Rhode Island's Health Equity Zone initiative is a health equity-centered approach to prevention work that leverages place-based, community-led solutions to address the social determinants of health. 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 their neighborhoods.

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

Interim Project Officer

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

Blackstone Valley Health Equity Zone

Serving North Smithfield, Cumberland, and Lincoln, RI Backbone Agency: Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center Blackstone Valley HEZ Website

HEZ Coordinator

Julie Rawlings julie@bvadvocacycenter.org (401) 723-3057

Director of Community Service

Kim Demers kimberly@bvadvocacycenter.org (401) 723-3057

Associate Director of Community Services

Sally Nolasco (401) 563-8232 sally@bvadvocacycenter.org (401) 563-8232

Outreach Coordinator

Vanessa Rodriguez (401) 723-3057 vanessa@bvadvocacycenter.org

Project Officer

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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

Project Officer

Nadine Tavares nadine.tavares.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

Training & Technical Assistance Program Manager

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

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Project Officer

Nadine Tavares nadine.tavares.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 acroke@WoodRiverHealth.org

Program Manager

Melissa Sigua (401) 539-2461 ext166 msigua@woodriverhealth.org

Project Officer

Nadine Tavares nadine.tavares.ctr@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

Coordinator of Equitable Development Strategies

Makalah Chapman mchapman@wrcnbc.org

Interim 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 Initiative Director

Andrea Champagne achampagne@comcap.org

Health Equity Zone Project Manager

Ivy Swinski 401-862-3811 iswinski@comcap.org

Project Officer

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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

Assistant Program Officer

Elizabeth "Liz" Moreira 401-519-5612 emoreira@lisc.org

Assistant Program Officer

Becki Marcus 347-489-5868 rbmarcus2@lisc.org

Interim Project Officer

Nadine Tavares

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

Director of Equity and Place Based Initiatives

Jennifer Benitez BenitezJe@familyserviceri.org

VP of Health Division

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

Interim Project Officer

Nadine Tavares nadine.tavares.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 Ikennedy@tricountyri.org

Chief Operating Officer

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

Interim Project Officer

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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

Project Officer

Nadine Tavares nadine.tavares.ctr@health.ri.gov

Warwick Health Equity Zone

Serving Warwick, RI

Backbone Agency: Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)

Warwick HEZ Website | 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 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

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Project Assistant

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Interim Project Officer

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Woonsocket Health Equity Zone

Serving Woonsocket, RI

Backbone Agency: Thundermist Health Center

Woonsocket HEZ Website | Facebook

HEZ Project Manager

Dupe Akinrimisi
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HEZ Logistics and COVID Lead

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

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

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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