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Mayor

# CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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## About Health & Human Services and Its Partners

The U. S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) selected the City of Hartford to establish a communitywide approach to reduce the rate of teen pregnancies. The City of Hartford, Department of Health and Human Services (HHHS), in partnership with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), and the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) will collaborate to provide services to Hartford teens with the most-up-to-date reproductive health education in an effort to decrease the rate of pregnancy by 10%, and decrease Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) and HIV among the teen population of Hartford by 2015.

Hartford is a city rich with vibrant and cultural diversity. Hartford is also a city rich in health inequities and disparities; a city whose incidence of low birth weight infants and rate of preterm births were significantly higher. Additionally, the teen birth rate increased by 22% in 2007. According to the CT Department of Public Health (2008), between 2002 and 2004 there were 410 reported new cases of HIV/AIDS in Hartford. Hartford's major community issues with poverty, unemployment and poor school graduation rates are a challenge. These statistics are the tip of the ice berg for the teens in the City of Hartford. However, we believe that together, with partnership such as these, we can significantly impact the lives of our youth and in turn our City.

We envision a city in which teenagers are educated and equipped to make informed choices about their futures and every young person is healthy and self-sufficient before deciding to become a parent. Our combined goal for the Hartford Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative is to build a foundation for a successful and sustainable city-wide partnership that will significantly decrease the rates of pregnancy, STI's and HIV among the teen population of Hartford.

PPSNE is the largest provider of reproductive health care in Connecticut and the state's leading agency in sexuality education and training. Each year, PPSNE reaches more than 7,000 adolescents, young adults and parents directly with its community education programs. PPSNE will play an important role in delivering training and technical assistance to the participants of this project.

CWEALF conducts research and evaluation activities to document inequities, identify best practices, and promote reforms in the law, social service position, and education and workforce development. With over 18 years of research and evaluation, CWEALF understands and appreciate the complex systemic and individual barriers facing women in their personal and professional lives. CWEALF will provide its experience and leadership for the evaluation team of the TPP program.