



**MHCI** Mayor's Healthy Communities Initiative  
*A Health Network for Hartford's Uninsured*

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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**MHCI—The Mayor's Healthy Communities Initiative**—is a new Hartford health network designed to better serve the healthcare needs of the city's estimated 30,000+ uninsured residents. The Office of Mayor Eddie Perez is working with the City's major hospitals and clinics to implement the program's three major objectives:

- Create a common, shared Medical Information Database and Patient Membership Card System to better coordinate the healthcare services offered by the City's safety net providers to uninsured patients;
- Provide assigned Patient Navigators who will guide uninsured residents through the healthcare system, including assisting with the enrollment process required to obtain Medicaid insurance assistance, if eligible;
- Offer Medical Interpreters/Cultural Translators to help patients better communicate with their medical caregivers.

The MHCI project team will develop an ongoing assessment process to evaluate the information systems and service procedures. This evaluation will ensure the program's sustainability and guarantee that quality and timely medical services are provided for uninsured Hartford residents.

MHCI will launch this integrated healthcare system on May 1st, 2006. A Patient Navigator will issue a personalized MHCI Identification Card to patients and assign them a permanent "medical home" where they can go to receive treatment. Starting in May, "Cover the Uninsured Week", all Hartford residents that do not have health insurance and wish to visit a doctor will be able to enroll in the MHCI program at the Hispanic Health Council on Main Street in Hartford, or any of the Hartford Health Network Providers—Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Charter Oak Health Centers, and Community Health Services.

MHCI is committed to reducing systemic disparities in existing healthcare by eliminating language and cultural obstacles that often result in inadequate patient treatment. By next September a Medical Interpretation Program will be offered at Capitol Community College. Each participating Hartford Healthcare Provider will be sending a member of their staff for specialized training in this important area. MHCI will be committed to providing improved quality of care for all Hartford's uninsured residents.

**Office of Mayor Eddie Perez, City of Hartford**

**Aetna Foundation • Charter Oak Health Center • Community Health Services • CT Children's Medical Center • Evolution Benefits**

**Hartford Health Disparities Collaborative • Hartford Hospital • Hispanic Health Council • St. Francis Hospital • The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving**