



PRESS RELEASE

Hartford Public Library Receives Grant from The Cigna Group Health Equity Impact Fund to Advance Health Equity

(HARTFORD, CT) July 2025 – Hartford Public Library (HPL) has been awarded a grant of \$198,476 from The Cigna Group Foundation, the philanthropic arm of The Cigna Group (NYSE: CI), through its Health Equity Impact Fund. The grant will aim to increase access to transportation for customers to attend health and wellness appointments.

The primary objective of this program is to increase access to transportation and reduce the barriers of cost, reliability, and limited routes for Hartford residents. HPL will implement a transportation program that allows customers to connect with a social worker and outreach worker at the Library to coordinate free transportation to health and wellness visits. HPL is hiring a part-time outreach staff member to join its social services team, funded by the Health Equity Impact Fund. This part-time staff person helps coordinate access to transportation for health visits, creates a list of physical activities that customers can attend, and provides access to transportation.

“Thanks to The Cigna Group Foundation, we will be able to provide free access to health and wellness appointments for Hartford residents,” said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO. “Our efforts aim to address health equity through free transportation to those who need it. We are grateful for the health equity grant from The Cigna Group Foundation to support our strategic plan and vision of strengthening and expanding our free resources.”

“To reduce health disparities and target the root causes, we need strong partnerships with local nonprofit organizations committed to ensuring positive health outcomes for all people, especially those who are underserved,” said Melissa Skottegaard, board chair, The Cigna Group Foundation. “This work includes expanding access to key resources, including transportation. We are privileged to partner with Hartford Public Library to enable their efforts to bring about equitable outcomes in the communities we both serve.”

The Cigna Group Health Equity Impact Fund is focused on specific geographies where health inequities are significant, and will work collaboratively to support, convene, and collaborate with nonprofit organizations serving local community members. The fund operates on a hyper-local level in select U.S. cities, starting with Hartford, CT, and Houston, TX. The first grantee cohort will receive a total of \$3 million across the two cities.

The Cigna Group Foundation has a long history of impactful partnerships with nonprofits, and in 2024 announced [a philanthropic and community engagement initiative](#) committing more than \$27 million in grants over three years to nonprofit organizations focused on improving youth mental health, improving

veteran mental health, and reducing barriers to health equity. The Health Equity Impact Fund is part of these grants.

More information on The Cigna Group Health Equity Impact Fund can be found [here](#). Additional details about Hartford Public Library programs can be found at <https://www.hplct.org/>.

About Hartford Public Library

Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library (HPL) has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. The Library has seven full-service locations, two Boundless Library locations, and multiple outreach services, including the Library on Wheels and Story Stash, a 24/7 pickup locker. HPL provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults. HPL has gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance, and youth leadership training. For more information, visit hplct.org, and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Bluesky](#)).

About The Cigna Group

The Cigna Group (NYSE:CI) is a global health company committed to creating a better future built on the vitality of every individual and every community. We relentlessly challenge ourselves to partner and innovate solutions for better health. The Cigna Group includes products and services marketed under Cigna Healthcare, Evernorth Health Services or its subsidiaries. The Cigna Group maintains sales capabilities in more than 30 countries and jurisdictions and has more than 186 million customer relationships around the world. Learn more at thecignagroup.com.

About The Cigna Group Foundation

The Cigna Group Foundation is a private foundation funded by contributions from The Cigna Group (NYSE:CI) and its subsidiaries. The Cigna Group Foundation aims to support, collaborate, and convene with nonprofit organizations addressing society's greatest health challenges. In addition to increasing access to programs and care in geographies demonstrating significant need, the Foundation responds with humanitarian aid relief during critical times and strengthens colleagues' support of causes through matching donations and volunteer rewards. To learn more, visit www.thecignagroup.com/community.

Media Contact

Jessica Emonds
Communications and Marketing Director
Hartford Public Library
[jemonds@hplct.org](mailto:jemonsd@hplct.org)
860.559.4873

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