

West Haven Community House

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Budget cuts to Care4-Kids child care subsidy program will have a serious impact on the Community House

West Haven, CT (February 20, 2017) - The governor's proposed budget is bad news for early childhood, particularly the Care4Kids program. The proposal would keep Care4Kids closed for two years (except to TANF recipients), shutting thousands of families out of a program that offers parents an affordable way to pay for childcare while they work. This will have a serious impact on many West Haven families who rely on the programs and services provided by the West Haven Community House.

“For 75 years, the Community House has been a dependable resource for families and others in the community. The programs and services we provide are a vital part of the fabric of our community”, said Patty Stevens, executive director at The West Haven Community House. “The budget cuts of \$20 million from Care4Kids over the next two years will have a serious impact on the children and families we serve in Head Start, as well as, our School age before and after school programs.”

Too many children and families, who rely on this assistance in order to work, are being denied service or will be cut from the Care4Kids program. “Not only will our children and families suffer from this loss, but so will our agency. We could face layoffs and/or significant cuts in service without the revenue generated by fees and supplemented by Care4Kids funding”, Stevens said. These cuts will force working parents to choose between paying for childcare or buying food/paying rent, or worse, “latch key” child care will return in greater numbers.

More than 150 preschool children attend West Haven Community House’s Head Start school readiness program. The state licensed program provides comprehensive health, nutrition and education services to preschool children ages 3 to 5 from income eligible families. Additionally, the Community House’s School age before and after school program, which serves more than 300 children and their families at seven West Haven neighborhood schools, will also be affected by the Care4Kids program cuts.

The best way to help stop these cuts is to contact our state legislators. Give them your name and where you are from, and let them know how important Care4Kids is to you and your family.

West Haven State Representatives:

State Senator Gary Winfield (800) 842-1420 or (860) 240-0393 Winfield@senatedems.ct.gov	State Senator Gayle Slossberg (800) 842-1420 or (860) 240-0482 slossberg@senatedems.ct.gov
State Rep Charles Ferraro (800) 842-1423 or (860) 240-8700 Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov	State Rep Michael DiMassa (800) 842-8267 or (860) 240-8585 Michael.Dimassa@cga.ct.gov

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