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HARTFORD PRESENTS HEALTH EQUITY INDEX

New Tool to Address Social Justice in Health

The City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was selected by the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health to try a new way to look at data about the health of our city.

This new tool, called the Health Equity Index, promotes the opportunity for Hartford residents to gain valuable insight about the origins of health issues that have the greatest impact in the community, and to take aim at corrective actions that promise lasting improvements in the health of residents.

“The residents of our city deserve to understand how health inequalities can impact their quality of life negatively. The Health Equity Index is a tool that can paint a picture of how issues such as poor housing quality, lack of transportation alternatives, and lack of access to fresh food affect our health,” stated Carlos Rivera, Director of the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services.

In collaboration with the Hartford Public Library located at 500 Main Street HHS will be sponsoring three sessions offering a hands-on “test drive” of the Health Equity Index. These sessions will be held in the computer lab and they have been scheduled as follows:

Friday March 11, 2011 between 1 and 4 PM
Tuesday March 15, 2011 between 5 and 8 PM
Monday March 21, 2011 between 10 AM and 1 PM

Participants should sign up for these sessions online through the HPL calendar of events at <http://host4.evanced.info/hartfordct/evanced/eventcalendar.asp> or by contacting Rita Kornblum at (860) 757-4727 or rkornblum@hartford.gov

It is important to sign up to ensure that you have access to a computer terminal to try out the HEI after listening to a presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

Participants of these sessions will have the opportunity to sign up for focus groups that will be held in April 2011 intended to help HHS better understand how the HEI can assist community groups, agencies, students, grant seekers, etc in their endeavors. Focus group participants will receive a gift card in appreciation for their time.