**Health Equity Zones**

Health Equity Zones (HEZs) are geographic areas designed to achieve health equity by eliminating health disparities using place-based (where you live) strategies to promote healthy communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Backbone Agency, HEZ Coordinators</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>RIDOH Project Officer</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Providence HEZ: Citywide**      | **Healthy Communities Office, City of Providence**  
Ellen Cynar, 401-421-7740, ecynar@providenceri.com  
Rachel Newman Greene, 401-680-5493, rnewmangreene@providenceri.gov  
Evaluator: Sarah Hall, Fio Partners, 203-615-4833, sarah@fiopartners.com | 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 | Christopher Ausura  
401-222-1383  
Christopher.Ausura@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Morgan Orr  
401-222-1250  
Morgan.Orr@health.ri.gov |
| **Pawtucket and Central Falls HEZ: Citywide**  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Deanna Bruno, 401-519-5696, dbruno@lisc.org  
Pauline Bellavance, 401-519-5608, pbellavance@lisc.org | 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 | Mia Patriarca, MA  
401-222-1225  
Mia.Patriarca@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Elise George, MPH  
401-222-2030  
Elise.George@health.ri.gov |
| **Newport HEZ: Citywide**  
Women’s Resource Center  
Neyda DeJesus, 401-846-5263, ndejesus@wrcnbc.org  
Jessica Walsh, 401-846-5263, jwalsh@wrcnbc.org  
Evaluator:  
Cynthia Roberts, PhD, cynthia@ricadv.org | 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. newporthealthequity.com | Deb Golding  
401-222-5954  
Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Morgan Orr  
401-222-1250  
Morgan.Orr@health.ri.gov |
| **Providence HEZ: Olneyville Neighborhood**  
ONE Neighborhood Builders  
Allegra Scharff, MPH, 401-351-8719, ext 112, scharff@onenb.org  
Jen Hawkins, hawkins@onenb.org | 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 | Deb Golding  
401-222-5954  
Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Morgan Orr  
401-222-1250  
Morgan.Orr@health.ri.gov |
| **Providence HEZ: Southside, Elmwood, West End**  
Providence Children and Youth Cabinet  
Rebecca Boxx, 401-662-1637, Rebecca_Boxx@cycprovidence.org  
Matthew Billings, Matthew_Billings@cycprovidence.org | Focuses on 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 | Mia Patriarca, MA  
401-222-1225  
Mia.Patriarca@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
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| **Washington County HEZ**  
*South County Health*  
*South County Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds*  
Susan Orban, 401-788-2347, sorban@southcountyhealth.org  
Cindy Buxton, MS, RDN, 401-788-2426, cbuxton@southcountyhealth.org  
Evaluator: Tamara Calise, DrPH MEd, tcalise@jsi.com | 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) | Mia Patriarca, MA  
401-222-1225  
Mia.Patriarca@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Morgan Orr  
401-222-1250  
Morgan.Orr@health.ri.gov |
| **West Warwick HEZ: Citywide**  
*Thundermist Health Center*  
Susan Jacobsen, MA, LMHC, CCM, 401-767-4100, ext 4304, susanj@thundermisthealth.org  
Krista Handfield, 401-615-2800, ext 4994, kristah@thundermisthealth.org  
Evaluator: Denise Crooks, denisecr@thundermisthealth.org | 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) | Deb Golding  
401-222-5954  
Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Elise George, MPH  
401-222-3030  
Elise.George@health.ri.gov |
| **Woonsocket HEZ: Citywide**  
*Thundermist Health Center*  
Susan Jacobsen, MA, LMHC, CCM, 401-767-4100, ext 4304, susanj@thundermisthealth.org  
Alyssa Menard, 401-615-2800 ext 4964, alyssam@thundermisthealth.org  
Evaluator: Denise Crooks, denisecr@thundermisthealth.org | 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. [thundermisthealth.org](http://thundermisthealth.org) | Deb Golding  
401-222-5954  
Deb.Golding@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Elise George, MPH  
401-222-3030  
Elise.George@health.ri.gov |
| **Bristol HEZ: Townwide**  
*Town of Bristol*  
Emily Pearce-Spence, M.Ed, 401-253-1611, emily.spence@bwrsd.org  
Craig Pereira, 401-272-1717, cpereira@horsleywitten.com | Focuses on improving nutritional standards and access to healthy food, 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), educating the community to facilitate adoption of a *Green and Complete Streets* policy, offering diabetes prevention programming, expanding collaboration of 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, and implementing a suicide prevention program. [bristolhealthequityzone.org](http://bristolhealthequityzone.org) | Mia Patriarca, MA  
401-222-1225  
Mia.Patriarca@health.ri.gov  
Evaluator:  
Elise George, MPH  
401-222-2030  
Elise.George@health.ri.gov |

For general information about the HEZ initiative, contact Christopher Ausura | 401-222-1383 | Christopher.ausura@health.ri.gov or visit [www.health.ri.gov/hez](http://www.health.ri.gov/hez)