



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CRT Portland Head Start Center Receives National Accreditation**

*Distinction held by just 8 percent of early childhood programs nationally*

HARTFORD—The Community Renewal Team, Inc. Portland Head Start Center has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the leading national organization devoted to improving educational and developmental services for children from birth to age 8.

CRT will celebrate the accomplishment with a reception for families, local leaders and the public from 2:30-4 p.m., Wednesday, April 13, at the site, located in the Gildersleeve School complex at 575 ½ Main Street, Portland.

The ceremony will honor staff and families at the site who guided the center through the accreditation process. The NAEYC Accreditation system was created in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers and other early education programs.

The center scored 100 percent in eight of 10 quality criteria, including curriculum, assessment, teachers, families, community relationships, and leadership and management, receiving scores of 95% or better in all other areas.

“In the 25 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education,” said Maril Olson, NAEYC Director of Family & Community Initiatives. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period.

Thirteen CRT Early Care and Education Centers in Middlesex and Hartford Counties hold NAEYC accreditation.

*Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut.*