

**Bristol Community Organization, Inc.
55 South Street
Bristol, CT 06010**

**For Immediate Release
860-584-2725 ext. 11**

**Thomas H. Morrow
Executive Director**

**Bristol/Plymouth Connect-Ability Project
BCO Awarded \$200,000 Grant**

At a recent Issues and Eggs Breakfast sponsored by the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Tom Morrow, the Executive Director at Bristol Community Organization, Inc announced that BCO was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the CT Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. BCO is one of ten non profits in the State to earn the award and – the only community action agency.

The grant to BCO is a part of a multi-million dollar grant to the State of Connecticut from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Office.

The mission statement for this initiative is to:

- Improve the transition process for disabled young adults moving from school to post secondary-education or employment.
- Increase expectations for individuals with disabilities in achieving career potential.
- Increase the recruitment, hiring, and promotion of individuals with disabilities in the Bristol/Plymouth area.
- Increase access to transportation including a (person-centered) voucher system.

The community partners working with Bristol Community Organization on this project are: The Bristol Chamber of Commerce, the Bristol Board of Education, the Bristol Adult Resource Center, the Community Works Resources, United Way of West Central Connecticut, the Plymouth Board of Education, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, parents of children with disabilities, the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, the Bristol Disabilities Commission, and the Connecticut Department of Social Services Bureau of Rehabilitative Services.

The grant is funded through December, 2009 and there are several initiatives underway already – to increase transportation in Plymouth, parent participation, and the Issues and Eggs breakfast where the grant was introduced to employers.

Daniel Britt is the Project Manager for the grant and will be working to develop a plan and implement the objectives which will provide increased employment opportunities for disabled residents of Plymouth and Bristol. Interested employers may reach him at 860-584-2725 ext.65.