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Hartford Public Library Awarded Grant to Increase Voter Engagement in Latino Community

Hartford, Connecticut (June 19, 2012) – Hartford Public Library has been awarded a \$35,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Connecticut State Library for the project *Increasing Voter Engagement in Hartford's Latino Community*. The one-year project will begin July 1, 2012. The project will include a variety of voter education, voter registration, and voter information activities.

Matthew K. Poland, CEO of HPL, said, "Latinos make up nearly half the population of Hartford, but historically voter engagement in this community has been low. This project will focus on increasing voter engagement so that the Latino community has a greater voice in the life of the city and their own. We are very grateful to the State Library for supporting the project."

Voter engagement is vital for a thriving democracy. Public libraries play an essential role in voter engagement. Hartford Public Library is ideally suited to launch this initiative due to its track record and the leadership role it has played in the Hartford Votes~Hartford Vota Coalition, which includes a total of fourteen non-partisan organizations devoted to increasing voter engagement.

State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin said, "The Connecticut State Library is happy to partner with Hartford Public Library. Since 2001, we have allocated over \$325,000 to HPL for a variety of important community programs that have a positive impact on patrons. From teaching children to read to providing older adults with creative arts opportunities to enabling persons with disabilities access to important cultural resources, this funding has helped so many people. I feel that this project too will be a big success."

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 and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org