

# News



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 9, 2001

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Contact: William Gerrish  
(860) 509-7270

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CELEBRATION TO HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**HARTFORD** — To commemorate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will sponsor a free urban health forum on Thursday, January 11, 2001, from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m., at the First Cathedral Church, 1151 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield. The event will feature speakers and informational booths, and include an opportunity to participate in the National Marrow Donor Program.

Approximately 300 individuals, including the public, state and local government officials, academic leaders and health care professionals, are expected to attend the event. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon, originated by staff at the DPH State Laboratory in 1988, will follow the health forum at 11:30 a.m.

DPH Commissioner Joxel Garcia, M.D., M.B.A., will provide opening remarks and welcome distinguished guests and speakers including Dr. Joan Reede, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity at the Harvard Medical School, Chandler Howard, President of Fleet Bank, Dr. Nigel Harris, Morehouse School of Medicine, and James Willingham, Sr., President and CEO of the Greater Hartford Urban League.

Speakers will address various health topics including oral health, trauma and unintentional injury, hypertension and kidney disease, and an overview of the state health department. The urban health forum will also feature a number of health information booths with representatives from Infoline, the National Kidney Foundation, American Diabetes Association, American Red Cross, and many others. The New England Marrow Donor Program will also offer screenings to interested donors.

“In addition to our distinguished guests and speakers, the department is pleased to be joined by the New England Marrow Donor Program (NEMDP),” said Commissioner Joxel Garcia, M.D., M.B.A. “The NEMDP serves the vital function of providing marrow and blood stem cell transplant tissue to African-Americans and others who suffer from leukemia, aplastic anemia or other life-threatening blood diseases,” according to Dr. Garcia.

A Continental breakfast will be provided and registration is free, but seating is limited. For further information on the event, contact the Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7280.

###