



# About Por Los Niños

In late 2016, the United Health Foundation awarded The Governor's Prevention Partnership a nearly \$1 million grant over three-years to prevent substance abuse among Latino/Hispanic youth in Hartford. The Partnership was chosen for its proposal with its focus on increasing awareness of substance abuse and behavioral issues among young people, and improving access to primary and behavioral health services to address these concerns.

The Partnership linked with Family Life Education, a Hartford-based nonprofit family outreach organization, to create a bilingual awareness/outreach program to educated parents, children, and the broader community about substance abuse among Latino teenagers. Hispanic children are at a higher risk for substance abuse and have higher substance abuse rates, according to the 2015 [Connecticut Youth Risks Behavior survey] study.

Together with local stakeholders including business owners, community-based organizations and UnitedHealthcare employees, The Partnership will create workshops and support groups to complement the

education campaign. Additionally, programs will be introduced to identify and refer high-risk youth for support services, which may include tutoring, mentoring, after-school enrichment activities, case management and behavioral and mental health services. A critical component of the project is a citywide, bicultural media campaign that focuses on raising awareness of the risks of substance use and abuse.

Educating young people about the dangers of drug use is critical and parents and other adults in the community can play an important role in reinforcing prevention messages, recognizing signs that their young person may need help and knowing where to turn for resources. In fact, young people whose parents talk to them about drugs and alcohol are 50% less likely to engage in substance use.

This grant is part of United Health Foundation's city-based approach to provide resources to nonprofits that have local expertise and programs aimed at connecting communities to care, supporting whole-person health and building healthier communities.

For more information about Por Los Niños and youth substance abuse prevention efforts in Hartford, contact Rachel Ferreira, **Program Manager**, at 860-757-3585 or [Rachel.Ferreira@PreventionWorksCT.org](mailto:Rachel.Ferreira@PreventionWorksCT.org).

[www.PreventionWorksCT.org](http://www.PreventionWorksCT.org)