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**Bank of America awards Hartford Public Library Grant for Summer  
Teen Leaders Initiative**

**Hartford, Connecticut (July 17, 2013)** — Hartford Public Library is pleased to announce that it was awarded a \$7,500 grant from Bank of America in support of the Teen Leaders Initiative. The Library began this initiative to provide Hartford teens a basic understanding of what is needed to achieve success in both their academic and working careers. With a strong emphasis on career education, job readiness skills, workplace expectations, project management, and personal finance, teens are firmly grounded 21st century skills. This grant will provide for the hiring of five teens that will work with library staff for nine weeks at five branches during the summer months.

Teen Leaders will attend a series of educational workshops that will improve their ability to make positive personal, academic and career decisions. They will participate in the Federal Lunch Program, provide daily library service, and help impact the lives of over 20,000 youth every year.

Teens will also assist with the 2013 Summer Reading Program by guiding and mentoring young readers and by coordinating youth programs and workshops. In this capacity, they will serve as role models and peer tutors. Furthermore, they learn educational and leadership skills that inspire the youth they serve. The Summer Reading Program supports and motivates Hartford youth to achieve summer reading gains that decrease summer learning loss and improve grade-level reading proficiency.

"While the Teen Leader Initiative transforms the lives of a small group of teens, these young people impact the lives of many Hartford youth" said Matthew K. Poland, chief executive officer at Hartford Public Library.

**About Hartford Public Library**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the

people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library's new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org)

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