

**Testimony of Lillian Diaz, First-time Mom
with the Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Network**

**Attention: Appropriations Committee
with regard to the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan
Wednesday, December 9, 2009**

To Whom It May Concern:

Taking away a program like Nurturing Families Network would be devastating to all parents who depend on the support of this program. Nurturing Families Network has been involved with me since pregnancy. They have taught me about breastfeeding and the benefits as well as helping me with shelter, diapers, and food. Nurturing Families are always there to answer questions about my baby that I may have never known without their support.

Nurturing Families Network has taught me about the development and the stages as my baby continues to grow. This program has taught me that disciplining is simply teaching a child with love and respect and the impact I play in my child's life. Nurturing Families Network has taught me how to prevent child abuse and neglect by educating me.

Nurturing Families also provides us with parenting groups that gives parents like us the opportunity to share with other young parents. The parenting groups help parents how to love yourself, take time for yourself, and how to forgive, and still be the best parent. Taking away Nurturing Families would mean there is no support for young parents and for some young parents this may be there only positive support.

Please reconsider taking this program away from families that are in need of support!!!

Lillian Diaz
*Client & First-time Mom at Fair Haven Community Health
Center's Nurturing Families Network Program*
216 Chatham St.
New Haven, CT 06513