

# Bristol Health Equity Zone



**Year-End Report (June 2022)**

# Mission Statement

The BHEZ, through partnerships, works towards equitable access to healthy lifestyles throughout all stages of life for the community.

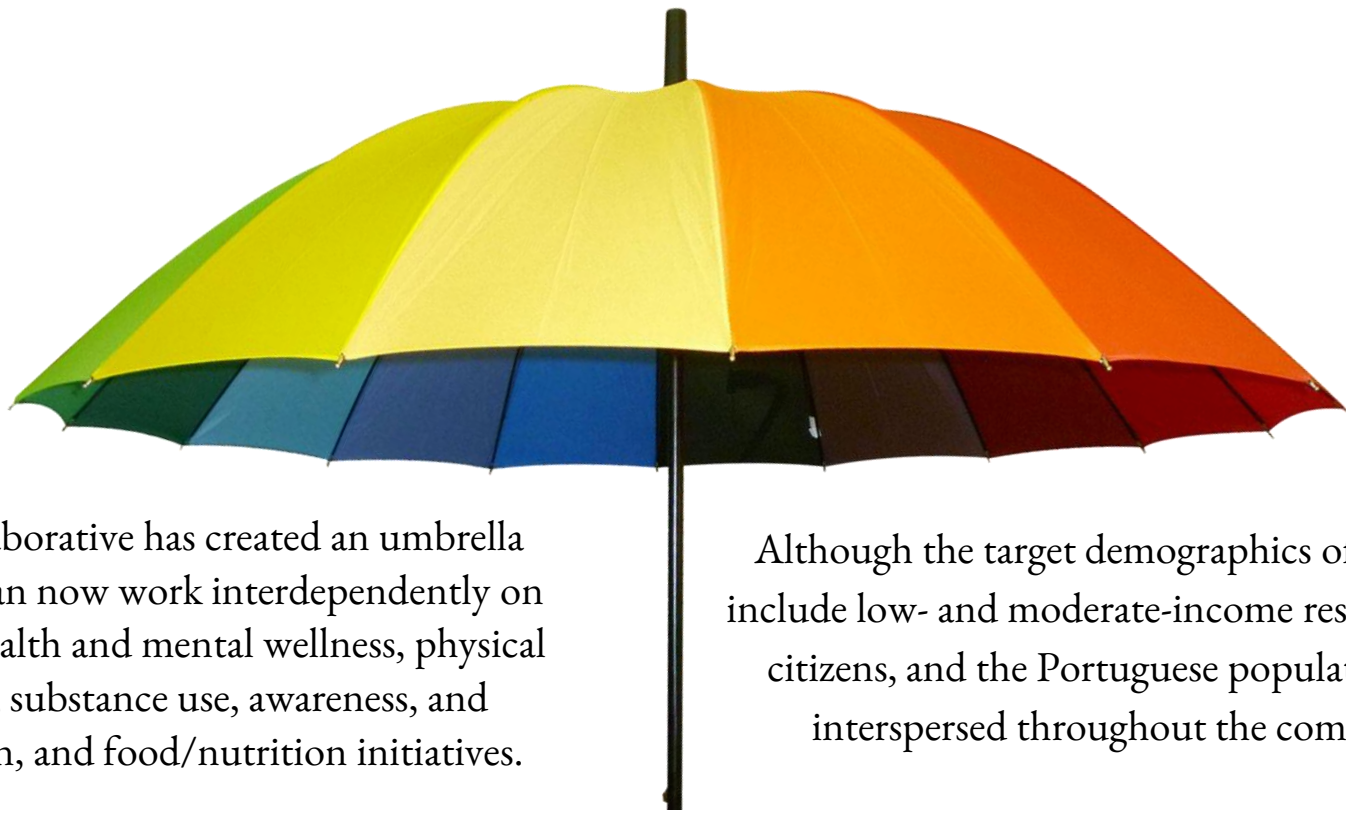


I.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bristol Health Equity Zone (BHEZ) fosters collaboration to identify the health risks and needs of the community and moves forward common objectives around health-promoting programs, services, and community design. While Bristol is fortunate to have the resources of many social services and community-based organizations already in place, most worked independently before the BHEZ.





The Collaborative has created an umbrella where all can now work interdependently on personal health and mental wellness, physical activity, substance use, awareness, and prevention, and food/nutrition initiatives.

Although the target demographics of the BHEZ include low- and moderate-income residents, senior citizens, and the Portuguese population, all are interspersed throughout the community.

Therefore, the organization addresses needs of the entire population of Bristol as well as those within the Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) as a regionalized district.

## II. DEMOGRAPHICS

HEZ Demographic Description	
<b>Geographic area served</b>	<p>The Town of Bristol is in Bristol County in the East Bay area of Rhode Island. Bristol is a peninsula, surrounded by Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay and the Kickemuit River. The town is built on the traditional territories of the Pokanoket Wampanoag. It is a deep-water seaport named after Bristol, England. The population of Bristol as of the last census was 22,226. The median household income of Bristol residents in 2021 was \$74,079. When compared to the county and state, Bristol’s median household income is was \$4,079 higher than the state but \$11,334 lower than Bristol County. Despite the overall increasing household wealth, there remains a population living in Bristol with very limited financial means. Of the 8,097 households in Bristol in 2021, 591 (7.3%) had income below the poverty level. The Town has a large population of low- to moderate-income residents who live in the downtown neighborhood known as the “Mosaico” neighborhood.</p>
<b>Description of racial/ethnic groups served in area and estimated population reached</b>	<p>The Bristol HEZ service area is comprised of the following racial and ethnic groups and the BHEZ seeks to serve each of these groups with an equity and inclusion lens:</p> <p>93.4% White            1.8% Black            2.9% Hispanic            2.0% Asian</p> <p>Bristol is home to a large ethnic population of Portuguese residents, at approximately 29% of the population according to Census statistics, the majority of which reside in the low- to moderate income neighborhood known as the Mosaico neighborhood.</p> <p>24% of Bristolians, total population as of 2018 was 22,131 are age 60+</p>
<b>Key areas of RI Statewide SDOH</b>	<p>The Community Needs Assessment along with RIDOH identified SDOH needs have determined the focus of the Steering Committee and Work Groups to date. The currently active Work Groups include: Suicide Prevention, Mental Wellness, Substance Use/Awareness, Physical Activity, Food and Nutrition.</p>

# III.

## PARTNER SUMMARY



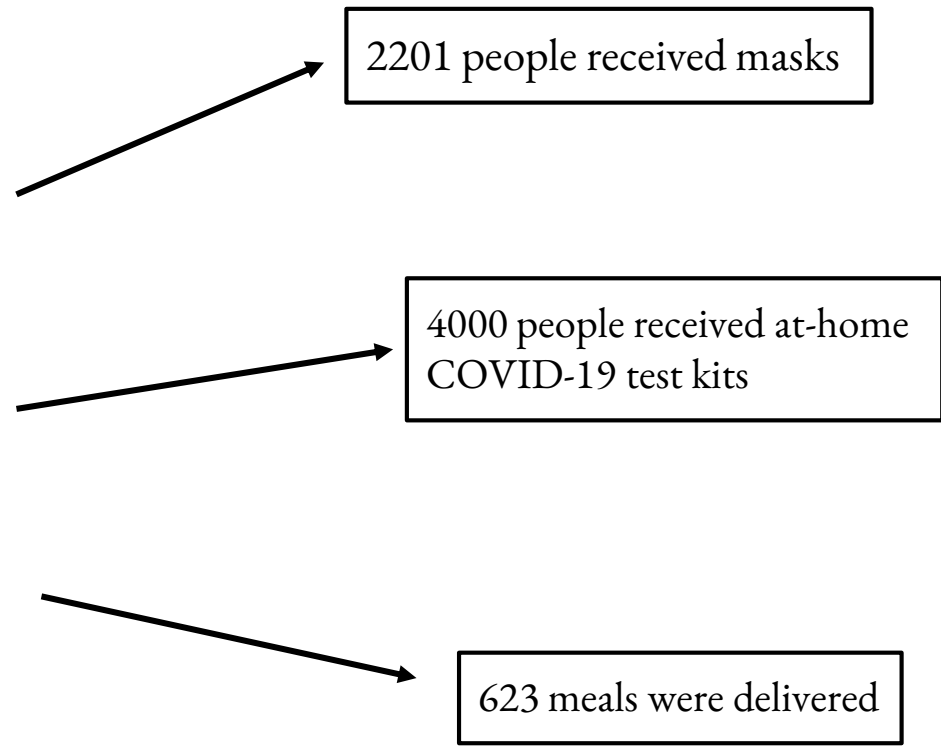
The Collaborative Membership List for BHEZ 2022 is attached [here](#).

**IV.**

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

# Health Disparities

Over the last year BHEZ established an outreach team that has gained recognition in the community by attending various community events (See attached list) and doing street outreach in the in various location throughout town. An integral piece of BHEZ's COVID-19 outreach efforts has been the continued building of community relationships and trust, and building them in a manner that allows us to meet people where they are, both physically and emotionally. We have coordinated a variety of direct services over the last year, including: distributing masks and COVID self-test kits and delivering meals.



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2201 people received masks

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# Partnership with the Town of Bristol

The Bristol HEZ has improved its ability to impact systems change through building its relationship with the Town of Bristol. BHEZ partnered with the town in a community-wide effort to distribute at-home COVID-19 test kits. Recognizing the impact of substance use, we continue to strengthen our relationship with the Bristol Prevention Coalition (BPC) and continue our strong partnership with the Bristol Police Department by supporting safety cameras as part of a suicide prevention effort. We have also continued to support the Parks and Recreation part-time Recreation Coordinator at Quinta Gamelin Community Center (QGCC). This position has assisted with offering free and low-cost exercise classes and other activities to the community. For example, cookie decorating, stroller bootcamp, meditation and Lego Engineering.



# Preschool Development

## Grant

Over the last year, we have continued to focus on providing resources, support, and education to families with children ages 0-5 and expectant parents, particularly those from traditionally underserved communities.

- Through a continued partnership with The Autism Project (TAP) For the second year in a row, we offered parent training for the Bristol Warren community.
- Through a partnership with Parents as Teachers (PAT), implemented a Play-and-Learn program where parents and children came together for kid-friendly, educational activities in an effort to combat isolation and improve socialization. These have been very well-received by parents and children alike.



# Governance Development

This year, a priority for BHEZ was the creation of a governance structure. The attached governance document is a result of six months of revisions, feedback from the Steering Committee and workgroup members.

## Community Health Worker Grant

Through the CDC Community Health Worker Grant, BHEZ has hired 1.5 Community Health Workers (CHW) to support the Bristol Warren Regional School District. CHWs will support the school system in the Bristol HEZ (BWRSD) area by working with students and families toward COVID support and recovery through assisting with their behavioral and health care needs.

# Monthly Cooking Demonstrations

BHEZ continued to support the monthly cooking demonstration through The Common Pub and Grille. Owner, Courtney Poissant, a well-known, trusted resident of the Portuguese community of Bristol, hosts the demo while giving health/nutrition tips. Bags with the ingredients are given out into the community the day before the demonstration so residents can follow along at home. This continues to be a popular community activity (see specific numbers in the dashboard). This cooking demonstration was also asked to be on the Hunger Elimination Task Force Panel in May 2022.



**ONLINE COOKING DEMO!**

Chef Courtney has gone virtual and you can cook along with her in your own kitchen!

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE FOR  
PUMPKIN RISOTTO TOPPED WITH CHICKEN  
Wednesday October 27th at 12:30pm**

The **first 60 people** to respond to this post by **Monday 10/25 at 5pm** will be eligible to receive a bag of ingredients\*. Bags can be picked up on **Tuesday 10/26 from 12-8 PM**

\*one bag per household

**YOU MUST COMMENT BELOW!**

**COMMENT BELOW AND WE WILL  
CONTACT YOU FOR YOUR DETAILS.**

 *Partnering for a healthy community*



# Outreach





## FREE Training for professionals working to best support children age Birth to Five!

Are you working with children Birth to 5 years old? Do you live or work in Woonsocket, Bristol, Warren or Central Providence (02908 02909)? If so, sign up for FREE training through The Autism Project®!

### Autism Thinking: A 4-Part Series

For Parents and Professionals

- September 8, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Creating the Connections"
- September 15, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Understanding Autism"
- September 22, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Visual Supports in Practice"
- September 29, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Self-Regulation"

For More Information/To Register: <https://bit.ly/tapseptember1>

- October 7, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Creating the Connections"
- October 14, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Understanding Autism"
- October 21, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Visual Supports in Practice"
- October 28, 2021 5:30-7:30 PM "Self-Regulation"

For More Information/To Register: <https://bit.ly/tapoctober1>

Thanks to a Preschool Development Grant from the Central Providence, Bristol, and Woonsocket Health Equity Zones, The Autism Project® is able to offer these trainings free of charge to those who meet the following criteria:

- Working with or raising a child (or children) between the ages of Birth and 5 years old.
- Living in Central Providence (02908, 02909), Woonsocket (02895), Bristol (02809) or Warren (02885)



The Autism Project  
1516 Atwood Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02919  
401-785-2666  
[www.theautismproject.org](http://www.theautismproject.org)  
Questions?: [dlangevin@lifespan.org](mailto:dlangevin@lifespan.org)

Full schedule of training is at [www.theautismproject.org](http://www.theautismproject.org)

# Events

## Rally 4 Recovery

### September 25, 2021

1pm - 4pm

Bristol Town Beach Pavilion

Colt State Park

50 Asylum Road Bristol RI 02809

Entertainment by Neal and the Vipers  
Refreshments provided



Funded by the Roger Williams University grant for civic activity



Partnership for a healthy community



THE BRIDGE TO SELF-RELIANCE

Please join us for the

2022 Bristol and Warren Data in Your Backyard



The Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Data in Your Backyard series presents community-level child well-being data from the Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook in communities across the state. These presentations are followed by a community discussion.

Local leaders, educators, service providers, and other interested community members are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
(check-in begins at 9:00 a.m.)

Roger Williams University  
Global Heritage Hall (GHH) Atrium  
(parking information will be sent to registrants)

**REGISTER**

Sponsored by:  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
Bristol Warren Thrive by Five and Beyond  
East Bay Community Action Program  
Bristol Health Equity Zone  
Warren Health Equity Zone

## Kindness Shells

The Bristol Kindness Project Supports "Aquidneck Shells"

Paint one, leave one, find one, post one! Spread joy!

How To Be Kind with Shells: Learn more on Facebook.com/AquidneckShells

Get your shells

Wash them with soapy water

Let them dry

Paint/decoupage shells

Keep, give, or hide shells

Photograph shells, found or hidden

Post to FB!



Facebook.com/BristolKindnessProject

BKP is an initiative of the Bristol Health Equity Zone.  
[www.bristolhealthequityzone.org](http://www.bristolhealthequityzone.org)

V.

**SUCCESS STORIES**

# Overview

This year, BHEZ has transitioned backbone agencies from The Town of Bristol to East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP). This transition has been an asset to the community. Merging closer with the resources that EBCAP has to offer and giving the opportunity to develop strong partnerships with the other HEZs (East Providence and Warren) under its umbrella has opened more opportunities and increased capacity. The three HEZs have been able to hire shared positions in finance and communications. They plan to share resources to hire an evaluator as well. The close proximity and the shared school district with the Warren HEZ, has lent to many partnering opportunities. Warren and Bristol HEZ have attended school district meetings together, attended each other's events and are planning on sharing a Family Navigator position in Year23 to work in the Bristol/Warren community.

# Mt. Hope Bridge Efforts

Through our partnership with Roger Williams University, Dr. Cottle and several students worked with our Suicide Prevention Group to collect information/data to write a policy brief regarding cameras near the bridge. This information was utilized in the BHEZ partnership with the Bristol Police Department to place Flock Safety Cameras near the Mt Hope Bridge. This has led to policy being written for the town of Bristol on the use of these safety cameras. [Read the story here.](#)



# Kids Count Event

As part of a long-standing partnership with Thriveby5 and Roger Williams University and our newly formed partnership with the Warren HEZ, BHEZ hosted a **Kids Count: Data In Your Backyard Event**. This was the first time this event was held in Bristol and there were over 70 registrants. There were many community members and representatives from various community organizations in attendance. This event is intended to jumpstart further conversation regarding the needs in the community and bring community together to discuss solutions. [Read the story here.](#)



**VI.**

## **HEZ ACTION PLAN DASHBOARD**

**Goal 1: Increase Community Awareness and Participation**

<b>Action/Activity</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Impact Area</b>	<b>Process Measure</b>	<b>Outcome Measure</b>	<b>Data Source/Frequency of Data Collection</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Activity 1.1: Hold quarterly Collaborative meetings and invited new members to join the Collaborative	Support the growth, diversity, sustainability and efforts of the HEZ Collaborative.	Community Engagement	Over 10 sectors of the community represented:  Four new community organizations and two new residents joined the collaborative list in year 2021-22		Meeting Minutes, Collaborative List (Attached)	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant CHW Grant
Activity 1.2: Attend and support community events. List of events attended attached.		Community Engagement	Participate in at least two community events/quarterly	The outreach team averaged 7 events per quarter in 2022-23.	Excel List of Events	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant
Activity 1.3: Co-host two workshops/community events with the Town of Bristol Parks and Recreation		Community Engagement	Co-hosted one community event in 2021-2022. One is scheduled for July 2022.			Core Health Disparities

## Goal 2: Support Community Resiliency

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source	Funding
Partner with East Bay Food Pantry and residents to improve resident knowledge of food access and resources	Assess community knowledge of food and nutrition supports and barriers; utilize information gathered to effect policy and regulatory change  Increase the community's knowledge, practical experience and access to healthy foods. Encourage systems change advocacy.	Community Engagement Food Access				Core Grant
Activity 2.1: Support the BHEZ Food and Nutrition Workgroup		Community Engagement Food Security	Host monthly meetings of the Food/Nutrition work group	Currently looking to replace the Food and Nutrition working group champion so we can return to holding regularly monthly meetings.		Health Disparities Grant, CHW grant, Preschool Development Grant
Activity 2.2 Expand membership of the Food/ Nutrition Workgroup		Community Engagement Food Access	Identify and invite at least 5 new members to attend meetings; have at least 2 regularly attending new members by June 2023			Core Grant Health Disparities Grant
Activity 2.3 Continue to fund the Cooking Demonstration Manager position		Community Engagement Civic Engagement	Provide healthy food and monthly cooking demonstration to the community	650 bags of ingredients were distributed to the community as part of the virtual cooking demonstration in 2021-2022. <b>Complete an updated cooking demonstration survey in 2022-2023 to help determine new areas of focus.</b>	Facebook administration data	
Activity 2.4 Continue to support delivery of food to residents when needed		Food Access Community Engagement	Support the East Bay Food Pantry in food delivery efforts.	CHWs have delivered approximately 623 meals in 2021-22.		Health Disparities Grant, CHW grant, Core



## Goal 2: Support Community Resiliency (cont.)

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source	Funding
Distribute and update a comprehensive, virtual resource hub	Continue to develop and share a comprehensive resource location to support residents in self-sufficiency	Community Engagement  Access to Resources				Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant
Activity 3.1: Utilize the <a href="https://www.helpisherebristol.com/">https://www.helpisherebristol.com/</a> website to create database of resources		Resource Referral	Continue to add resources for priority areas To the website	Track number of visits to the website in 2021-2022.		Core Grant Health Disparities Grant CHW Grant
Activity 3.2: Share regular BHEZ programming and administrative updates with the BHEZ Collaborative.		Community Engagement Collaborative Building	Add upcoming events and programs to social media and to meeting agendas.	Increased attendance at events	Meeting Minutes, Social media admin	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant
4.1: Continue to support a Personal Health and Mental Wellness Work group.	Support Personal Health and Mental Wellness in assisting with community emergency response efforts; integrate their work with broader community resiliency efforts	Community Engagement	Host monthly Personal Wellness Work Group	The PHMW Work group added three new members in 2021-2022).	The new members will participate regularly over the 2022-23 year.	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant
Activity 4.2: Partnered with the Local community organizations to co-host a virtual Anxiety Workshop for families, providing an opportunity to share resources and support with each other and the community		Community Engagement Collaborative Building	Over 70 registrants for the virtual workshop	Survey following the workshop indicated that over half the participants wanted further workshops of this nature.	BHEZ is supporting a partner agency to develop a Part 2 of this work shop for the fall of 2022.	Core,  Other funding: Bristol Rotary Donation

## Goal 2: Support Community Resiliency (cont., again.)

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source	Funding
Activity 4.3: Support the creation of The Bristol Kindness Project <a href="https://www.facebook.com/bristolkindnessprojectRI/">https://www.facebook.com/bristolkindnessprojectRI/</a>	Improve access to and ensure systems/policy change is beneficial to the impacted community; support a self-advocating community and emerging leaders	Community Engagement Community Resiliency		20 % increase in followers on social media.		Core Grant
Activity 4.4: Continue to hold every other month Suicide Prevention Work group meetings		Community Engagement Collaborative Building Food Access	Work group facilitated partnership with the Bristol Police Department in Suicide prevention Effort	Partnership led to new policy being written regarding the use of cameras near the Mt Hope Bridge for suicide prevention efforts.		Core Grant
A range of outreach activities in partnership with state and local leaders to increase vaccination and testing rates, provide system navigation supports, and foster community resilience	Continue to expand community level response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support community resilience and recovery	Community Engagement Community Resilience				Health Disparities Grant
Activity 4.1 Participate in street outreach		Community Engagement	Participate in street outreach at least twice per month	BHEZ outreach team participated in street outreach 1.5 times per month in 2021-22.	Photos, locations list, narrative stories, referrals	Health Disparities, CHW grant
Activity 4.2: Identify and participate in community outreach efforts related to COVID-19 mitigation; participate in monthly calls with RIDOH and East Providence EMS around COVID-19 mitigation		Community Resilience	Attend monthly RIDOH meetings; participate in vaccination clinics throughout Bristol Community	Community Outreach team attended 4 vaccination clinics	Events list, RIDOH meeting attendance	Health Disparities Grant

### Goal 3: Improve Access to Health and Wellness for All

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source	Funding
Activity 5:1: Continue to support the Physical Activity Workgroup	Support the growth, diversity, sustainability of access to healthy community activities for all.  Create/support free or low-cost recreational opportunities for all ages.	Community Engagement	Hold monthly Physical Activity Work Group Meetings	PA Work group added three new community agencies to the group in 2021-2022.	Photos, locations list, narrative stories, referrals	Core grant
Activity 5:2: Continue to support the Activities Coordinator position at the Town of Bristol Parks and Recreation Department		Community Engagement	Average of 10 classes per week offered at reduced rate.	Survey participants for feedback on classes and activities.	Collected Weekly on Google forms, Mind Body app	Core Grant .
		Collaborative Building	Approximately 25 free activities offered in 2021-2022.			
		Physical and Behavioral Health	Average of 440 participants weekly.			
Activity 5.3: Provide outreach and education opportunities to Bristol families		Youth/Family Engagement Community Resilience	Family Navigator to be hired Summer 2022	Track referrals with internal data system		

**Goal 3: Improve Access to Health and Wellness for All (cont.)**

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source	Funding
6.1: Continue to support the Substance Use Awareness Prevention Workgroup		Community Engagement Social Isolation Senior Services	Host Monthly Work group meetings.  Increase participation of residents.	Add 2 residents to the group by June 2023.	Meeting notes, champion reporting	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant CHW Grant
6.2: Continue to partner with the Prevention Coalitions to support mental health of the community; identify other community partners for future collaborations to address social isolation	Increase resident engagement and decrease social isolation.	Community Engagement Social Isolation Behavioral Health	Support the Facilitation MHAT trainings for the community,	Organized MHAT training through the Regional Coalition for the Bristol Warren regional School District.	Mental Health First Aid Training scheduled for August 22, 2022.	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Preschool Development Grant, CHW Grant
6.3: Partnered with local and state agencies to engage families with young children and expectant parents to participate in evidence-based maternal and early childhood programs	Provide support and connection for families; assist in securing social and health resources as needed	Community Engagement Social Isolation Behavioral Health	Parents as Teachers: 9 sessions of their Play and Learn Program and 6 sessions of positive Discipline which impacted 20 individuals. (See comments from participants)  The Autism Project Trainings: Impacted an average of 7 families and 39 professionals per month in 2021-2022. (See comments from participants)			Preschool Development Grant

**Goal 3: Improve Access to Health and Wellness for All (cont., again.)**

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source	Funding
Activity 6.4: Partner with school district and library to provide on-site Family Navigator services	Increase resident engagement and decrease social isolation.  Provide support and connection for families; assist in securing social and health resources as needed	Community Engagement Maternal and Child Health Community Resilience Collaborative Building	Family Navigator to be hired Summer 2022	Outreach at local community locations such as library, school and parks	Track referrals	Pre-School Development Grant
Activity 6.5: Partnered with state and local organizations to offer educational and culturally relevant/sensitive programming		Community Engagement Maternal and Child Health Community Resilience Collaborative Building	Participate in EBCAP's Task Force on Equity and Inclusion.  Participate in RIDOH's Equity and Results Racial Impact Training	Formed a local team of residents to attend the state-wide Equity and Results Training.	Data Collection, Team racial impact development. TBD	Core Grant, Health Disparities Grant

**Goal 4: Strengthen Capacity/Structure of BHEZ**

Action/Activity	Objective	Impact Area	Process Measure	Outcome Measure	Data Source/Frequency of Data Collection	Funding
Continue to conduct outreach to key community partners and resident leaders	Increase stakeholder and resident engagement and impact Increase stakeholder and resident engagement and impact					
Activity 7.1: Developed a governance structure for the BHEZ Steering Committee and Workgroups		Collaborative Building	See attached governance document		Review governance information annually.	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant
Activity 7.2: Encouraged BHEZ Collaborative member participation in HEZ Learning Community Events		Collaborative Building	5 collaborative members attended HEZ Learning Communities			Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant
Activity 7.3: Continue to build partnership with the other East Bay HEZ's (East Providence and Warren)		Collaborative Building Community Engagement	Partnered with East Bay HEZ's in three community presentations.  Supported Warren HEZ in two Events  Partnered with Warren HEZ to support 2 shared roles across the two HEZs.  Partnered with EP and Warren HEZ to support two roles shared amongst all three HEZs.		Internal data tracking system	Core Grant Health Disparities Grant Pre-School Development Grant, CHW Grant

## **VII.**

# **COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

<b>Information Source *</b> <i>Where/how are you getting the information (data)</i>	<b>Stakeholders engaged</b> <i>Who was/is the target population(s) and how were/are they identified and reached?</i>	<b>How will you/did you engage the different stakeholders?</b> <i>How does assessment support identification of needs coming from the community?</i>	<b>Findings/Results of the community assessment (if completed)</b> <i>What issues or priorities were identified in the community, and how will they be shared with the community and prioritized?</i>	<b>Success and challenges of this community needs assessment activity</b> <i>What would you do again and what would you have done differently?</i>
<b>Outreach/Events</b> SDOH screening and conversations with residents	Community Members	Being present at various events and locations in town gave a variety of opportunity for input from local community.	Outreach highlights include: Food/nutrition access and knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioral Health</li> <li>Rent assistance</li> </ul> Results are shared at the Steering Committee meeting and Collaborative meetings.	Getting out into the community more with the outreach team has increase BHEZ visibility and awareness.  It has assisted in getting referrals to various resources.
<b>Collaborative meetings</b>	Collaborative meetings are open meetings for any community member interested in HEZ	Quarterly Collaborative meetings include a standing agenda item to determine and discuss community needs.	Mental health needs of all community members but most specifically youth and seniors were identified. Additionally, the needs of youth around summer learning loss was identified. The findings were then shared at Working Group meetings so group members could discuss issues and potential solutions.  Results will be shared at the Steering Committee meeting and subsequent collaborative meetings to share how input was received and acted upon.	This has been an ongoing effective means of community assessment.



Information Source *	Stakeholders engaged	How will you/did you engage the different stakeholders?	Findings/Results of the community assessment (if completed)	Success and challenges of this community needs assessment activity
<i>Where/how are you getting the information (data)</i>	<i>Who was/is the target population(s) and how were/are they identified and reached?</i>	<i>How does assessment support identification of needs coming from the community?</i>	<i>What issues or priorities were identified in the community, and how will they be shared with the community and prioritized?</i>	<i>What would you do again and what would you have done differently?</i>
<b>Community Presentations</b>	Members of EBCAP steering committee and the chamber of commerce were invited to attend a presentation about HEZ.	BHEZ takes advantage of any public speaking opportunity to solicit input about community needs.	Mental health needs was identified as a need.	This has been an ongoing effective means of community assessment.
<b>Working Group meetings</b>	We invite interested community members to get involved in Working Groups through presentations, Collaborative meetings and periodically, through social media	Monthly Working Group meetings continually assess community need and whether strategies are proving effective.	Discussion about youth summer learning loss was identified as a need.	BHEZ was able to discuss concerns brought up with the partners at the local school district. The school instituted access to tutoring for students and worked with the parks and recreation department to get transportation from the tutoring to the town camp.

<b>Information Source *</b> <i>Where/how are you getting the information (data)</i>	<b>Stakeholders engaged</b> <i>Who was/is the target population(s) and how were/are they identified and reached?</i>	<b>How will you/did you engage the different stakeholders?</b> <i>How does assessment support identification of needs coming from the community?</i>	<b>Findings/Results of the community assessment (if completed)</b> <i>What issues or priorities were identified in the community, and how will they be shared with the community and prioritized?</i>	<b>Success and challenges of this community needs assessment activity</b> <i>What would you do again and what would you have done differently?</i>
<b>Community Re-assessment</b>	Residents in the local community	BHEZ plans to do a re-assessment in the upcoming year to gather more data regarding priority areas	TBD	Securing an evaluator has proven to be a challenge this year.
<b>HEZ Social Media Report</b>	Steering Committee, HEZ Staff, community members	Steering Committee Meetings, Work Group Meetings, Facebook including Facebook Live events, Instagram	TBD  <i>We will track satisfaction, attendance, and demographic information.</i>	Through shared EBCAP communications assistance, we have begun streamlining BHEZ social media

# VIII.

## SUMMARY

The Bristol Health Equity Zone (BHEZ) was in an interesting state of development this year. Starting Year 7, with a last minute transition of backbone agencies from the Town of Bristol to East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) and the loss of the long standing co-directors, proved to be difficult. The relationship among Steering Committee members, and the incredible dedication that they demonstrated assisted in the many changes that took place. The steering committee as a whole has embodied the spirit of collaboration in support of Bristol residents.



**east bay community  
action program**



This is not to imply that the year has been without challenges. One of the primary barriers to community engagement continues to be COVID-19, and the necessary health and safety precautions implemented across Rhode Island. Although the BHEZ Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular and frequent basis, encouraging community participation was at times a challenge. With rising COVID-19 cases and concerns around first the Delta and then the Omicron variants over the first six months of the grant cycle, residents' willingness to participate in in-person programming varied. Although the Bristol HEZ continued to build trust within the community due to continuous outreach efforts, partnerships with municipal leadership, and the provision of supplies and resources, the unfortunate reality is that many residents continue to experience virtual meeting fatigue, are concerned about the health of themselves and their loved ones, and are struggling with the effects of isolation. BHEZ remained dedicated to continuing to meet the community where they are, both physically and mentally, and the continued guidance and support from RIDOH around virtual engagement, safe in-person engagement, and distribution of PPE and at-home test kits over the course of the year, particularly that of our Project Officer, has been invaluable.

Evaluation continues to be a focus for BHEZ. Despite distributing an RFP for an evaluator, we did not receive any proposals. In partnership with the Warren and East Providence Health Equity Zones, we are re-visiting the role of the evaluator at the regional level, and discussing embedding the evaluator fully within EBCAP. As we work through this process, we are also summarizing the community feedback gathered from our community event series in the Spring of 2022.

As BHEZ continues to grow, additional resources for administrative functions, such as financial tracking, reporting, and general program coordination would be beneficial. BHEZ looks forward to the added infrastructure support from EBCAP and hope to continue to expand our partnership with the Town of Bristol in the coming year. We also will continue to work towards affecting policy on the Mt Hope Bridge as part of our ongoing suicide prevention efforts. We know that having an independent evaluator to work with to expand our evaluation would be a benefit. We could also benefit from additional support with EOY reporting, Work Plan/ Evaluation Plan development.

Evaluation continues to be a focus for BHEZ. Despite distributing an RFP for an evaluator, we did not receive any proposals. In partnership with the Warren and East Providence Health Equity Zones, we are re-visiting the role of the evaluator at the regional level, and discussing embedding the evaluator fully within EBCAP. As we work through this process, we are also summarizing the community feedback gathered from our community event series in the Spring of 2022.

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# Community Testimonials

I personally loved the positive parenting part of the program. These were several sessions for parents providing very practical tools and solutions of how deal with tantrums, stressful situations and various behavioral patterns. Parents could share their experience and learn new ways of how to discipline through positive feedback and support avoiding drama and stress. I would greatly recommend this program for 4-5 year old children and their parents.

The parent thanked me enthusiastically and said that her daughter looked forward to every session and would have loved if it went longer. She learned so much and the parents loved all of the activity ideas to do at home and I feel she is much more ready to enter kindergarten!

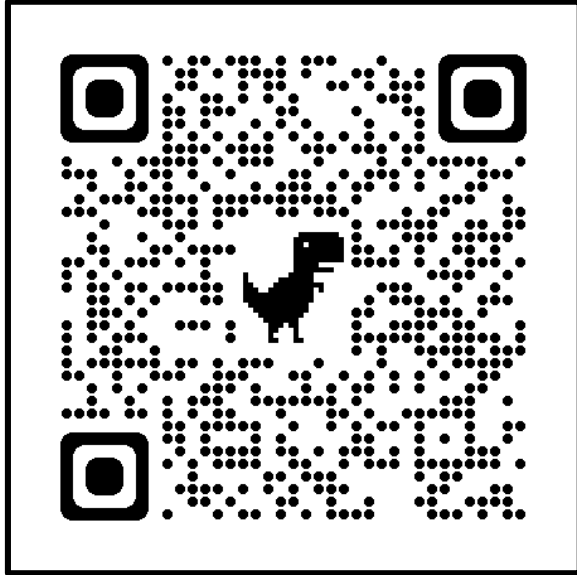
**From the Parents of the Play and Learn Program**

We participated in Play and Learn program twice - in the fall and in the spring sessions. They were very interactive and entertaining to keep kiddos interested and engaged. Kids learned about letters, numbers and science. After every class we were given a bag of supplies and directions how to complete some extra activities at home. That was great and we really enjoyed doing those activities. During the program my son showed incredible progress- he learned almost all (if not all) the letters, made new friends. He was always excited going to classes and learning new things. This is a wonderful program that helps kids to get ready for Kindergarten.

“Why Ask Why?” was the best Autism workshop I ever attended. Her delivery of the information (as a teacher & not a parent) was like no other workshop I have had before on Autism. She was powerful! I would attend another one of her workshops in a heartbeat!

**A Parent of the Why Ask Why? Program**

# Attachments & Extras



Link to the BHEZ Website

This year's BHEZ Event List can be viewed [here](#).

This year's East Bay HEZs Presentation can be viewed [here](#).

