**Health Equity Zones (HEZs): 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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH EQUITY ZONE CONTACTS</th>
<th>FOCUS AREAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Bristol HEZ**             | - Improving access to health and affordable foods  
- Promoting physical activity throughout the community for a range of demographics  
- Facilitating community public health events (including opioid forums, suicide prevention efforts, and an annual Recovery Rally)  
- Collaborating with stakeholders towards the goal of adopting a Green and Complete Streets policy  
- Expanding collaboration with faith-based leaders  
- Increasing awareness of substance use disorders in the areas of prevention, recovery, and rescue, including supporting the opening of the East Bay Recovery Center in March 2018  
- Implementing a suicide prevention program and promoting Mental Health through Bristol Kindness Project initiatives |
| *Town of Bristol*           |             |
| Emily Pearce-Spence, Co-Director |             |
| Health Equity Zone Coordinator |             |
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| Melissa Goldstein           |             |
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| instagram.com/Bristolhez    |             |
| **RIDOH Project Officer**   |             |
| Nadine Tavares              |             |
| nadinetavares.ctr@health.ri.gov |             |

| **Central Providence HEZ** |             |
| *ONE Neighborhood Builders* |             |
| Dominique Resendes         |             |
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| **RIDOH Project Officer**  |             |
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**Central Providence HEZ**

*ONE Neighborhood Builders*

- Improving the social and economic conditions for current and future Central Providence residents by focusing on upstream, root causes for health disparities.
- Supporting affordable, stable housing; high-quality childcare and early education; family-wage employment; and basic needs are how the CP-HEZ improves social and economic conditions. Examples include:  
  - Sponsoring the multi-employer Community Health Worker Registered Apprenticeship Program  
  - Helping seniors age healthy in place  
  - Working with clinical and community partners to reduce unnecessary healthcare spending.  
  - Redeveloping distressed and vacant properties  
  - Workforce training and small business development  
  - Addressing food insecurity  
  - Engaging community members through community pride events and civic engagement efforts to build a more cohesive community.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cranston HEZ</th>
<th>East Providence HEZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)</em></td>
<td><em>East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Nwando Ofokansi**  
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- Building racial equity and anti-racism
- Promoting youth health and leadership through the Youth Opportunity Zone
- Improving access to safe housing and healthy environmental infrastructure
- Promoting physical health and nutrition
- Addressing community trauma, including adverse childhood experiences, opioid misuse, domestic violence, and COVID-19

- Promoting mental and behavioral health
- Promoting youth health and wellness
- Promoting senior health
- Engaging with community members and connecting them to resources, support services, and COVID-19 safety supplies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newport HEZ</th>
<th>Pawtucket Central Falls HEZ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Resource Center</td>
<td>Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Ormerod</td>
<td>Robyn Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Manager, 401-236-8344</td>
<td>Assistant Program Officer, 401-519-5608</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pawtucket Central Falls HEZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazmine Wray</td>
<td>RIDOH Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Manager, 401-236-8344</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Jazmine Wray</td>
<td>TriCounty HEZ</td>
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<td>Tri-County Community Action Agency</td>
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<td>Kristen L. Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RI DOH Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deb Golding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coming soon!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Mobilizing residents and resources in the Broadway and North End neighborhoods
- Improving access to safe housing and mitigating gentrification
- Improving transportation
- Increasing healthy food access
- Addressing racial health disparities through program and policy interventions
- Securing open space, parks, and trails
- Embracing arts and culture
- Increasing civic engagement
- Promoting LGBTQ health

- Engaging residents: understanding community need and working with residents to respond
- Engaging youth: promoting programs that elevate and support youth engagement
- Preventing opioid overdoses: work collaboratively to prevent overdoses through education, direct outreach and engagement with mental health service providers
- Identify opportunities for the collaborative to engage in local and state issues around long-term health
- Support and drive collaborative efforts to improve social determinants of health such as increasing access to healthy, affordable food; Preventing and managing chronic diseases; Improving climate resilience; Supporting healthy housing; Creating linkages to job training opportunities; etc.
| **Washington County HEZ**  
| *South County Health*  
| *South County Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds*  
| | Susan Orban  
| | 401-788-2347  
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| | bodiesminds.org  
| | facebook.com/SChealthybodieshealthyminds  
| **RIDOH Project Officer**  
| Nadine Tavares  
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| | **Healthy Bodies:** creating enabling conditions to foster healthy eating and active living at a young age to prevent childhood obesity/promote lifelong health  
| | **Healthy Minds:** creating a caring, compassionate, and connected community with adequate resources to foster the emotional well-being and resiliency of all residents  
| | **Healthy Communities:** mobilizing community stakeholders to address long-standing social determinants of health and eliminate health disparities in targeted neighborhoods  
| | **West Elmwood 02907 HEZ**  
| *West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation*  
| Jessica Vega Thigpen  
| HEZ Program Manager  
| 401-453-3220  
| jthigpen@westelmwood.org  
| Ambar Delgado  
| HEZ Project Coordinator  
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| **RIDOH Project Officer**  
| Deb Golding  
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| | **Working with the community to decrease overdoses in 02907 and provide support for residents with substance use disorder**  
| | **Building community cohesion and wellbeing**  
| | **Preparing children for kindergarten by providing comprehensive supports to the entire family**  
| | **Increasing access to food that is affordable, healthy, and culturally relevant**  
| | **Increasing access to affordable housing to decrease the amount of families who are cost-burdened (paying 30% of their income or more towards housing costs)**  
| | **Making improvements to the current housing stock in 02907 so homes are healthier and free of contaminants**  
| June 2021 |
## West Warwick HEZ

*Thundermist Health Center*

Susan Jacobsen  
Senior Director, Health Equity Initiatives  
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facebook.com/HealthEquityZoneWestWarwick

**RIDOH Project Officer**  
Nadine Tavares  
nadine.tavares.ctr@health.ri.gov

- Mobilizing resident led advocacy and action-orientated strategies to address racial and social inequities through policy change efforts  
- Addressing high rates of substance use and overdose through prevention, rescue, treatment, and recovery strategies, 24/7 access to naloxone and EMS leave-behind, town budgeted Police Department behavioral health navigator, medication-assisted treatment, recovery community capital building, and supports for grandparents raising grandchildren and kinship caretakers  
- Improving access to healthy, affordable, fresh food, farmers markets, a community garden and orchard, and summer meal, school meal programs and wellness programs  
- Promoting healthier neighborhoods through affordable housing, landlord/tenant rights, increased alternative transportation programs and better access to public transportation  
- Implementing trauma-informed initiative to improve adolescent mental and physical care through school and community support links and youth led “Choose Love” movement  
- Preventing and managing chronic diseases

## Woonsocket HEZ

*Thundermist Health Center*

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Health Equity Zone Project Manager  
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**RIDOH Project Officer**  
Nwando Ofokansi  
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- Increasing access to healthy and affordable food  
- Preventing opioid misuse and overdose  
- Promoting teen health and youth leadership  
- Reducing child maltreatment and adverse childhood experiences  
- Promoting anti-racism and addressing the connections between racism and health disparities

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For general information about Rhode Island’s Health Equity Zone initiative, visit health.ri.gov/ez or contact:  
Mia Patriarca, HEZ Program Manager | mia.patriarca@health.ri.gov  
Morgan Duffney, HEZ Program Coordinator | morgan.duffney.ctr@health.ri.gov

For information about HEZ evaluation, contact Jen Smith-Gildea, HEZ Evaluator | jennifer.smithgildea@health.ri.gov

For financial information, contact:  
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For communications guidance or support, contact Colby Zongol, HEZ Communications Specialist | colby.zongol.ctr@health.ri.gov

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June 2021