



# CITY OF HARTFORD

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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## **Free Community Screening of “Food, Inc.” Documentary Highlights Hartford’s Need to Improve Access to Nutritious Food**

### **---NEWS AND ADVISORY---**

The City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services Department is pleased to host a community screening of the Academy Award nominated documentary *Food, Inc.* on **Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5PM to 7:45PM** at the Main Branch of the Hartford Public Library. This presentation is in partnership with the Hartford Food System (a Hartford-based nonprofit dedicated to food security and access to healthy food) and the Hartford Public Library. The screening will be followed by a brief panel discussion with community members and leaders who will talk about what residents can do to access healthier food in the Capital City.

Hartford residents, like most Americans, take for granted their ability to access fresh, healthy foods to feed their families and themselves. But many Hartford residents do not have easy access to grocery stores that carry fresh, nutritious food. Instead, they are surrounded by convenience store and fast food outlets with limited options. Many people do not realize why they should be concerned and what they can do to create a better food environment for themselves and their families.

“The issues raised in the film are particularly relevant to Hartford, where adult residents suffer disproportionately from diet-related diseases like diabetes and heart disease and where estimates of childhood obesity and risk of obesity rates are greater than 40%,” says Carlos Rivera, Director of the City of Hartford Health and Human Services Department.

The event represents Hartford Food System’s participation in the *Ingredients for Change Campaign*, a nationwide initiative conducted by Active Voice and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to raise awareness about healthy food and health problems linked to our nation’s food system.

Other informational displays will be available to provide materials about Green Cleaning, proper disposal of unused medications, and *Women, Infant and Children* (WIC) program on the new nutritional guidelines. Participants will be eligible to enter drawings for a number of different prizes.

Healthy snacks, childcare and transportation will be provided for those in need. For arrangements please contact Rita Kornblum at (860) 757-4727.

