03/24/15

Greetings!

**Thank you to all who were able to attend yesterday’s CHART meeting. We missed those who could not join us and hope to see you all next month (Tuesday April 28th, 2015 at 8:30am to 10:00am in Tolland)!**

Here, as promised, is a follow up email with some of the more time-sensitive items that were shared with attendees. Specifically, you will find the following attachments:

* A **call for proposals for the Harvard Pilgrim Healthy Food Fund to support community projects that increase access to healthy foods** (i.e. community gardens) -Application deadline is April 3rd
* Copy of the **PowerPoint slides shared yesterday (as well as the slides shared during the February meeting**, for those who would like a little more background)
* **Electronic copies of the three committee handouts for you to populate with additional notes and ideas as they arise** (we added some notes resulting from yesterday’s discussions). Feel free to send those back to me with more comments and notes as you see fit.  If you were not present yesterday, I’d be happy to connect with you  over the phone about these small group discussions and ensure we gather your input as well!
* **Community Action Plan (CAP)** **draft**for your review and feedback (our first draft is due to APA by 03/31/15). Feedback received after 03/31/15 will be considered and incorporated into updated versions of the CAP. Please keep in mind that this is a working document and APA has offered to take our draft as is and plug it into the CDC format, so that we can focus on implementation rather than spending too much time trying to adapt the project management tool we are already using into the “right boxes” of the CAP (Smartsheet is the program we are currently using to manage the project and it has considerably more detail on the tasks/activities level of the plan – **please let me know if you would like to be added to our online** [**Smartsheet**](https://www.youtube.com/user/SmartSheet) **workspace**).
* The **first newsletter from our grant’s technical assistance folks**. In it you will find information about **upcoming free webinars** on different topics (e.g. coalition strategies, needs assessment, etc.) You will also find **instructions on how to join the online community to access relevant presentations and resources shared during our national kick-off meeting in Dallas**. If you choose to register for this online community, please identify yourself as a member of the EHHD CHART Coalition where applicable.
* Information about the **Playful City initiative spearheaded in Coventry**, as well as a related article.
* Legislative alert from the Connecticut Main Street Center about the **proposed funding cuts that would impact farmlands, open spaces, affordable housing, and historic preservation.** While the public hearing about this topic already passed, interested individuals and organizations can still weigh in by contacting their legislators, writing op ed pieces for their local media outlets, and so forth.
* More information about the **proposed budget cuts that would impact the Health Foods Certification program in schools** (attached here as “untitled”). As our CHART members indicated, interested individuals can weigh in on the matter by contacting legislators for the towns in which they live and work in.
* Also, Wendy Rubin shared Information about a [series of free webinars](http://americawalks.org/america-walks-launches-take-action-webinar-series/) organized by America Walks. The first one (Apr 13) is about **“effective messaging”** when it comes to promoting walking. The second one (Apr 23) is the series is about the **“built environment”** in relation to walkability.

More notes and an agenda for our April meeting will be forthcoming.

Thank you again for all of your valuable contributions and continued commitment to making our communities healthier for all,

Jordana