Press Release
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Community / education partnership led by Clifford Beers to enhance whole-child support at Fair Haven and FAME Schools with new federal grant award

NEW HAVEN, CT -- December 12, 2023 -- On November 28, Clifford Beers Community Care Center was awarded a grant of $2.5M over five years from the United States Department of Education to implement the Full-Service Community Schools model in the Fair Haven neighborhood. Full-service community schools include four pillars: 1) integrated student supports; 2) expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities; 3) active family and community engagement; and 4) collaborative leadership and practices. A new partnership with the New Haven Public Schools and fourteen municipal and community-based agencies, the Grand Avenue Learning Corridor Partnership, will collaborate to provide a continuum of coordinated support services that meet the academic, social, emotional, and health needs of children and families.

The Partnership convenes key organizations serving the Fair Haven neighborhood, including ARTE, Junta for Progressive Action, Catholic Charities of Centro San Jose, the New Haven Free Public Library, Fair Haven Community Health Care, New Haven Federation of Teachers, New Haven Reads, United Way of Greater New Haven, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, City of New Haven Youth and Recreation Department, City of New Haven Elderly Services Department, Dwight Hall at Yale, the City Wide Youth Coalition, and the CT Violence Intervention Program. The work of these partners will focus on:

1) activating schools beyond the school day as youth and family resource spaces;
2) bringing expanded arts, sports, cultural, and other enrichment activities into schools, during and beyond the school day;
3) infusing schools with additional academic interventions and supports; and
4) providing family support services and leadership development opportunities.

A full-time Community School Coordinator and Family Support Care Coordinator at each school will facilitate improved communication and access to this continuum of programs and services.
This Partnership builds upon Clifford Beers’ longstanding, multi-faceted collaboration with the New Haven Public Schools, City of New Haven, and community-based organizations. It also draws from the legacy of the Farnam Community Center, now Clifford Beers’ nursery school and recreation division, in service to Fair Haven youth and families. Clifford Beers currently provides embedded care coordination and clinical services for 24 New Haven Public Schools, as well as Hamden Middle and High Schools, through other state and federally-funded programs.

Melanie Rossacci, Executive Director of Clifford Beers Community Care Center, said that “the Fair Haven neighborhood is an ideal location for full-service community schools because of the wealth of existing family support and youth enrichment programs and services. The extension of our partnership with the New Haven Public Schools to incorporate the full-service community school model will dramatically enhance students’ and families’ access to essential programs and services, while also expanding and enriching opportunities.”

Madeline Negrón, Superintendent of the New Haven Public Schools, added that “we are grateful to have these additional resources reach the Fair Haven community, and we look forward to building on our partnership with Clifford Beers and so many community organizations that provide such comprehensive support to our Fair Haven students and families. The community school approach will help ensure the successful integration of education into the life of the community, as well as crucial community resources into the life of the school.”

City of New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker noted that “our schools and communities are stronger when everyone is working together in partnership to support our students and families and when our schools serve as centers of both educational and civic life. This Full-Service Community Schools grant will expand the number of academic, social-emotional and enrichment services and programs available to Fair Haven students and help us further activate these school buildings beyond the traditional school day for Fair Haven residents. I'm grateful to our schools, Clifford Beers and the many other community-based organizations involved in this partnership – it’s an incredibly exciting initiative for Fair Haven.”

Following a planning phase during the first half of 2024, the Grand Avenue Learning Corridor Partnership will begin implementation at Fair Haven School in August 2024 and expand to FAME in August 2025.

An in-person press conference will be held in January 2024.

To learn more about Clifford Beers Community Care Center programs and services, please visit www.cliffordbeersccc.org.

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About Clifford Beers Community Care Center

Established in 1913, CBCCC provides integrated services addressing mental, physical, and social determinants in order to improve health, healing, and quality of life for children, families, and communities in Greater New Haven. CBCCC programs and services are specifically designed to increase accessibility and health equity. We take a systemic approach to care that targets family and community support systems, with particular attention to reducing risk factors while building healthy, supportive connections. CBCCC operates from the philosophy that every person is unique, of worth, and requires compassionate and individualized care. We strive to meet the mental, physical, and social needs of every individual in the community regardless of race, gender, sexual identity, disability, or documentation status.