



**Hartford Foundation**  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

*Greater  
Hartford's  
community  
foundation  
since 1925*



## **Hartford Foundation Grant to RE!NSTITUTE Will Support Students Experiencing Homelessness**

During the 2023-24 school year, more than 5,600 Connecticut public school students experienced homelessness, an increase of 63% since 2021. This poses significant educational challenges for both students and educators, and exacerbates existing disparities in our community.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded **a new one-year, \$142,725 grant to the nonprofit RE!NSTITUTE** to lead a planning effort designed to support the Greater Hartford region's education and homeless response system. This grant will allow RE!NSTITUTE to leverage services and expertise of Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network (CAN) to connect more students and families to housing and employment services. CAN's coverage area includes 17 school districts, or 10% of the state's public school districts, with nearly

900 students experiencing homelessness.

The grant was made in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Education and aligns with the Hartford Foundation's strategic priority of [increasing stable education and employment opportunities](#) for Black and Latine adults and youth in our region who face barriers to employment.

“The Hartford Foundation remains committed to ensuring that all students can reach their full potential,” said Hartford Foundation President and CEO Jay Williams. “By building on the work that local school districts and community providers are already doing, we can ensure that students and their families have access to stable, secure housing and young people can focus on being successful in the classroom.”

### Read More

- [Hartford Foundation awards grant to ReInstitute to combat homelessness in the Hartford area \(CT Insider\)](#)
  - [Thousands of kids experience homelessness in CT. A regional foundation is trying to end that. \(\*Hartford Courant\*\)](#)
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### Video: Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford

For over 50 years, **Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford (LVGH)** has lived its mission to empower adults to read, learn, work, and grow. What began as a

small, volunteer-run tutoring service has grown into an organization that now serves more than 600 adults annually.

LVGH specializes in supporting low-literate adults through a student-centered model of small-group instruction, led by trained staff and dedicated volunteers. Core programs include English for Speakers of Other Languages and Basic Literacy for native English speakers. Additional offerings include digital literacy, math tutoring, GED preparation, citizenship test prep, and a Career Pathways program that helps students find and maintain livable-wage jobs.

The Hartford Foundation has been fortunate to maintain a strong relationship with LVGH for more than four decades, nearly half of our existence. It's these types of deep connections with our nonprofit partners that make our work possible. [Watch our video to learn more about LVGH's mission](#)

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### Video: Celebrating Five Years of the Greater Together Community Funds

The Hartford Foundation's Centennial Anniversary will be a year filled with joyful celebrations and milestone initiatives to support our community. We kicked off our 100th year in January by announcing a [\\$2.9 million investment in our Greater Together Community Funds](#), \$100,000 for each of the 29 towns in our region. Over the past several weeks, we held a series of events across Greater Hartford to celebrate the five year anniversary of the Community Funds. [This video, which was shown at each event, highlights the growth and evolution of the funds since their inception.](#) As of December, the 29 town committees have made **659 individual grants totaling \$2.48 million**. We're thankful for the **700+ volunteers** who have participated in the Community Funds since 2019. Their hard work and dedication is making Greater Hartford a better place to live!

Here are a few photos from our events.





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## Grant Opportunity: Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance Grants

The Hartford Foundation is pleased to announce a competitive **grant opportunity** to support nonprofits as they increase access to emergency services and immediate assistance for the most **basic of human needs for vulnerable residents** in Greater Hartford. Items and services can include food, personal care items, emergency financial aid, or other critical basic needs.

[Visit our Grant Opportunities web page to learn more](#)

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*Maria Amado, center, started the Hartford Family Child Care Educators Community five years ago.*

## Supporting Hartford Family Child Care

Last month, more than 50 educators gathered at the Hartford Foundation to celebrate the **fifth anniversary of the Hartford Family Child Care Educators Community**, an initiative dedicated to supporting family child-care providers. It began when Maria Amado, a family child-care educator, started connecting with others to share knowledge and resources. Since then, she has become a leader in the field, fostering connections with stakeholders and empowering Latine women by offering training, licensing support, and language accessibility to enhance the quality of child care in the community.

According to Hartford Foundation Senior Community Impact Officer Joel Hicks-Rivera, "Maria's ability to connect with other providers and share valuable resources has strengthened the early childhood network in Hartford and beyond. She has created pathways for countless Latine women to thrive as both providers and entrepreneurs."

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## 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford: Kate Emery

Kate Emery is a businesswoman, artist, and advocate. She founded The Walker Group, a technology consulting firm that blends high-tech solutions with a human touch. Kate was inspired by her engineer father and her social worker mother, Hope, who founded a number of nonprofits in Farmington that support nature, the elderly, and children. Kate soon turned a computer recycling initiative into an independent operation. Her passion for social enterprise led her to establish reSET (Social Enterprise Trust), Hartford's social enterprise incubator, aiming to make Connecticut a hub for social entrepreneurship.

In 2014, The Walker Group became the state's first Benefit Corporation, committing a third of its profits to the community. Kate recently transitioned the company into Connecticut's first Perpetual Purpose Trust to ensure its commitment towards a fairer, more sustainable world.

To celebrate the Hartford Foundation's 100th Anniversary, we are sharing 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford on our social media channels throughout the rest of 2025. Follow us on social for more!



Visit our website: [hfpg.org](http://hfpg.org)  
Questions? Email [hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org](mailto:hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org).



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