

(Hartford) - Today **Congressman John B. Larson** announced that African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP) of Hartford has been awarded a multi-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help continue their support of families with children who are disabled or who have special needs, particularly in low-income communities.

The four year grant, awarded through the Community Parent Resource Center's Parent Training and Information Program, will provide \$100,000 in the first year, and is anticipated to total \$400,000. The program, established under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), is intended to help organizations provide information, guidance and training to parents of children with special needs.

"This funding is great news for our community, and yet another tribute to the hard work and dedication of Merva Jackson. The disabilities community sustained a huge loss with her passing, however this is certainly a bright spot on the horizon for families who are so ably served by AFCAMP," said Congressman Larson. "I'm proud to have such a great organization in my district, and I look forward to seeing them continue their high level of service in the spirit of Merva Jackson."

AFCAMP will use the funding to plan and implement a variety of projects that target low-income and underserved families, including providing culturally and ethnically appropriate training and information, sharing resources, and developing parent leaders to assist other parents of children with disabilities or special needs. The funding will also be used to help facilitate collaboration with local education agencies, policy and decision makers, public and private funders, parent groups, and community and faith-based organizations.

###