

# Community Support for Families

## ABOUT COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES HARTFORD/MANCHESTER

Community Support for Families is a voluntary, family-driven program designed to assist families in strengthening natural and community support systems to maintain safe and healthy home environments. The program serves families in the Hartford and Manchester area who are referred by the Department of Children and Families. Our staff help identify each family's unique strengths and needs, and assist in overcoming barriers to meeting those needs by:

- Establishing links to community supports and services for food, clothing, shelter, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment, and other services
- Working with families to identify and mobilize natural supports
- Providing information on parenting and child development or other interventions to increase safety for children
- Supporting parents' connections with their child's school community

## OUR APPROACH

The Community Support for Families program utilizes care coordination as a tool for empowering and encouraging families to identify their needs and take the lead role in the development of a plan of care. Program staff meet with the family at times, locations and at the frequency that works best for each family. Our team is also available on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide support.

## PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of this program are to:

- Help families identify and meet basic needs
- Support families' connections to resources in their communities
- Enhance parenting skills
- Strengthen bonds between parents and children

### Program Locations

49 Woodland Street, 2nd Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105

### Referral Source

Connecticut Department of Children and Families

### Funding Source

Connecticut Department of Children and Families

## THE HARTFORD/MANCHESTER

**PROGRAM SERVES FAMILIES IN:** Andover, Bloomfield, Bolton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Enfield, Ellington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Windsor and Windsor Locks

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# COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES STAFF

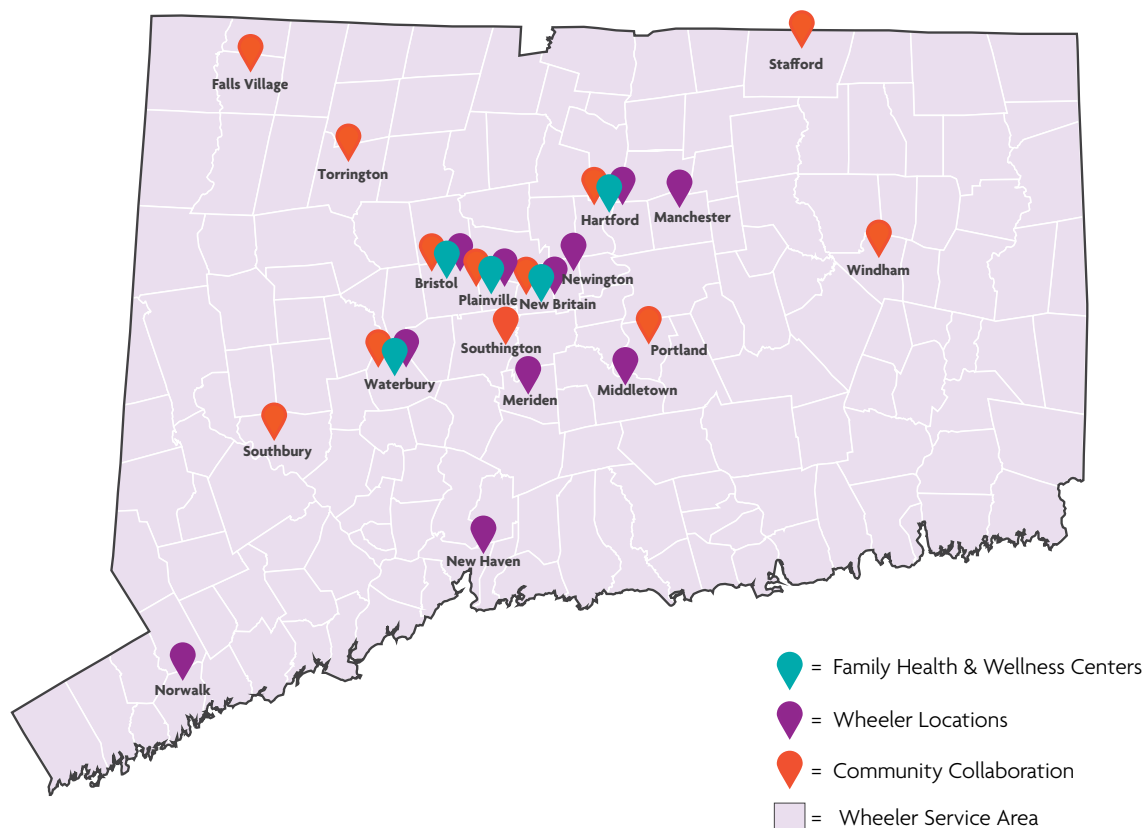
## Community Support Workers

Upon referral to the program, families work closely with a community support worker to build a specific plan of care. The community support worker assesses each family's unique needs, connects them with appropriate community supports and services, and guides families in identifying and mobilizing existing strengths and resources, such as friends, neighbors or extended family. These resources may be asked to participate in regular Child and Family Team meetings to establish ways to be most helpful.

## Parent Navigators

A parent navigator may be assigned to mentor, engage and empower families to take the lead in mobilizing their support systems. Parent navigators work in partnership with community support workers, though are not assigned to work with every family. Parent navigators work with families who could most benefit from additional support and advocacy in the community.

## WHEELER: SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES ACROSS CONNECTICUT:



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