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**Hartford Public Library Receives Grant to Support Financial Literacy Initiative**

**Hartford, Connecticut (February 4, 2013)** — Hartford Public Library announced today that the Library has received a grant of \$99,980 from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association (ALA) as part of the Smart investing@your library® initiative. Hartford Public Library was one of fourteen libraries chosen through a competitive process to provide effective, unbiased financial and investor education to the community. Now in its sixth year, the program has awarded a total of \$7 million to public libraries and library networks nationwide.

With the funding, Hartford Public Library will offer a series of financial literacy workshops for families with children and for young adults in high school and college. Workshop participants will build their knowledge and skills related to budgeting, credit, paying for college, buying a new vehicle, purchasing a first home, planning for future financial needs and the basics of investing. The library is partnering with the University of Hartford, to provide faculty and supervised graduate students to serve as workshop instructors. Capital Community College will host selected workshops for young adults, including its own students and students from area high schools.

“Smart investing@your library® is an incredible program that has brought innovative library services and resources to libraries nationwide,” said ALA President Maureen Sullivan. “Through this partnership, ALA and the FINRA Foundation are transforming libraries into reliable, unbiased resources for financial information and education, and consequently are transforming the communities these libraries serve.”

Corey Fleming, senior public services manager, and Ann Binder, branch manager, will lead the project for the Library. “This is great news for our City and we are honored that the FINRA Foundation and ALA has chosen our Library for this grant,” said Matt Poland, the Library’s chief executive officer. “We are excited about the work that we will do with our partners to ensure that families have the information to manage their financial resources in these challenging times.”

“The libraries participating in this grant program make reliable financial information and education readily accessible in their communities,” said Gerri Walsh, President of the FINRA Foundation. “They are paying close attention to their communities’ needs and aspirations, and are responding in creative, sustainable ways to help residents achieve financial goals for themselves and their families.”

### **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 865,000 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. [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

### **About FINRA Foundation**

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation supports innovative research and educational projects that give underserved Americans the knowledge, skills and tools necessary for financial success throughout life. For details about grant programs and other FINRA Foundation initiatives, visit [www.finrafoundation.org](http://www.finrafoundation.org).

### **About Smartinvesting@yourlibrary**

Smart investing@your library® is a partnership between the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. The program supports public libraries and community college libraries across the country in their efforts to meet financial education needs at the local level. Visit <http://smartinvesting.ala.org> for details.