

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE PLANNED EECRC ALREADY IS WIDE AND DEEP.

At a time when many families face increasing barriers to housing stability, healthcare access, childcare, employment support, and community connection, the creation of a trusted, collaborative neighborhood hub has the potential to be life-changing. The vision reflects not simply a programmatic response to need. The Earl Exum Community Resource Center represents the kind of transformational, community-rooted investment that cities and neighborhoods across our nation desperately need. What excites me most about this vision is that it recognizes that thriving communities are built not only through services, but also through relationships, partnerships, dignity, and shared belonging.

- Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister & President, Southern New England Conference

Asylum Hill is a special neighborhood -- a true community. And AHCC has always been thoughtful about how to be a good neighbor. The development and launch of the Earl Exum Community Resource Center is such an amazing addition to Asylum Hill. The combination of a gathering place, connection to supportive people and services, and the welcoming church will certainly enhance life on the Hill!

- Beth Bye, Former Commissioner, CT Office of Early Childhood

Through our organizing and ministry, we see every day how hard it is for residents to access the resources they need to survive and to thrive. This project is a faithful response to that reality. By repurposing underutilized space into a welcoming, well-connected service and gathering center, AHCC is living out its mission in a tangible way that will strengthen community and embody God's love in the heart of the city. We are proud to support AHCC's vision for the Earl Exum Community Resource Center as a vital, neighborhood-based hub for Asylum Hill.

- Cori Mackey, Executive Director, Center for Leadership and Justice

When my family and I moved from New York to Hartford, we had limited knowledge of local resources for housing, employment, and healthy, affordable food. We struggled but managed to connect with people and programs that helped us access opportunities, build connections, and successfully navigate a complex system. Today, I am proud to be a homeowner in the neighborhood, but I know many others struggle the way my family once did. For them, and all of us living in the neighborhood, the Earl Exum Community Resource Center will serve as a welcoming one-stop hub where families can access the information, services, and community connections they need to build stability and thrive in Asylum Hill.

- Janine McManhon, Sigourney Street Resident

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The Asylum Hill neighborhood has many social service agencies, yet a significant number of residents—24.4% living below the poverty line and 38.6% relying on SNAP—are unaware of available support. In 2021, we recognized the need for a central hub where residents can meet staff or mentors and access technology for connecting with services, jobs, and court appointments. Access to technology and a one-stop center for information and assistance are essential for low-income residents. AHCC stands out as an effective location for this resource, and the Earl Exum Community Resource Center will meet a critical, longstanding need that will benefit both individuals and the community.

- David MacDonald, Executive Director, Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association

Asylum Hill Congregational Church has always been deeply rooted in community. Its community has many challenges, but they are outnumbered by the partners who are willing to work together to create a brighter future for Asylum Hill's residents. Having the Earl Exum Community Resource Center as a point of connection will help the neighborhood flourish and address diverse needs by meeting residents where they are.

- Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam

Rebekah Castagno, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

We appreciate being at the table throughout the process and imagine many partnership opportunities revealing themselves as we go. Thank you for your vision and commitment to carrying out the plan with excellence.

Kim Staley, Executive VP and Chief of Staff, Capital Workforce Partners:

The vision and focus of the proposed Earl Exum Community Resource Center is both exciting and greatly needed. There are ample opportunities to consider how shared resources from the American Job Center and other CWP-related workforce services could complement the array of services being considered. Capital Workforce Partners' workforce services—including assessments, career and employment services, supportive services, and direct connections to employment opportunities—would strongly align with and enhance the valuable services being considered through the Center, creating a more comprehensive support system for the community.

Julieth Callejas, Executive Director, End Hunger Connecticut:

We have strong interest in exploring how the EECRC could support expanded outreach and engagement in Asylum Hill, particularly related to SNAP awareness, school meals access, and Connecticut Fresh Match. A trusted, centrally located hub could reduce barriers to information and make it easier for residents to connect to existing food assistance programs.

Hector Rivera, President & CEO, Our Piece of the Pie:

I think that this newly developed space provides options for many potential non-profits across the City of Hartford. Spaces of this kind are typically only available in the downtown area. Having this option in the Asylum Hill neighborhood is a great value-add to this community.
