



For Immediate Release

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**Hartford Hospital Receives Grant –
*Support for Training First Responders in Mass Casualty Events***

(Hartford, CT) – Hartford Hospital has been awarded a \$143,800 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) to support the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI). This grant will assist CESI in training first responders to more successfully treat victims in mass casualty and active shooter events.

The grant will help bridge the gap between medicine and law enforcement by providing the right education, techniques and training, making officers feel confident and comfortable in administering simple, basic clinical skills like bleeding control, skills that can play a major role in saving lives. It's called, "*The SWAT Challenge.*"

Officers take part in classroom instruction and hands-on tactical training in advanced trauma concepts, essential in saving lives in a mass casualty incident.

During the SWAT Challenge, a physician from emergency medicine at Hartford Hospital and four education specialists from CESI facilitate the mass casualty scenario, training officers how to offer life-saving medical support and care for those critically injured. Officers are put to the test in how to apply a tourniquet, CPR training, patient assessment, treatment, and transportation of victims.

"We are extremely grateful to CHEFA for awarding us this Targeted Investment grant. Hartford Hospital was one of two recipients in this highly competitive program. The grant allows our highly-skilled staff to continue training first

responders so that we can be better prepared in the event of a mass casualty event,” said Stuart Markowitz, M.D., senior vice president, Hartford HealthCare & president, Hartford HealthCare Hartford Region. “We are strong believers in coordinated care from the scene to the trauma room, and it begins with first responders who can provide the critical care on the front lines.”

Following the tragedy at Sandy Hook, representatives from a select group of public safety organizations including law enforcement, fire, pre-hospital care, trauma care, and the military convened in Hartford, CT, to develop better strategies to increase survivability in mass-casualty shootings. The group agreed that better controlling blood loss and better training of first responders would save lives. The concept became known as the “Hartford Consensus,” and was the impetus behind training police to treat victims. The Hartford Consensus was led by Lenworth Jacobs, M.D., vice president of Academic Affairs and chief academic officer at Hartford Hospital.

In July 2013, the first training session took place in the simulation lab at Hartford Hospital. Since its inception, there have been six training sessions that helped to train 175 officers from 63 state agencies.

About CHEFA

CHEFA is a quasi-public agency created by the State Legislature to help Connecticut healthcare and educational institutions, and other not-for-profit entities obtain tax exempt financing. CHEFA is self-sustaining and receives no taxpayer funds. For more information about CHEFA, visit www.chefa.com.

About Hartford Hospital

Hartford Hospital, founded in 1854, is one of the largest teaching hospitals and tertiary care centers in New England with one of the region's busiest surgery practices. It is annually ranked among America's Best Hospitals by US News & World Report and has been recognized nationally for the quality of many of its programs, including cardiology, cancer, stroke and joint and spine care. The 867-bed regional referral center provides high-quality care in all clinical disciplines. Among its divisions is The Institute of Living, a 114-bed mental health facility with a national and international reputation of excellence. Jefferson House, a 104-bed long-term care facility, is also a special division of Hartford Hospital. The hospital's major centers of clinical excellence include cardiology, oncology, emergency services and trauma, mental health, women's health, orthopedics, bloodless surgery and advanced organ transplantation. Hartford Hospital owns and operates the state's first air ambulance system, LIFE STAR.