



For Immediate Release
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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES \$145,000 GRANT FROM GAWLICKI FAMILY FOUNDATION TO EXPAND EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Pilot program will bring literary resources and training on best practices in early literacy to child care providers, families

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Public Library has received a \$145,000 grant from the Gawlicki Family Foundation to expand its Leap Into Learning early literacy program to home child care providers in Hartford neighborhoods.

The new effort, which is being piloted in 2022-23, will bring eight hours of weekly programming per month to eight child care providers in the city. In addition to directly engaging with the children at each site, trained staff will share best practices in early literacy with child care providers and families and provide them with the resources needed to create their own libraries. Families and child care providers will attend Family Literacy Nights at Hartford Public Library locations that will include a meal, storytelling, story reading and take-home books.

“This generous gift will allow us to bring early literacy instruction and resources directly to our city’s children in their neighborhoods as well as sharing best practices to positively impact children’s long-term reading outcomes with parents and caregivers,” said **Hartford Public Library President and CEO Bridget E. Quinn**. “We know reading skills are a key part of kindergarten readiness and look forward to the potential of this new pilot program.”

Leap into Learning is the program of services Hartford Public Library offers for children ages birth through five, along with their parents and caregivers, to ensure all children in Hartford are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

“We are excited to support the Leap Into Learning Day Care Outreach program which will support Hartford’s youngest children on their path to a successful education by developing their critical early reading skills,” said **Mary and Ted Gawlicki, co-founders of the Gawlicki Family Foundation**.

Hartford Public Library will soon be recruiting a project manager to oversee the new program. Information about the job will be available at www.hplct.org/about/job-openings/job-openings

About Hartford Public Library

Now celebrating its 128th year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also 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. www.hplct.org.