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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES FUNDING FROM HARTFORD  
FOUNDATION FOR CAREER PATHWAYS FOR IMMIGRANTS**

HARTFORD, CT (January 22, 2016) – Hartford Public Library is pleased to announce that it has received a three-year grant of \$165,375, awarded by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, for the Career Pathways Initiative. The Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation has supplemented this award with two additional grants – \$40,000 directed towards staffing and another \$40,000 directed towards programming and adult literacy endeavors.

The three-year grant offers career pathways for immigrants within the food, tourism and hospitality industry by providing training in food preparation and services, as well as job readiness and on-the-job training. The primary goal of the project is to promote economic integration of immigrants through access to entry-level job opportunities as food service workers that will facilitate career advancement and educational attainment.

The Library is the lead agency in a partnership with Hartford Public Schools, Food & Child Nutrition Services, which will provide on-the-job training through its 35 full production school kitchens with the goal of hiring students who successfully complete the program. It will also leverage other Library partnerships such as Capital Workforce Partners' American Job Center at the Downtown Library presently offering career and job placement services.

“We look forward to help immigrants get training to acquire the skills to get into the job market,” says Homa Naficy, Chief Adult Learning Officer of the Hartford Public Library. “We are also interested in increasing awareness of immigrant rights in the workplace – both for the immigrants and their employers.”

**ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 833,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early

literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

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