



North Hartford Ascend

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods Grant Program

Community Conversation

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

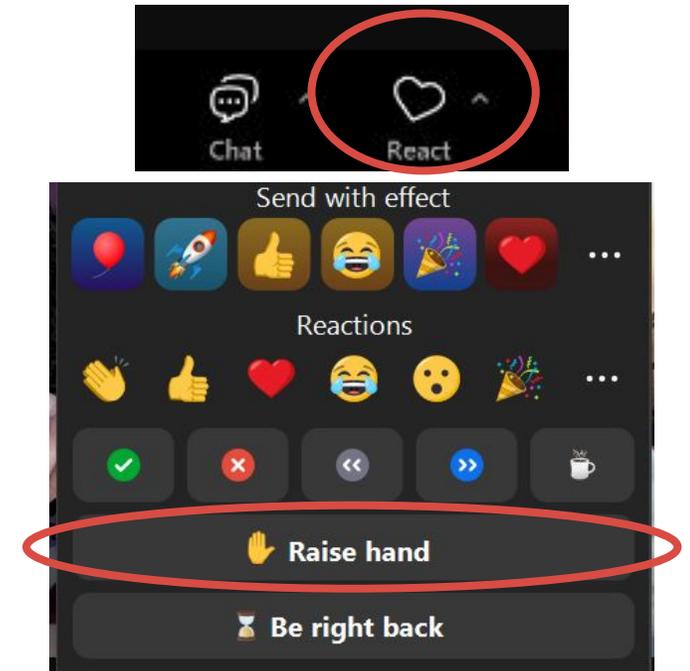


Por favor recuerde seleccionar su lenguaje en el globo de la parte inferior de su pantalla para interpretación Desde su celular, toque los 3 puntos y seleccione su lenguaje.

Please remember to select your language on the globe at the bottom of your screen for simultaneous interpretation. From your cell phone, click the 3 dots and select your language.

Discussion Guidelines

- Everyone deserves to be heard. Listen and respond respectfully.
 - Questions and comments should be added to the chat at any time.
 - Please use the Zoom “raise your hand” feature to speak.
- We are interested in hearing your authentic thoughts—please do not use AI or ChatGPT to respond to questions.
- Let’s stay on topic— time is limited, so let’s value each other’s time.
- Successful dialogue is the responsibility of all participants.



Incentive Available to Hartford Residents

Survey available after the conversation. You may be contacted to verify your residency.

Let us know in the chat:

Why are you attending today's meeting?

Agenda



- Welcome & Guidelines
- Ascend Overview
- Featured Presenter and Topic: Mental Health with Wheeler Clinic & InterCommunity
- Discussion
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks
- **Next Meeting: Saturday, June 28th at Artists Collective**

North Hartford Ascend: Overview



Connect children and families, prenatal through career, living in the **North Hartford Promise Zone** to the programs, services and other resources they need to **reach their full potential.**

Department of Education (DOE): Promise Neighborhoods Program



Overview

- **Purpose:**

Significantly improve the academic and developmental outcomes of children living in the most distressed communities of the United States, including ensuring school readiness, high school graduation, and access to a community-based continuum of high quality services

- **Strategy:**

Create a pipeline of services – a continuum of supports, services, and opportunities for children from birth through entry into and success in postsecondary education and career attainment.

- **Project Period:**

January 2022 – December 2026

DOE Promise Neighborhoods Program Results



Students

Enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.

Are proficient in Math and English Language Arts.

Successfully transition from middle to high school.

Graduate from high school.

Obtain post-secondary degrees, certifications, or credentials.

Are supported by families and communities in their learning.

Are healthy.

Feel safe at school and in the community.

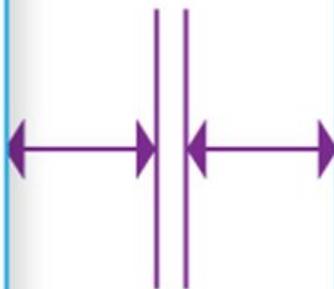
Live in stable communities.

Have access to 21st century learning tools.

Current State

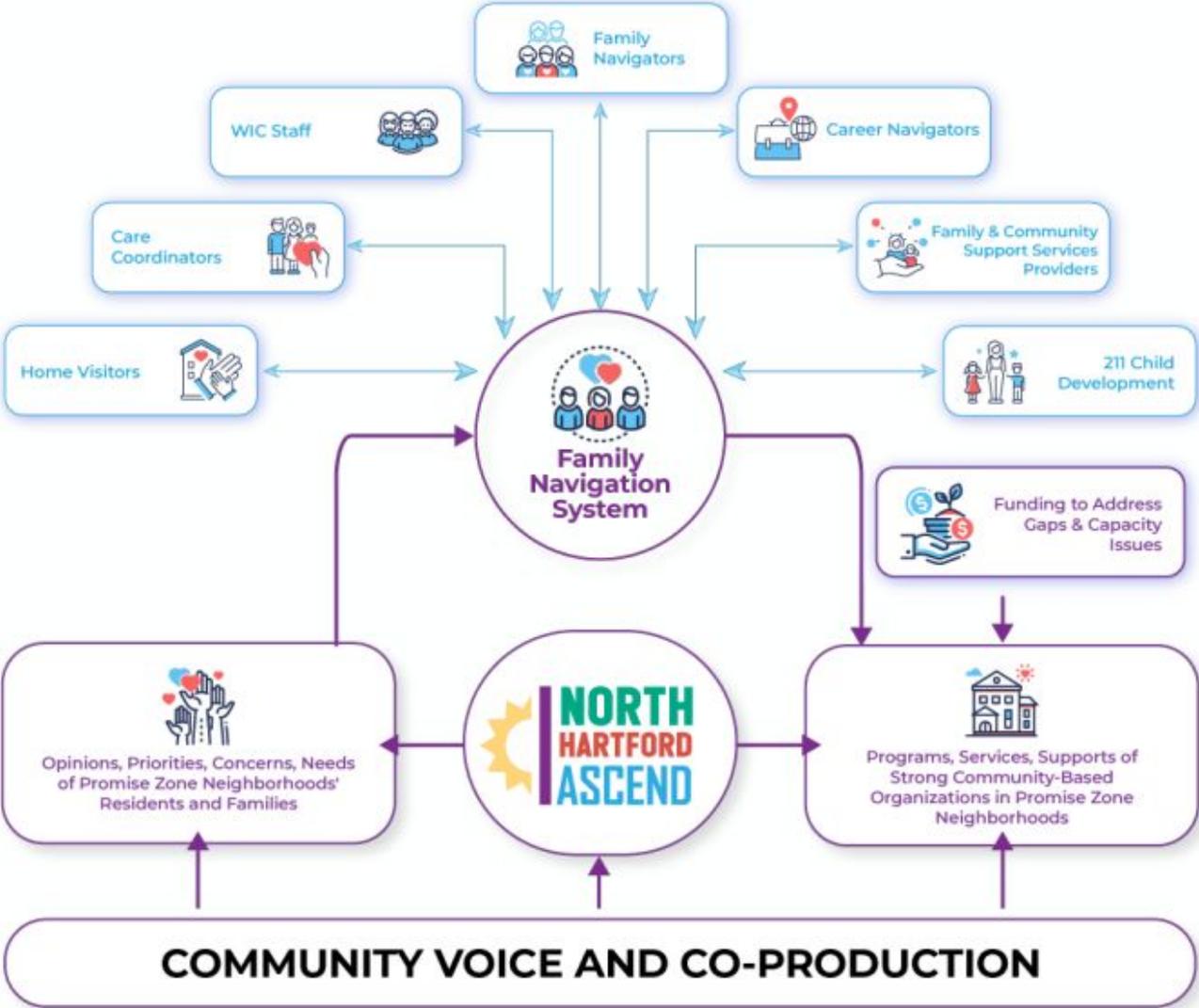


Opinions, Priorities,
Concerns, Needs of Promise
Zone Neighborhoods'
Residents and Families



Strong Array of Programs,
Services, Supports of Community-
Based Organizations in Promise
Zone Neighborhoods

Ideal State-Ascend System Building



Ascend & Community Updates

Ascend & Community Updates



Community Events:

- Link in Chat: [Upcoming Community Event Flyers](#)
- Share other community events that are happening in the chat!

Ascend Community Fair



NORTH HARTFORD ASCEND

(Parking Lot)
Artist Collective
1200 Albany Ave, Hartford, CT

JUNE 28TH
2PM - 4PM

North Hartford Ascend
COMMUNITY FAIR
Get to know Ascend!

Scan the QR CODE to Register

Food Entertainment Activities Networking

Please Join Us for the Ascend Community Fair!
Bring your family, neighbors, and sense of community to The Artist Collective for a lively afternoon! Meet and greet with Ascend partners, learn how to get connected to Ascend, and enjoy free food, entertainment, and a variety of fun activities for everyone.

www.NorthHartfordAscend.org

Please join us!

- BBQ & Ice Cream
- Face Painting & Balloon Artists
- Live DJ
- Info & Resources for Your Family from North Hartford Providers
- And more!

[Registration](#)



Featured Presenter and Topic
Mental Health Resources
Wheeler Clinic - Melissa Mendez
InterCommunity - Tyler Booth



Wheeler Behavioral Health Services

Children & Youth

Melissa Mendez, LCSW

Senior Director / Community, Crisis, and Prevention

mmendez@wheelerhealth.org / 860-793-4454



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

Access to ANY behavioral health service at
Wheeler can start with a call to the
Navigation Center:

860-793-3500



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

Outpatient services for children & youth are available at 43 Woodland Street

Other services available at 43 Woodland:

- Pediatric primary care – well child visits, immunizations, comprehensive pediatric care
- Dental care and coordination for whole family
- Substance use treatment and care
- Many groups for a variety of targeted needs



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

Access to any of the home-based services for children and youth **and their families** can also be through the Navigation Center / **860-793-3500**

This includes evidence-based in-home models like:

- Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)
- IICAPS
- Multisystemic Family Therapy (MST)
- And other in-home programs that are supported by DCF and CSSD



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

Mobile Crisis Services

We are the state's largest provider of mobile crisis services for children and adolescents, particularly in Central Connecticut.

If you know a child/youth is in crisis, please call 211.



Wheeler

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Specific services for children 0-5:

All pediatric patients at Family Health and Wellness sites receive HealthySteps services which includes:

- Developmental screening and assessment, referral and linkage to identified services (B-3, preschool special education, basic needs/resources)
- Family screenings that focus on SDOH factors
- Parent mental health screenings and linkage to needed services
- Consultation and follow-up support from our HealthySteps Specialists (we have three full time Child Development/HealthySteps Specialists on site)
- Linkage to our Parent Connections team if needed...



Wheeler

COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

Parent Connections

Specifically designed for children ages 0-5 and their families who have need for support in navigating the early intervention (Birth to Three) or Preschool Special Education systems. Families get help with:

- Understanding the process for child evaluation and assessment
- Linking to EI/preschool special education services
- Knowing their rights
- Understanding IEPs, PPTs, and other relevant meetings and processes
- Identifying and linking to any other services they may need to support their child's development trajectory



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

InterCommunity: Whole Person Healthcare for the Whole Family

*Providing the highest
quality care to
Hartford's North End
and beyond*





For more than 50 years InterCommunity (IC) has been providing care in the Northeast Neighborhood. We began in two basements (one of a hospital on Vine Street, the other in a church in Glastonbury) with a simple idea as our foundation, we believe that everyone deserves the highest quality healthcare. Over the years we have expanded the types of services that we provide and now serve nearly 10,000 people each year across more than 20 locations. Still our commitment to our community has been unwavering; we have been providing health care to the citizens of Hartford continuously on the Vine/Holcomb & Coventry Campus since 1973.

Why Our Care Matters :

The health disparities our community faces are staggering. People who live in our community:

- Have a 12-year lower life expectancy than other towns, Northeast Hartford life expectancy is only 68.9 years
- Are less likely to graduate high school than our state average
- Are more likely to be living with HIV/AIDS, the City of Hartford has the highest positivity in the state
- Live in cost-burden households (meaning at least 30% of their annual income is spent on housing) at a rate of 53%
- Live at a high risk of gun violence, in 2022 Hartford recorded the highest number of homicides in nearly two decades and 136 non-fatal shootings
- Experience significant economic and food hardships, two in five depend on SNAP benefits
- Largely (54%) live below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Are more likely to have diabetes and asthma (40% and 10.8% respectively) than the state average

At IC, we understand that sickness, emotional struggles, addiction, and social determinants of health impact the entire family. We strive to provide a safe and non-judgmental place of support and healing for everyone.

IC Quick Facts:

- InterCommunity is the only dually designated Federally Qualified Health Center and Certified Community Behavioral Health Center in Connecticut
- We provide care at our three whole person health clinics (located in Hartford, East Hartford, and South Windsor), eleven School Based Health Centers (located in East Hartford and Manchester), and eight residential treatment facilities (located in Hartford, East Hartford, and Glastonbury)
- All services are provided regardless of ability to pay, health issue, town of residence, history, or legal status
- All clinic locations offer same day access to services. Our Hartford clinic offers walk-in assessments for adults weekdays from 8am – 3pm and weekdays by appointment for children
- Last year, we provided 18,000 services at our whole person health clinic, located at 40 Coventry Street
- 88% of those seeking services at our Hartford clinic, and 25% of our clinic staff, live in Hartford
- IC's Hartford Clinic is also Hartford's Transitions Clinic, providing culturally competent care for individuals involved with the judicial system
- Our treatment centers are accredited by the Joint Commission and are certified as Person Centered Medical Homes
- A \$44 million-dollar not for profit, IC is one of the 10 largest healthcare providers in Hartford
- IC serve the most medically complex patients in the state; IC patients score an average acuity rate of 3.21 which is three times greater than the national average.



- IC's withdrawal management (located at 500 Blue Hills Ave) is the most effective opioid withdrawal management in the state, boasting the highest MOUD induction rate and 0 opioid overdoses for recent graduates of our in-patient program
- As part of IC's clinic services, we provide care coordination, walk-in care management / system navigation support, regional transportation, assistance with SNAP and health insurance enrolment. Furthermore, we provide multiple levels of residential treatment and community-based services including employment services, legal diversion, mobile clinic, education, and other related services.

IC Services

- Individual and Group Mental Health Counseling
- Psychiatry
- Child, Adolescent, and Family Therapy
- Crisis Assessment and Stabilization
- Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
- Judicial Services (Diversion, CSSD, Re-entry)
- Care Coordination
- Mental Health First Aid
- Young Adult Services
- Employment Services
- Peer and Recovery Supports
- ABI/TBI and Nursing home Diversion
- ACT and BHH
- Common Ground Learning Center
- Withdrawal Management (3.7 Detox)
- Intensive Addiction Stabilization (3.7)
- Co-Occurring Enhanced (3.5E)
- Intermediate Addiction Recovery (3.5)
- Coventry House for Women & Children (3.5PPW)
- Clayton House (3.1)
- Recovery House
- RESET Young Adults Program
- Community Foundations

- Complete Physical Exams
- Sick and Well Visits
- Gynecology exams
- Point of Care Testing and Lab work
- Behavioral Assessments
- Medication management
- Injuries
- Asthma
- Rashes Vision and Hearing Screenings
- Hepatitis & HIV Testing and Treatment
- Nutrition Counseling
- MOUD/MAUD/MAT for Addiction
- Back-to-School and Sports Physicals
- Medication Management
- Patient Education and Materials
- Specialty Referrals
- Chronic Disease Management
- Transitions Clinic
- Immunizations including the Vaccines for Children Program
- Fluoride Treatments for Children under 6 years old
- On-site Pharmacy
- And Much More





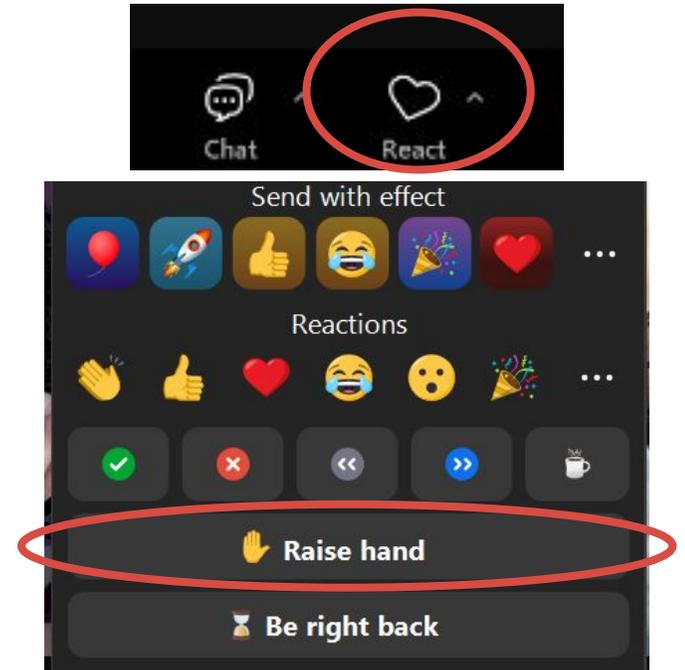
As a part of, and a partner with, the City of Hartford, we are dedicated to improving care for Hartford residents. Since 1993 InterCommunity has invested over \$12 million to make improvements to our campus and buildings at 56, 46, and 40 Coventry Street. Most recently these have included the addition of a sidewalk that connects our buildings to the Coventry St. bus stop for the #46 and doubling the size of our Hartford Clinic. This year we will also be repaving and improving the lighting of the parking lot and other completing other beautification activities to our campus.

Health Care for the Whole Person is not just our tagline; it is the cornerstone of everything we do. Multidisciplinary Care Teams work with you to identify and overcome your health challenges. Care is a combination of evidence based and nationally recognized innovative and client-centered supports. Recent examples include EOP (modifying the traditional Intensive Outpatient Program for addiction to better suit client's work/childcare demands), Stimulant Withdrawal Management and Micro-dosing (to best support overcoming fentanyl addiction), and the creation of The Gallery at InterCommunity Health Care (East Hartford's only art gallery, providing free access to the healing powers of museum quality art). At InterCommunity, we've changed the meaning of care. And Caring. **Learn more by calling 860-569-5900, visiting us at InterCommunityCT.org, or stopping by one of our locations.**

***Our mission:** InterCommunity inspires hope and promotes whole-person health by providing high-quality, affordable, compassionate healthcare for everyone.*

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Discussion Questions



- What mental health supports do you think are most needed in your neighborhood?
- What are the biggest barriers to accessing mental health resources?
- How can we increase awareness of mental health services within the community?

Thank You!



- **Next Conversation:**

- **Saturday, June 28th, 2025 from 2pm-4pm at Artists Collective**

- Please take the Post Meeting Feedback & Incentive Survey to share your thoughts and feedback and access the incentive for Hartford residents. Use the QR code, or visit the link sent out via email following the meeting. Contact Ally McGinty at amcginty@unitedwayinc.org with any questions.
- Feedback or questions? Contact nhap@connecticutchildrens.org or share your thoughts in the open Community Feedback and Ideas Form at any time.

Feedback & Incentive

