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CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S ASTHMA CENTER LANDS NEW GRANT TO CREATE AN "ASTHMA NEIGHBORHOOD" IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA AND THEIR FAMILIES

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Children's Asthma Center has just received a new grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health to advance asthma care for children.

The \$381,060 grant will enable the Asthma Center to create the Hartford Collaborative for Asthma Equity in Children made up of researchers, families affected by asthma, the faith community, physicians, schools, pharmacies, community organizations and other stakeholders. The Collaborative will create an "asthma neighborhood" to collectively support families by identifying children with asthma who are at high risk for poor outcomes, empowering families through asthma education, and improving care through a new communication and information sharing platform.

The Collaborative will also launch a clinical trial integrating four proven programs into a new model of care for children: the Easy Breathing© program, which is a nationally recognized asthma management program; a school-based asthma management program; a home visitation program adapted to asthma; and the Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes program, which addresses the health and safety needs of children in their home environments.

The work done through this grant will reinforce the hospital's role as a critical community resource known for leveraging existing programs and innovating new solutions to critical contemporary child health issues.

"We are pleased to be one of seven sites that received this planning grant from the NIH," said Dr. Michelle Cloutier, MD, the director of the Connecticut Children's Asthma Center and a professor of pediatrics and medicine at the UConn School of Medicine. "We believe the work done through this grant will improve asthma care for countless children and ultimately decrease asthma-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations and school absences."



If the clinical trial is successful, the Asthma Center plans to apply for an additional grant to launch the program in Hartford and three other communities in Connecticut.

The Easy Breathing© and Healthy Homes programs are part of the Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health.

Interviews with Dr. Cloutier and Collaborative members are available upon request.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center:

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children's hospital serving as the primary teaching hospital for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Named among the best in the nation for two of its pediatric specialties in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Children's Hospitals" rankings, Connecticut Children's is the only free-standing children's hospital in Connecticut that offers comprehensive, world-class health care to children. Our pediatric services are available at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and at Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, with neonatal intensive care units at Hartford Hospital and the University of Connecticut Health Center, along with a state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center, five specialty care centers and 11 other locations across the state. Connecticut Children's has a medical staff of nearly 1,100 practicing in more than 30 specialties.

For more information, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org or connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrens and Twitter at www.twitter.com/ctchildrens.

Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health

Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health serves as a coordinating entity for the Medical Center's community-oriented programs and as an incubator for innovative models that strengthen the community child health system and enhance children's optimal healthy development. The Office currently oversees thirteen community-oriented programs, including the Help Me Grow® (HMG) National Center and Easy Breathing©. Both HMG, which promotes early detection and connection to services for children at risk for developmental and behavioral problems through a centralized telephone access point, and Easy Breathing©, a community-based asthma management program, were piloted in Hartford before being scaled up and adopted in many states. The Office for Community Child Health extends the impact of such innovative programs regionally and nationally through the creation of replicable, evidence-informed models of care. For more information on all of the Office for Community Child Health's programs and services, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health.