

*It just takes...*

# One Cultural Navigator + One Newcomer Family **Together**

- To reduce the stress of cultural adjustment,
- To seek and strengthen linkages with vital services, resources and agencies,
- To open doors for involvement in community and family-focused activities,
- To collaborate on information-seeking tasks that meet needs and answer questions

## **Who is a Cultural Navigator?**

*Someone who:*

- Recognizes that cross-cultural competence is a dynamic, ongoing process,
- Listens attentively with care and interest,
- Accepts the role of dedicated advocate,
- Serves as a patient and accepting mentor,
- Has the time and interest to participate in program activities,
- Seeks to build trusting relationships,
- Is a nurturer of possibilities.



## **Who are the Families?**

*Two-parent or single-parent households who have been in the USA less than two years and demonstrate interest in:*

- Interacting with others by joining the wider Hartford community,
- Moving their families forward in the face of cultural adjustment,
- Engaging in program-related educational and social activities,
- Committing to building relationships of trust.

**NOTE:** Those *Cultural Navigator* candidates whose skills and interests best fit the *Cultural Navigator* profile are selected for program participation as determined by the Cultural Navigator Selection Committee established in June 2011.

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500 Main Street • Hartford, CT 06103  
[www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org)

## **How do I get started?**

Attend a one hour Orientation Session offered on:

- Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

For those interested, you will be expected to:

- attend a follow-up interview,
- sign off on a confidential background check and drug test (cost free) in accordance with Hartford Public Library's volunteer policy,
- complete a training program

For more information, contact Hartford Public Library, *Intercultural Liaison*, Nancy Caddigan, [ncaddigan@hplct.org](mailto:ncaddigan@hplct.org) or 860-695-6316

## **What's expected?**

Cultural Navigators and their families are required to meet on site at the Hartford Public Library at least 3 hours per week over a 12-week period.

## **When will I meet the family?**

Once you have successfully completed Steps 1 to 5, you will be matched with your family based on multiple criteria that may include shared interests, common linguistic backgrounds, career aspirations etc.

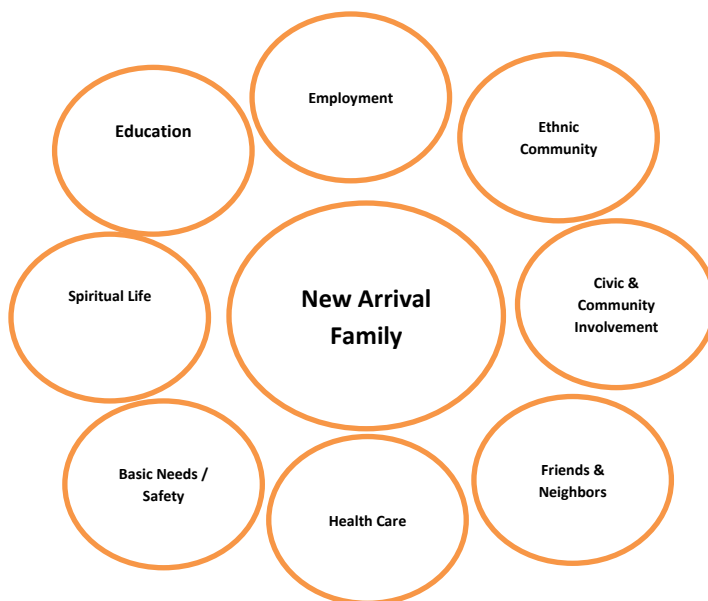
## **Why Hartford Public Library?**

- A centrally-located meeting place for individuals and groups interested in education, resources and camaraderie
- A neutral setting offering space for exchanges of differing views, opinions and ideas
- A rich collection of print, audio, video and online resources including multicultural and multilingual materials
- A proven track record addressing the needs of immigrant communities
- A welcoming venue for cost-free multicultural and family-centered events

## **What types of activities will the family and I get involved in at the Library?**

A number of onsite multicultural and educational events are scheduled daily,

A range of resources are available that you and parents may co-access to help families better navigate barriers they might be encountering in an aspect(s) of daily living as illustrated here:



*\*As the relationship strengthens, Cultural Navigators and families may wish to attend a concert at Bushnell Park, take a tour of a nearby campus, visit the Old State House or explore a local food market.*