

FUTURE OF QUALITY CHILD CARE IN CONNECTICUT GETS BOOST THROUGH NEW SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE FACILITIES PROGRAM

Children's Investment Partnership will help address state's need for 13,000 new child care spaces

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HARTFORD (May 24, 2007) – In a unique partnership, five community foundations in Connecticut – those based in Hartford, Waterbury, Fairfield County, New Haven and New Britain – have come together with the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund to support an ambitious plan to develop new early care and education centers in some of the state's most economically distressed areas.

The foundations have committed \$190,000 to the Children's Investment Partnership (CIP), which it will use to deliver the financial and technical assistance services child care programs need to successfully plan and build or renovate preschool facilities.

Playing a lead role in funding this five-year push to build more early care centers is CIP's lead funder, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund is providing CIP with \$800,000 for a capital pool and \$375,000 in operating grants.

CIP's foundation-backed program is designed to buttress Governor M. Jodi Rell's drive to overcome a shortage of preschool classrooms for nearly 13,000 children, as cited in the Governor's Early Childhood Cabinet's report *Ready by 5, Fine by 9*. In 2006 CIP received a \$100,000 grant from the State Department of Education to serve as a statewide facilities technical assistance provider. Combined, these public and private funds support CIP's ability to help child care organizations take advantage of facilities bond financing available through the Tax Exempt Loan Program administered by the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) and the state's Department of Social Services (DSS).

"This initiative dovetails perfectly with our efforts to expand access to early childhood education across Connecticut" said Representative Andrew Fleischmann (D – West Hartford), House Chairman of the Education Committee. "Working together, CIP and the State of Connecticut will greatly improve education – and life chances – for countless young children," he added.

In addition to increasing the supply of preschool facilities for low-income children as Connecticut's School Readiness Program expands to serve more 3- and 4-year-old children, the overall effort strives to create high quality physical environments that research has shown to produce positive development outcomes for children.

Since its creation five years ago, CIP, a program of the national Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), has provided \$1.2 million in grants and loans to support the development and improvement of 27 Connecticut child care facilities to house nearly 6,000 children. Another 40 potential projects have received CIP's training and technical support.

“There is a lot to be excited about in the pending state budget. The expanding private commitment and the willingness of community foundations to work as a team and to partner with public investment is exciting and the wave of the future,” said David Nee, Executive Director of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. “Early care and education demands the intellectual and financial resources of government, philanthropy and business to embrace all of the families who need a little help to have their children to be ready to succeed in school.”

The community foundations supporting CIP include the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (\$75,000 over three years); the Connecticut Community Foundation (\$50,000 over three years); the Fairfield County Community Foundation (\$30,000 over one year); the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (\$25,000 over one year); and the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain (\$10,000 over one year).

The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, a family foundation based in Hamden, helped found CIP five years ago with a \$500,000 start-up grant and a \$1 million loan. The success of that initial round of funding and the State of Connecticut's continued push to finance new facilities was instrumental in the decision of the community foundation to fund the next phase of CIP's growth.

“This is quite a remarkable achievement,” noted Nancy Roberts, President of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy. “The community foundations are local institutions: There are few instances that present the kind of common opportunity that this one has for so many of them to back a shared project with so much promise, and they have moved swiftly to make the most of this opportunity.”

About LISC

LISC combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help community-based organizations revitalize underserved neighborhoods. Since 1980, LISC has raised more than \$7.8 billion to build or rehabilitate more than 215,000 affordable homes and develop 30 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide. LISC's national child care facilities initiative works with child care providers and nonprofit groups to develop and improve child care facilities throughout the country. It also coordinates with policy makers in many states to craft an organized approach to the development of well-designed child care centers as a way to revitalize communities and provide higher-quality care for the children who live in them. For more information, visit www.lisc.org.

Sample List of Projects Assisted by CIP

New Neighborhoods, Inc.	Stamford
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA	Bridgeport
Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center of Greater Waterbury	Waterbury
Waterbury Hospital Children's Center	Waterbury
Waterbury YMCA	Waterbury
Southfield Children's Center	Newington
Catholic Charities	Hartford
Our Piece of the Pie	Hartford
Women's League Child Development Center	Hartford
St. Joseph College/Asylum Hill	Hartford
Silva's Youth of Today	E. Hartford
LULAC Head Start	New Haven
Guilford Center for Children	Guilford
Good Shepherd Services	Milford
Human Resources Agency of New Britain	New Britain