# Health Equity Zones (HEZs)

Geographic areas designed to achieve health equity by eliminating health disparities using place-based (where you live) strategies to promote healthy communities.

## Providence HEZ: Citywide
Healthy Communities Office, City of Providence

- Ellen Cynar
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- Rachel Newman Greene
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  rnewmangreene@providenceri.gov
- Evaluator:
  Sarah Hall, Fio Partners, sarah@fiopartners.com, 203-615-4833

Focuses on improving community health around the city's recreation centers, improving nutrition, developing community gardens, offering Providence Summer Food Service program, developing healthy food policies for public facilities, increasing access to physical fitness programs for adults and youth in public places, conducting activities to increase health and safety in parks and recreation centers, offering diabetes prevention and self-management programs, and improving environmental health by implementing green infrastructure projects.

[providenceri.com/healthy-communities](http://providenceri.com/healthy-communities)

RIDOH Project Officer: Erin Bertoldi, M.Ed
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Evaluator:
Morgan Orr
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## Pawtucket and Central Falls HEZ: Citywide
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

- Carrie Zaslowsky
  401-519-5698
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- Pauline Bellavance
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Focuses on resident engagement around increased access to healthy affordable food, diabetes prevention and other self-management programs, adoption of nutrition guidelines where food is sold, healthy housing and empowering tenants, increasing landlord accountability, community kitchen development, improving transportation efficiency, creating linkages to job training, supporting small and micro businesses, establishing youth coalitions, and facilitating positive relationships across diverse neighborhood populations. LISC also focuses on adolescent and behavioral health while supporting culturally competent health services.

[rilisc.org/hez/](http://rilisc.org/hez/)

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## North Providence HEZ: Neighborhood
North Providence School Department

- Bridget Morisseau, Superintendent
  401-231-1100
  Bridget.Morisseau@npsd.k12.ri.us

Focuses on the Marieville Elementary School and Birchwood Middle School neighborhoods and the identified health needs of students and their families. Focus areas include: the environment, safe routes to school, Walking School Bus, youth center activities, recreational facilities, greener school yards, affordable fruits and vegetables, asthma, offering diabetes prevention and other self-management programs, obesity, mental and behavioral health, oral health, tobacco use and exposure, substance abuse, and violence.

[nphez.org/](http://nphez.org/)

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## Providence HEZ: Olneyville Neighborhood
ONE Neighborhood Builders

- Karelin Marcia
  401-351-8719, ext 115, marcia@onenb.org
- Allegra Scharff, MPH
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- Evaluator:
  Julie DiBari
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Focuses on increasing and promoting physical activity, access to healthy affordable foods, farmers markets and community gardening, redevelopment of distressed and vacant properties, addressing public safety issues, improving public transportation, offering diabetes prevention and other self-management programs, opportunities for resident financial stability, and community engagement through community pride events and initiatives in efforts to build a more collective and cohesive community.

[ovhez.com/](http://ovhez.com/)

RIDOH Project Officer: Deb Golding
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For general information about Health Equity Zones (HEZs) contact:
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[www.health.ri.gov/projects/healthequityzones](http://www.health.ri.gov/projects/healthequityzones)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEZ Region</th>
<th>Citywide/Neighborhood</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Project Officer</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Providence HEZ** | Neighborhoods Southside, Elmwood, West End | Focuses on increasing enrollment and implementation of the Incredible Years Parent Program (promoting young children's social, emotional, and academic lives), creating solutions for greater resident engagement, community organization, and neighborhood ecosystem support, reducing violence, and improving distressed and vacant properties.  
[cycprovidence.org](http://cycprovidence.org/) | Deb Golding  
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| **Washington County HEZ** | South County Health | Focuses on and promotes programs related to childhood obesity and mental health. Programs include: 5-2-1-0, an evidence-based program, encouraging families to keep a healthy weight, Reach Out and Read, promoting reading aloud to children daily, and Youth Mental Health First Aid, for those interacting with adolescents, and LAUNCH, serving families with children birth to 8 years of age. The HEZ also focuses on connecting residents to local farmers markets accepting SNAP and WIC benefits for access to healthy food.  
[bodiesminds.org](http://bodiesminds.org) | Deb Golding  
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| **West Warwick HEZ** | Citywide | Focuses on improving walkability and transportation, access to recreation, increased access to healthy affordable fresh food, weekly farmers markets, community garden and orchard, summer meal and school meal programs, addressing high rates of substance use and overdose through rescue, treatment, and recovery strategies, naxolone training, Police Department behavioral health pilot, medication assisted treatment, peer recovery supports, adolescent healthcare with school and community support links, trauma and toxic stress mitigation, diabetes prevention and other self-management programs. Works with 10 engaged neighborhood leaders acting as HEZ citizen ambassadors.  
[thundermisthealth.org](http://thundermisthealth.org) | Lauren Conkey, MPH  
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Evaluator:  
Elise George, MPH  
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| **Woonsocket HEZ** | Citywide | Focuses on access to healthy affordable fresh food, year-round farmers markets, addressing high rates of substance use and overdose through rescue, treatment, and recovery strategies, opened The Serenity Center (free community drop-in center for adults in recovery), naxolone training, medication assisted treatment, peer recovery supports, teen health, adolescent medical homes, trauma awareness, physical activity, pedestrian walking plan “Woonsocket Walks - A City on the Move”, and offering diabetes prevention and other self-management programs. Works with 10 engaged neighborhood leaders acting as HEZ citizen ambassadors.  
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| **Bristol HEZ** | Townwide | Focuses on improving nutrition and access to healthy food, promoting physical activity, facilitating community public health events, adopting Complete Streets policies, facilitating health literacy classes and health screenings, and offering diabetes prevention programs. Bristol is also working with community providers to implement interventions that will improve local healthcare systems.  
[horsleywitten.com/BristolHEZ/](http://horsleywitten.com/BristolHEZ/) | Mia Patriarca, MA  
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| **Newport HEZ** | Citywide | Focuses on mobilizing residents and resources of the Broadway and North End neighborhoods, improving transportation, increasing healthy food access, creating economic opportunity, securing open space, parks and trails, embracing arts and culture, and developing physical and emotional health through two new neighborhood Wellness Hubs that will house evidence-based programs, offering diabetes prevention and other self-management programs, and LAUNCH.  
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