying message of Ricardo's work.

Workshop presenters will be local people who have made a difference, given us hope and challenged us to be positive voices for social justice and change. Seating is limited and registration is required. For more information, contact the Collaborative Center for Justice at (860)692-3066 or [advocacy@ccfj.org](mailto:advocacy@ccfj.org).



## **Low-Cost Internet to Lower-Income Households**

The Comcast Internet Essentials Program offers low-cost internet at \$10/month to low-income families with children who are eligible to receive free school meals. This new program is expected to have major impact on low-income people who have previously been unable to

## **Governor Malloy Proclaims October 27th As Diaper Needs Awareness Day in Connecticut**

*To celebrate this proclamation, the Diaper Bank's Annual*

**Rock Your Baby 2011**  
*will take place:*

*Thursday, October 27, 2011  
6:30PM to 9:00PM  
At The Old Guitar Store  
Foundry Square  
153 East Street  
New Haven, CT*

The Diaper Bank will honor WPLR and JB Sports, Community Closet, and The Middlesex County Diaper Committee. Tickets are \$52 per person with discounts available with a diaper donation at the door.

A policy panel moderated by Founder Joanne Goldblum will take place beforehand from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. and will feature Rudy Brooks (retired Bureau Chief, Prevention and External Affairs of the Dept. of Children and Families), Megan Smith (Asst. Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study Center and Lecturer in Epidemiology at Yale University), Alison Weir (Associate, Wiggin & Dana and Co-Chair of the Diaper Difference), and Teresa Younger (Exec. Dir., Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women). The panel is free to the public.

afford broadband Internet. The program will also offer vouchers to purchase a \$150 computer. For information on how you can find out if you qualify for this program, visit <http://www.internetessentials.com/index.html>.

## THE MONEY CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

The Money Conference for Women is a free conference, brought to you by YWCA Hartford Region with Honorary Chair Connecticut State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, that focuses on money management, investment strategies and retirement planning for women of all ages, economic backgrounds and levels of financial knowledge.  
10th Anniversary

### Money Conference for Women

November 12, 2011  
7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Featuring Michelle Singletary, author & syndicated columnist  
Hartford Marriott Downtown  
(200 Columbus Blvd in Hartford)  
Register on-line now!  
[ctmoneyconferenceforwomen.com](http://ctmoneyconferenceforwomen.com)



### Volunteer To Help Immigrants and Refugees in CT

The Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, founded in 1982 by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, IRIS -- is a diverse and inclusive nonprofit organization based in New Haven and working statewide. IRIS helps refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. IRIS offers assistance to the larger immigrant community through its food pantry, legal service clinic, citizenship preparation course, and after-school program. Help by contributing your time and energy through various volunteer opportunities: English tutoring, employment mentoring, case management support, food pantry assistance, and housing and donations. IRIS could not do the work without volunteers! Please email the Volunteer Coordinator at: [volunteer@irisct.org](mailto:volunteer@irisct.org) or call (203) 562-2095.

### Bridgeport Child & Family Guidance Center Offers Parent Project

The Child and Family Guidance Center of Bridgeport is sponsoring a 10 week **free** training for parents of teens, ages 12-19, with challenging behaviors. You can:

- Learn how to never argue with your child again!
- Prevent or intervene in alcohol or drug use!
- Improve school attendance and performance!
- Find resources to help your family!

10 Week Parenting Series Starts:

Spanish

Thursday, 9/15/2011 - 5:30 pm

English

Wednesday, 9/21/2011 - 5:30 pm

Child and Family Guidance Center

180 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport, CT

Please call: 203.394.6529 (x3025) or (x3319)



**Register now!**

**No tuition and free childcare**



### Can you make it through the month?

An online game called "Spent" was launched as a collaborative effort between McKinney and Urban Ministries of Durham. This interactive game seeks to educate the community on the reality of poverty by demonstrating how difficult it is for a family to make it through the month, surviving poverty, avoiding homelessness, and meeting all of their basic needs on a very low income. Can you make it through the month? Find out at [www.playspent.com!](http://www.playspent.com!)

### Medicaid Application Delays

As caseloads at DSS have increased and the number of caseworkers has shrunk due to early retirements and some planned staff reductions, the processing of applications for benefits has become very slow. Medicaid applications can linger for months.

Under federal law, the deadline to act on an application for children, families, the elderly, blind individuals and low income adults is 45 days. If an application is based on disability, the deadline is 90 days. Each application represents at least one person, and could include an entire family with children, facing the ongoing lack of essential health insurance as they wait beyond the deadline limit.

There are many legal services clients who have experienced significant hardship as a result. To address this problem, it is important to have real cases of affected people willing to tell their stories. If you have or someone you know has ongoing medical needs and has been waiting long past the deadline of 45 days for DSS to act on a Medicaid or HUSKY application, please refer them to legal services as soon as possible.

Contact: Sheldon Toubman, New Haven Legal Assistance Ass'n, 203-946-4811, ext. 148 or [stoubman@nhlegal.org](mailto:stoubman@nhlegal.org)



### CT Housing Coalition "2011 Annual Housing Conference"

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Connecticut Convention Center Hartford

8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Online registration now open at

[www.ct-housing.org](http://www.ct-housing.org)

## State Budget Update

Since the report on the state budget in the last issue of CABHN Fever, state employee unions ratified a negotiated concessions package. This means that there will be no further legislative action needed to finalize the budget. The budget as adopted contained a number of unspecified cuts which will be identified by administrative agencies during the course of the year.

## Special Session

A special session has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2011 for the consideration of legislation concerning job creation. The exact time is not yet determined. For more info, email [small@larcc.org](mailto:small@larcc.org).

## Connecticut Efficient Healthy Homes Initiative (CTEHHI)

The Connecticut Efficient Healthy Homes Initiative (CTEHHI) can help you identify and address risks in your home, while making your home more energy efficient so you can save money.

During the visit, specialists will assess your home's energy efficiency and perform a wide range of weatherization services, such as:

- Installing compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)
- Caulking drafts, cracks and leaks in your windows and doors
- Installing water-saving faucet aerators and showerheads

### How to Apply

To sign up for CTEHHI, please complete an application, or call 1-877-WISE USE (1-877-947-3873) if you need assistance, and mention "Healthy Homes" or "CTEHHI". Tenants/renters must have their landlord complete the Landlord Service Agreement, which is included with the application. Landlords are required to grant permission for tenants in their buildings.

## 2011 Kids Count Data Now Available

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2011 National Kids Count Data book was released this month.

From 2006 and 2009, Connecticut showed:

- Improvements in the number of low birthweight babies, teen deaths, and teen dropouts;
- Greater numbers of infant deaths, child deaths, and children without secure parental employment; and
- No change in the number of teen births, teens who are not in school and not employed, children who live in poverty, and those in single-parent families.

However...

- In Connecticut, 46,000 of the state's children lived in families that lost their homes to foreclosure since 2007.
- In 2010, an estimated 79,000 Connecticut children lived in households where there was at least one parent who was seeking employment, but was unemployed at the time the data were collected.

According to data in the 22nd annual KIDS COUNT Data Book the economic and social gains for children that occurred across the 1990s stalled, even before the economic downturn began. This year's National Data Book reports an eighteen percent increase in the U.S. child poverty rate between 2000 and 2009.

During this total time period, Connecticut's overall child poverty rate increased by nine percent.

This national increase means that 2.5 million more American children are living below the federal poverty line (\$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children), wiping out the gains made on this important measure in the late 1990's.

CAHS's CT Kids Count Director, Jude Carroll, noted that the data sounds an alarm that many children will be experiencing family stress and not getting the care and education they need at pivotal times to ensure future educational and workforce success.

"The National KIDS COUNT Data Book shows that almost 30 percent of Connecticut children live in families with parents who do not have secure employment," she added. "This loss of family income could compromise the long-term developmental outcomes for these children."

You can search for indicators by city, county or school district. To access the Data directly: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

For Connecticut KIDS COUNT Data: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=CT>



## Get involved – September is Hunger Action Month!


Connecticut Food Bank and Feeding America encourage you to take action during Hunger Action Month to rally against hunger. Visit [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org) and see our 30 Days in 30 Ways calendar to find exciting ways to participate. You also can watch Matt Damon portray an actual Feeding America client experiencing hunger on our Web site and share the video with your family, friends and colleagues. The problem is closer than you think, but so is the solution.

## Could You Become a Homeowner Through Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County is hosting an informational session for new applicants on Saturday, September 24th. The English meeting will be held at 9am and the Spanish meeting will begin at 10:30 am. Come learn how you can purchase a simple and affordable home! Learn about how you might qualify to become part of the Habitat future homeowner program and take the first step toward owning your own home. Please note: You must attend an informational meeting to submit an application. RSVP is required by calling (203) 333-2642 x.103. Please do not bring children to the meeting. The meeting will be held at New Vision International Ministries located at 130 Gregory Street in Bridgeport. For more information, visit [www.habitatctfc.org](http://www.habitatctfc.org).

## Tenant Talk Newsletter Now Available!

Tenant Talk is the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's newsletter for low income renters, residents and tenants, and for anyone who cares about issues that affect the lives of low income people. Tenant Talk provides information on actions the federal government is taking on issues related to housing for people with the lowest incomes. It also includes information on how residents and resident groups can work with NLIHC to better homes in communities across the country. To access the newsletter, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/template/page.cfm?id=275>. Or, for more information, contact Taylor Materio at [taylor@nlihc.org](mailto:taylor@nlihc.org).

 *In the name of fiscal transparency, the state has launched a website that offers a searchable database of state spending .*  
**[www.transparency.CT.gov](http://www.transparency.CT.gov)**

## Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting

The next meeting  
will be  
**October 14, 2011**  
Location:  
**CRT**  
**555 Windsor Street**  
**Hartford**  
**9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M**



*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



September 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 2011, we have 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 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](http://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 you can donate using Paypal at [www.larcc.org](http://www.larcc.org)



**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!**