

Health Equity Zone Backbone Agency Contacts

Rhode Island's Health Equity Zones initiative is a health equity-centered approach to prevention work that leverages place-based, community-led solutions to improving well-being. Health Equity Zones (HEZs) are collaboratives of residents, educators, business leaders, health professionals, transportation experts, and people in many other fields who are coming together to address the most pressing health concerns in neighborhoods across the state.

02907 Health Equity Zone

Serving the West End, Elmwood, South Elmwood, and Reservoir neighborhood

Backbone Agency: West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation

[02907 HEZ Website](#)

HEZ Program Director

Jessica Thigpen

jthigpen@westelmwood.org

(401) 837-8529

HEZ Project Coordinator

Mayelyn Gomez

mgomez@westelmwood.org

(401) 394-9598

Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Bristol Health Equity Zone

Serving Bristol, RI

Backbone Agency: East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)

[Bristol HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

HEZ Project Director

Melissa Goldstein

401-259-7484

mgoldstein@ebcap.org

VP of Family Development

Rita Capotosto

401-601-5342

rcapotosto@ebcap.org

Interim Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

Nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Central Providence Opportunities Health Equity Zone

Serving neighborhoods in the 02908 and 02909 ZIP codes of Providence, RI

Backbone Agency: One Neighborhood Builders

[CPO HEZ Website](#)

Associate Director of Community Infrastructure

Dominique Resendes
401-351-8719
resendes@onenb.org

Associate Director of Advocacy & Organizing

Lucy Berman
203-505-1578
berman@onenb.org

Managing Director of ONE Central Providence

Anusha Venkataraman (she/her)
401-351-8719
anusha@onenb.org

Project Officer

Deb Golding
deb.golding@health.ri.gov

East Providence Health Equity Zone

Serving East Providence, RI

Backbone Agency: East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)

[East Providence HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

HEZ Project Director

Alyssa Gleason
401-248-3674
agleason@ebcap.org

VP of Family Development

Rita Capotosto
401-601-5342
rcapotosto@ebcap.org

Interim Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi
Nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: the Washington County Health Equity Zone

Serving the Washington County region of RI

Backbone Agency: Woodriver Health Services

[Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

President & CEO

Alison Croke
401-387-9648
Alison.croke@woodriverhealth.org

Program Manager

Kristen Frady
401-491-9154
Kristen.frady@woodriverhealth.org

Interim Project Officer

Morgan Duffney

morgan.duffney@health.ri.gov

Newport Health Equity Zone

Serving the Broadway and North End neighborhoods of Newport, RI

Backbone Agency: Women's Resource Center

[Newport HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Director of Prevention

Sydney Ormerod

401-236-8344

sormerod@wrcnbc.org

Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

OneCranston Health Equity Zone

Serving Cranston, RI

Backbone Agency: Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)

[OneCranston HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

Health Equity Zone Project Manager

Ivy Swinski

401-862-3811

iswinski@comcap.org

Assistant Vice President of Family Development

Andrea Champagne

401-714-7004

achampagne@comcap.org

Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Pawtucket Central Falls Health Equity Zone

Serving Pawtucket and Central Falls, RI

Backbone Agency: Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

[Pawtucket Central Falls HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Program Coordinator

Jim Logan

jlogan@lisc.org

401-519-5696

Program Officer

Robyn Hall

rhall@lisc.org

401-519-5608

Program Assistant

Leonardo “Leo” Arriola Carnicelli
401-519-5719
LCarnicelli@lisc.org

Interim Project Officer

Morgan Duffney
morgan.duffney@health.ri.gov

South Providence Health Equity Zone

Serving the lower South Providence, South Elmwood, and Washington Park neighborhoods of Providence, RI
Backbone Agency: Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI)

[South Providence HEZ Website](#)

VP of Equity and Community Development

Kinzel Thomas
thomaski@familyserviceri.org

Community Engagement Coordinator

David Banks-Richardson
banksda@familyserviceri.org

VP of Health Division

Marie Palumbo-Hayes
401-952-6697
hayesma@familyserviceri.org

Interim Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi
Nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Tri-County Health Equity Zone

Serving Johnston, North Providence, and Smithfield, RI
Backbone Agency: Tri-County Community Action Agency

[Tri-County HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

HEZ Community Coordinator

Lisa Kennedy
401-349-6969
lkennedy@tricountyri.org

Chief Operating Officer

Brenda Dowlatshahi
401-519-1977
bdowlatshahi@tricountyri.org

Interim Project Officer

Deb Golding
Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov

Warren Health Equity Zone

Serving Warren, RI

Backbone Agency: East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)

[Warren HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

HEZ Director

Kristin Read

401-486-5195

kread@ebcap.org

VP of Family Development

Rita Capotosto

401-601-5342

rcapotosto@ebcap.org

Interim Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

Nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Warwick Health Equity Zone

Serving Warwick, RI

Backbone Agency: Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)

[warwickhez.org](#) | [Facebook](#)

HEZ Director

Michael Fratus

401-439-3805

mfratus@comcap.org

Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

West Warwick Health Equity Zone

Serving West Warwick, RI

Backbone Agency: Thundermist Health Center

[westwarwickhez.org](#) | [Facebook](#)

HEZ Project Manager

Meg Donnelly

914-319-0952

MegDo@thundermisthealth.org

HEZ Logistics and COVID Lead

Rachelle "Shelly" Hyson

RachelleH@thundermisthealth.org

Senior Director, Health Equity Initiatives

Susan Jacobsen

401-767-4100 x 4304

susanj@thundermisthealth.org

Project Assistant

Ana Antonopoulos

Anaan@thundermisthealth.org

Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

Woonsocket Health Equity Zone

Serving Woonsocket, RI

Backbone Agency: Thundermist Health Center

[Woonsocket HEZ Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

HEZ Project Manager

Dupe Akinrimisi

DupeA@thundermisthealth.org

HEZ Logistics and COVID Lead

Rachelle “Shelly” Hyson

RachelleH@thundermisthealth.org

Senior Director, Health Equity Initiatives

Susan Jacobsen

401-767-4100 x 4304

susanj@thundermisthealth.org

Project Assistant

Ana Antonopoulos

Anaan@thundermisthealth.org

Project Officer

Nwando Ofokansi

nwando.ofokansi.ctr@health.ri.gov

For general information about Rhode Island’s Health Equity Zone initiative, visit health.ri.gov/hez or contact:

Christopher Ausura, HEZ Program Director | christopher.ausura@health.ri.gov

Mia Patriarca, HEZ Program Manager | mia.patriarca@health.ri.gov

For HEZ Training and Technical Assistance Program information or support, contact:

Deb Golding, Training and Technical Assistance Program Manager | deb.golding@health.ri.gov

Morgan Duffney, HEZ Program Coordinator | morgan.duffney@health.ri.gov

For information about HEZ evaluation, contact: Jen Latham, HEZ Evaluator | jennifer.smithgildea@health.ri.gov

For financial information, contact: Krissy Hu, Assistant Administrator, Financial Management | krissy.hu@health.ri.gov