



PRESS RELEASE

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NHFPL Augments Outreach to Residents in Need of Basic Services

NEW HAVEN – A Community Engagement Award from the National Network of Library of Medicine (NNLM) will allow the New Haven Free Public Library to expand its successful partnership with Liberty Community Services beyond Ives Main Library to the Fair Haven and Wilson Branch Libraries starting this winter. The *All of Us* grant effectively doubles the hours of LCS counselors on-site at NHFPL locations and also provides funds to augment the library's print collections on health and wellness in English and Spanish. The goal of the NNLM grant is to strengthen health literacy and increase access to high-quality free health resources in partnership with public libraries.

Integral to the NNLM grant, LCS staff members inform their library clients about **MedlinePlus.gov**—a freely available federal government website that aims to provide “information on health conditions, wellness issues and more in easy-to-read language.” The NNLM promotes public libraries vital role as trusted sources of health and wellness information in the community.

Building towards that trust, NHFPL continues to foster its successful partnership with LCS, now in its sixth year. LCS offers one-on-one consultations at Ives Main Library for those with basic needs (jobs, food, shelter, and health and wellness issues), conducting 976 appointments and serving 563 individuals in 2018.

City Librarian Martha Brogan praised the NHFPL and LCS collaboration, asserting that “NHFPL and LCS will continue to seek stable funding sources to sustain their productive partnership and to extend services to all five locations.”

This fall LCS and NHFPL forged a new partnership with Southern Connecticut State University's Master of Social Work program, whereby trained graduate interns carry out their field education work at Ives Main Library. The library case managers are trained by LCS to use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and are credentialed to conduct emergency Coordinated Access Network (CAN) assessments. With the support of NNLM, this program expanded to Fair Haven and Wilson Branch Libraries starting in January.

Liberty Community Services Hours at NHFPL:

Ives Main Library

- **Mondays to Fridays, 11 am – 3 pm** (*last appointment at 2:30 pm*)
- **Saturdays, 11 am – 1 pm** (*last appointment at 12:30 pm*)

Fair Haven Branch Library

- **Thursdays, 5 – 7 pm**
- **Alternating Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm** (*February 9, 23; March: 9, 23; April: 6*)

Wilson Branch Library

- **Tuesdays, 5 – 7 pm**
- **Alternating Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm** (*February: 2; March: 2, 16, 30; April: 13, 27*)

This project has been funded in whole or in part with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, under Cooperative Agreement UG4LM012347-01 with the University of Massachusetts. Worcester. For more information about the NNLM please visit their website: <https://nnlm.gov/ner>

About Liberty Community Services

Liberty Community Services' mission is to end homelessness in Greater New Haven. We offer services to homeless individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/or addiction.

About National Network of Libraries of Medicine

The mission of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by providing all U.S. health professionals with equal access to biomedical information and improving the public's access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health. The Program is coordinated by the National Library of Medicine and carried out through a nationwide network of health science libraries and information centers.

About the New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library welcomes more than 500,000 library users through its doors each year, realizing its mission of fostering lifelong learning, inspiring curiosity, and building community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, 24/7 online services, the Readmobile bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and four neighborhood libraries: Fair Haven, Mitchell, Stetson and Wilson. Now and tomorrow, the New Haven Free Public Library will transform lives and contribute to creating a strong, resilient, and informed community where everyone can thrive. For more information, visit nhfpl.org.

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