



End of Year Report

Program Year One: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Submitted: June 29, 2022

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Attachments:

- A. Warren HEZ Collaborative Membership updated June 2022
- B. Warren HEZ Dashboard/Evaluation and Action Plan
- C. Warren HEZ EOY Report Communications and Marketing section
- D. Speak Out Panels 2022
- E. 3 HEZ Healthy Food Access Report
- F. Housing Works RI Raw Data: Survey Instrument, Warren Data, ARPA Findings
- G. Broadband Access: Survey Instrument, Speed Test Analysis, Warren Broadband Survey Responses

I. Executive Summary

[Provide brief 1 paragraph to include a brief description of your HEZ and the community the HEZ serves, your mission, and your partners to provide a brief overview of your HEZ - can be an update from prior version or application. You also can add a link for detail to webpages etc.]

Warren Health Equity Zone with support from its backbone agency, East Bay Community Action Program, employs a place-based approach to build the infrastructure needed to achieve healthy, systemic changes at the community level and to achieve health equity by eliminating health disparities within the town of Warren.

In June 2022, the Warren Health Equity Zone (HEZ) completed its first year and has engaged in activities to cultivate partners, build awareness and collect community needs assessment data. The Warren HEZ was almost immediately embedded in convenings and efforts around youth development, emergency food systems and housing affordability. In year 2, staff, residents and other stakeholders will continue the development of a Warren HEZ Collaborative that engages the community, collects measurable data and produces concrete, measurable action to improve health outcomes for all. The refinement of a governance structure and action committees will be the focus.

Warren HEZ benefitted from having East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) as the backbone agency in this first year. Warren HEZ had connection and access to many content experts and programs that are already well-informed of the needs of Warren and have the trust of Warren residents and leaders. Warren HEZ was able to share resources with the other HEZs affording us more dedicated time from staff and proposed evaluation strategy. Through EBCAP resources, Warren HEZ received significant in-kind support such as shared meeting space, equipment, staff consultation, sophisticated HR, IT and Financial practices and systems and informed supervision.

II. Demographic Information of HEZ Community Served

*[Provide an updated **brief** demographic “sketch” to describe the community and population served using the below chart to include the associated land area, population, racial/ethnic breakdown of population served, and any readily available/accessible relevant data (3-5 points) in terms of key focus areas of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) needed to be addressed within your community].*

Warren HEZ Demographic Description	
Geographic area served	Warren, Rhode Island, 02885 has three census tracts; 305, 306.01 and 306.02. The Town of Warren’s estimated total population is 11,200.
Description of racial/ethnic groups served in	As of 2021, Warren, Rhode Island has an estimated population of approximately 11,245 people. The service area population is predominantly white and non- Hispanic (94.3%) with these ethnically diverse populations growing: Black or African American (0.7%), Latinx (2.9%) and those identifying as two or more races (2.3%).

<p>area and estimated population reached</p>	<p>The town’s median income of \$64,034 is lower than the state and federal median incomes, and approximately 9.2% of residents live in poverty, at or below 100% the Federal Poverty Level. The percentage of the households that fall below the poverty line is 18%. This percentage is 7% higher than the rate for the state of Rhode Island which is currently at 11%.</p> <p>The US Census 2020 reported that 1,826 children under the age of 18 reside in Warren. Of the 1,826 children living in Warren, 9 identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, 32 as Asian, 39 as Black, 108 as Hispanic or Latinx and 0 as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 1,464 as white. Seventeen children identify as some other race (not listed on the census) and 157 identify with two or more races. The RI Kids Count 2022 Facebook estimates that 6.2% of children in Warren live in households below the Federal Poverty Threshold and reports indicate that 32% of children live in single parent households. Low income families’ participation in WIC is 32%, which is 13% less than the state’s average participation. SNAP enrollment is at 278, a decrease over previous years. Also noted by RI Kids Count, Child Abuse and Neglect indicators have been higher than the state’s average for the last four years. It is currently at 12.9%.</p> <p>UDS Mapper (a national database administered by Health Resources Services Administration) indicate the following health data for Warren’s adult population: approximately 10% had been told they have diabetes; 31% had been told they have high blood pressure; 27% are estimated to be obese; 9% have delayed or not sought care due to cost; nearly 11% had no regular source of care and 27% did not visit a dentist in 2018.</p> <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/warrentownbristolcountyrhodeisland • https://www.rikidscount.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Community%20Profiles%202022/Warren%202022.pdf?ver=2022-06-06-093605-423 • https://www.rikidscount.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Factbook%202022/Family%20and%20Community%20section.pdf?ver=2022-05-12-085913-510 • https://udsmapper.org/ 			
<p>Key areas of RI Statewide SDoH</p>	<p>Warren HEZ has identified 8 key areas within the RI Statewide SDOH. Each key area highlights two or more high priority issues. These priorities were established through the Community Needs Assessment and will inform Warren HEZ’s future working groups.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="289 1455 1487 1919"> <tr> <td data-bbox="289 1455 805 1919"> <p>INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) SNAP benefits 2) Behavioral Health <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Substance misuse, overdose and addiction b) E-Cigarettes and Alcohol c) Behavioral health support services <p>COMMUNITY RESILIENCY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Social Vulnerability Index Rating </td> <td data-bbox="810 1455 1487 1919"> <p>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Transportation affordability <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Safety of transportation b) Alternative transportation methods <p>SOCIO ECONOMICS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Housing Cost Burden <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cost of Living 7) Food Insecurity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) National School Breakfast and Lunch Program </td> </tr> </table>		<p>INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) SNAP benefits 2) Behavioral Health <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Substance misuse, overdose and addiction b) E-Cigarettes and Alcohol c) Behavioral health support services <p>COMMUNITY RESILIENCY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Social Vulnerability Index Rating 	<p>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Transportation affordability <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Safety of transportation b) Alternative transportation methods <p>SOCIO ECONOMICS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Housing Cost Burden <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cost of Living 7) Food Insecurity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) National School Breakfast and Lunch Program
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) COVID-19 support and recovery b) Climate change 4) Equity in Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Housing Affordability b) Access to healthy, affordable food 	<p>COMMUNITY TRAUMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8) Criminal Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Non-violent offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Suspension rates for people of color ii) Out of school time programs and resources
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III. Partner Summary

(See the attachment: Warren HEZ Collaborative Membership updated June 2022)

IV. Major Accomplishments

Establishing and Developing the Warren HEZ- Organizational Successes

- New Project Director, Kristin Read begins work August 31, 2021.
- Established the Warren HEZ office site at Mary V. Quirk Community Center (MVQ), co-located with EBCAP’s Head Start Program and the town’s Recreation Department. This space is provided rent free by the Town of Warren and infrastructure needs were addressed by EBCAP, such as painting, floor upkeep, air conditioning, wifi, shelving, etc.
- Finalized logo with help from American Trophy in East Providence and worked with EBCAP Communications team to create marketing materials, organize website and establish social media identity. www.ebcap.org/programs/warren-health-equity-zone/
- Presented Warren HEZ organizational progress to EBCAP Board Members in September 2021 and announced addition of new local HEZ to East Bay Chamber of Commerce at a monthly meeting. This was done in collaboration with Bristol HEZ.
- Hosted planning sessions on November 16th and 30th, seeking input from community members and those serving in the town, to identify Steering Committee members, discuss governance strategy and develop a plan for community assessment. In attendance were:
 - **EBCAP Staff:** Kristin Read, Director of Warren HEZ; Rita Capotosto, Vice President of Family Development; Tommy Joyce, Director of Recovery Support Services for East Bay Recovery Center; Donna Razza-Ramos, Senior Director, Family Development/Head Start; Dianne Farrar, Family Engagement Specialist, Head Start; Cheryl Schofield, Lead Family Advocate, Head Start; Melissa Goldstein, Director of Bristol HEZ and member of Bristol Warren Education Fund
 - **Community Members:** Tara Thibaudeau, Warren Parks & Recreation Director for the Town of Warren & Bristol Warren Regional School District, School Board Member; Ann Marie Roy, Town of Warren Director of Social Services; Maria Ursini, Warren Prevention Coalition; Caitlin Mandel, Food Equity Coordinator at Hope & Main; Betty Hoague, Director of Senior Services for Warren Senior Center; and Nadine Tavares, Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Program Officer joined us for second meeting.

- Supported two Rogers Williams University (RWU) Public Health interns: Natalie Chasse completed 120 hours and they were shared between Warren HEZ and their partners at Bristol Warren Thrive By Five. Charlotte Russell completed 40 hours and dedicated their time to supporting outreach, canvassing and events for the Warren HEZ exclusively. Warren HEZ will meet in August 2022 with RWU Public Health faculty to deepen the opportunities for service learning and community work.
- Warren HEZ Director, Kristin Read was joined by community member Mike Carbone and EBCAP staff person Dianne Farrar for *Resident Engagement Workshop*, a series developed by One Cranston HEZ as part of the RIDOH mentorship pilot. A commitment to more Youth Engagement and partnering with more local churches was agreed upon by our small team and we drew inspiration from Cranston HEZ's circles of engagement.
- Staff began a year-long equity and training program focused on implementing an Anti-Racist Results-Based Accountability methodology, to disrupt racial inequity through workshops led by Equity and Results (E&R) and building a Warren/Bristol HEZ-specific results-based framework to be implemented across the two towns. Brought two additional team members into Warren HEZ's growing collaborative through this work, Tamara Kaplan a resident of Warren and Shannon Addison who provides recovery services for residents of Warren

Partner Engagement- In Town, East Bay and Statewide

- Built connection to key Town of Warren stakeholders, such as the Town Manager, Town Planner, Chief of Police, Director of Parks and Recreation, Director of Social Services, Bristol-Warren School Superintendent, Bristol-Warren Assistant Superintendent and committee members from American Indian Study Group, Arts & Culture Council, Conservation Commission.
- In response to expressed need from the Town Manager and Town Fire Chief, organized two "Aging in Place" program presentations by Greater Providence Habitat for Humanity for external and internal EBCAP stakeholders - Aging in Place grant. Warren's Senior Center Director, Town Manager, Town Planner and Town Fire Chief attended.
- Collaborated with Warren Prevention Coalition to present information about Warren's Emergency Food System to RI Food Council's Hunger Elimination Task Force.
- In response to reports of youth being disruptive, Warren HEZ convened discussion and brainstorming sessions with 18 stakeholders from community organizations engaged in youth development programming and providing resources. Organizations included: EBCAP, George Hall Library, Warren Parks and Recreation, Warren Juvenile Hearing Board, Warren Prevention Coalition, East Bay Recovery Center, Bristol HEZ, Police Department, Town Manager, NAFI Group Home Director and a social worker representative from Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD). Representatives from Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) also participated and shared information about state resources and local models.
- Connected with FabLab of FabNewport to explore youth development partnership that would expand programming opportunities for teens and young adults. FabNewport founder and teens from Newport and Providence, led Maker programming for the career centered assessment event held in June 2022.
- Developed a relationship with Polaris MEP, a small business resource affiliated with URI. The team of staff who support the manufacturers in the East Bay and more specifically in Warren, have committed to directing HR and Directors/Owners to EBCAP and local HEZ as a social service network. And Polaris

MEP helped source Warren-based manufacturers for the career centered assessment event held in June 2022.

- Partnering with the Bristol and East Providence HEZs to ensure the efficient use of resources has been an assumption and a reality. Leaning on the support of EBCAP as the backbone organization for all three HEZs, we have partnered over the last year to not only share support resources, but to also begin developing a regional strategy to address overarching health equity barriers, including access to healthy, affordable food; services for families with young children; and substance use disorders. Bristol and Warren share a school district and often collaborated on outreach events and on community initiatives. A highlight of this partnership was the development of a Food Access Report, in partnership with RIDOH's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department and a graduate student from Tufts University. This report utilized a mixture of geographic information mapping, in-depth survey responses from providers and residents, and an analysis of the food and transportation options within the area to identify the primary barriers to food access and suggestions on addressing these issues. (See attachment: 3 HEZ Healthy Food Access Report)
- Provided presentations to the Head Start Administrative Assistant Team's eight members; and approximately 60 staff at a full staff meeting for the Family Development Department. Presented information about the HEZ model and shared community connections, opportunities and resources they can use for the recruitment of families and staff.

COVID-19 Response

- Warren HEZ did not have a Health Disparities grant; however, the staff supported the town and regional efforts as appropriate:
 - Supported the distribution of masks and self-test kits to food pantries, schools and child and family serving organizations.
 - Identified and supported renewed recruitment strategies to support staffing needs at EBCAP's Warren Testing site.
 - Participated in self-test kit distribution initiatives and kit information dissemination; provided Warren Times Gazette with information related to how Warren residents could access self-test kits.
 - Collaborated with Warren Fire Department to host Self-Test Kit distribution event where 810 self-test kits, 850 adult KN 95 masks and 2000 kids' masks were distributed. (see communications attachment)
 - Assisted with Vaccination Clinic promotion and implementation at Hugh Cole Elementary and St. Mary of the Bay.

Grants and Funding

- Submitted grant applications to Rhode Island Department of Health that will provide new capacity in year two of Warren HEZ:
 - A Preschool Development Grant totaling \$54,587, which will provide a part time Family Navigator for families of children Birth – 5 in Bristol/Warren Public School District.

- A HEZ Core and COVID Grant totaling \$190,168, which will provide a full time Community Health Worker, a shared Program Coordinator for Bristol and Warren HEZ and shared support with all three HEZs for evaluation and finance.
- Received and implemented American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Warren Town Funding contract to conduct a component of Warren HEZ's community assessment: the Housing and Broadband Surveys. Collaborated with Housing Works RI, an affiliate of Roger Williams University, to develop, promote and assist with survey and data collection.
 - Launched the Housing Affordability and Broadband Access surveys in March of 2022.
 - Engaged Warren residents in survey participation via postcard, newspaper articles, ads, local canvassing and community outreach.
 - Involved students from Roger Williams University in community canvassing in the 305 Census Tract; visited over 444 households. (see Success Story for more details)

Media

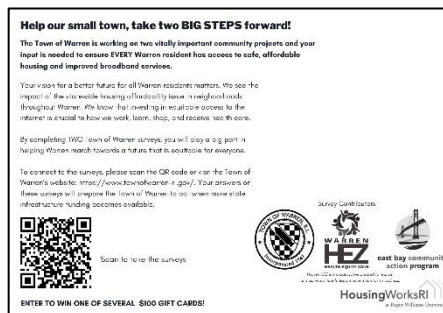
Participated with other East Bay HEZ Directors in Community Conversations, press release published in a Providence Journal article and Warren Times article. (See attachment: Warren HEZ EOY Report Communications and Marketing section)

Community Engagement

- Participated in town's Trunk or Treat event; distributed 120 Halloween goodie bags.
- Tabled at Warren WalkAbouts to engage with local community and raise awareness for Warren HEZ.
- Organized community event for "Week of the Young Child" with EBCAP departments including Head Start; event attendees engaged with EBCAP, Head Start and Warren HEZ staff. Participated in hands-on activities, received EBCAP early childhood resources and had snacks from a community partner, La Piñata; more than 40 families were in attendance.
- Organized and led a community speak out and Task Party as part of Bristol Warren Art Night that engaged residents in identifying future HEZ priorities. Shared the mission and purpose of Warren HEZ, the HEZ model and the importance of community health and wellness.
- Sponsored a Rhode Island Kids Count Data share out event hosted by Bristol Warren Thrive by Five and Beyond. Attendees included: community legislators, public health officials, educators, town and city, board representatives, etc.

V. Success Stories

Town of Warren tasks Warren HEZ and partner HousingWorks RI to collect data for ARPA Funded Research



A highlight of the first year for the Warren HEZ was its work being identified as an initiative to be included in the town's distribution of ARPA funding. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021 by President Biden.

This piece of legislation specifically allocated funds to eligible state, local, territorial and tribal governments to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Through a poll on the Town of Warren website, residents were asked to prioritize initiatives that would be eligible for ARPA funds. Addressing Health Equity Zone (HEZ) concerns ranked five out of the ten options. Provide seed funding for affordable housing trust fund, improving broadband infrastructure to underserved areas of town and improving food security for children in grades K-12 were also in the top five priorities. Warren HEZ was funded by the Town of Warren through its ARPA funds to engage in a local data collection effort.

After conversations with the town and consultants to explain the goal to build a resident-led collaborative which will act based on evidence and feedback from residents, the Warren HEZ partnered with HousingWorks RI to research the housing needs in the area and provide the town with local data to inform their actions. Warren HEZ coordinated activities, communicated with a separate group conducting a Broadband Survey and ensured completion to the satisfaction of the Town. HousingWorks RI (HWRI) will provide a deep analysis of research for the Town of Warren and built and hosted an online survey. Warren HEZ promoted the Housing and Broadband surveys and is pleased to report that 436 responded to the housing survey. There were 270 responses for the broadband access* survey and 210 speed tests; which assist in determining the upload and download speeds. Additionally, HWRI, the HEZ and RWU students conducted two weekends of canvassing focused on the 305-census tract, where many low-income residents live and the area has a moderate to high SVI*. Students, accompanied by a block captain, spread out to knock on doors and leave door hangers inviting residents to complete the online surveys. Over the course of the two days, canvassers visited 444 households. (see photos below).

*SVI is important for informing Warren HEZ: In 2018 the 305 Census Tract had an overall Social Vulnerability Index score of .5045 indicating it has a moderate to high level of vulnerability (Center for Disease Control/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disaster Registry <http://svi.cdc.gov/>).

Broadband Access and infrastructure is important to the town of Warren: “From economic stability, to education, to social supports, to civic agency, broadband and the digital services it enables are today intrinsically tied to collective health and equity outcomes.” [Digital prosperity: How broadband can deliver health and equity to all communities \(brookings.edu\)](https://www.brookings.edu/research/digital-prosperity-how-broadband-can-deliver-health-and-equity-to-all-communities/)

Warren HEZ partners with local Head Start Center to kick off the Week of the Young Child Celebration



Warren HEZ leveraged a favorite series of events which make up the annual NAEYC Week of the Young Child to amplify the importance of high quality early care in the community and to kick off community assessment events. On Main Street a popular restaurant La Pinata, agreed to reserve their patio for a morning of activities. Teachers from Mary V Quirk Head Start Center invited the parents of their students with hand printed post cards. And the local early learning centers and their families were also invited to attend. Over forty families attended the event that drew on local expertise from Providence Children’s Museum outreach department, support from Bristol HEZ and RWU students to

staff stations and distribute resources and from the EBCAP team at Head Start who shared work opportunities and activities to activate learning. Children and families were able to sample cultural dishes such as Agua Fresca and watch avocados, lime and cilantro become guacamole! The owner of La Pinata reports that people ask when he will do the next event and that the community event created new diners. The event even caught the eye of a local social media influencer who gave a shout out to Warren HEZ on her news feed.

VI. HEZ Dashboard and Action Plan

(See Attachment: HEZ Dashboard and Action Plan)

VII. Community Needs Assessment Summary / Update

[Needs assessment is a continuous process to identify the ever-changing needs of the community. Describe and/or provide an update to your continuous needs assessment plan using the chart below.]

Information Source <i>Where/how are you getting the information (data)</i>	Stakeholders engaged <i>Who was/is the target population(s) and how were/are they identified and reached?</i>	How will you/did you engage the different stakeholders? <i>How does assessment support identification of needs coming from the community?</i>	Findings/Results of the community assessment (if completed) <i>What issues or priorities were identified in the community, and how will they be shared with the community and prioritized?</i>	Success and challenges of this community needs assessment activity <i>What would you do again and what would you have done differently?</i>
Community Partner Data Reports	Warren Youth, Children, Youth and Adults seeking mental and behavioral health services; identified via Warren Prevention Coalition Annual Reports and data provided by the East Bay Community Action Program.	Reports highlight already existing data and predetermined priorities related to Warren's health and wellness; data and priority areas can be used to inform/expand on Warren's community needs.	Warren Youth is at risk for substance misuse; demonstrates the need for youth development programming for the town of Warren.	Success: Able to connect with local organizations with similar missions and priorities as Warren HEZ; learn from their work and knowledge of Warren community.
State Data Reports and Findings	Warren Families, Kids, and Youth, Warren Residents; identified via Rhode Island Kids Count, Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island Department of Education, Housing Works RI data reports and findings.	Reports highlight already existing data related to Rhode Island's health and wellness that Warren HEZ can use to inform needs.	Priority areas already identified by state: housing affordability, youth development and engagement, substance misuse, etc. These priority areas, along with specific data points related to Warren, will be used to determine future working groups' focus.	Success: Utilized data being tracked by other organizations on a state-wide level; informed our knowledge of larger state health priorities. Challenge: Difficulty finding some specific reports and the most up to date reports.

<p>National Data Reports and Findings</p>	<p>Warren Residents; identified via U.S. Census Count Data, Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD and Social Vulnerability indexes.</p>	<p>Reports highlight already existing national data related to Warren's health and wellness which can be used to inform/expand on community needs.</p>	<p>Data specific to SDOH will be used to help identify Warren HEZ's overarching priorities such as social services, behavioral health, socioeconomics, etc.</p>	<p>Success: Utilized data being tracked on a national level; informed our knowledge of national state health priorities.</p> <p>Challenge: Difficulty finding some data points related to SDOH and data specific to Warren.</p>
<p>Housing Affordability and Broadband Access Surveys</p>	<p>Warren Residents; reached via in-person, door-to-door canvassing, newspaper advertisement, fliers, social media and door tags.</p>	<p>Stakeholders participated in online surveying; provided feedback related to Warren's housing and Broadband access; this survey provides Warren HEZ with detailed insight into the community's housing concerns and allows us to collect specific data related to housing and broadband in Warren (that we may not be able to find in existing state and national data).</p>	<p>Stakeholders identified top concerns related to housing shortages, unaffordable rent and limited senior housing.</p>	<p>Success: Built partnership with both the Town of Warren and Housing Works RI; canvassing was much easier than anticipated and can be done again; direct mailings were easy way to reach stakeholders; we succeeded in obtaining over 500 completed surveys.</p> <p>Challenges: Guidance around the funding hadn't been set yet as the grant started and caused a series of false starts; it was also difficult to establishing effective methods of communication with Town and Town Planner; constantly had to advocate for HEZ priorities (since different partners had different priorities) timeline was out of HEZ control and implementation timing took away from other Assessment surveys.</p>
<p>Community Strengths and Needs Survey</p>	<p>Warren Residents, Warren Visitors and those employed in Warren; reached via newspaper advertisement, social media and community and</p>	<p>Stakeholders participated in online surveying; provided insights and feedback related to community health and wellness themes such as</p>	<p>Data collection and analysis is ongoing. Preliminary data shows the community's top concerns are related to food access, mental and behavioral health support, substance</p>	<p>Success: Was able to provide the survey in both English and Spanish and received over 200 hundred total respondents. We tried a new advertising strategy with the local newspaper (a sticky note with survey</p>

	<p>partner outreach including engagement of EBCAP employees and clients.</p>	<p>transportation safety, drug misuse, parks and recreation opportunities, etc. From these responses, we will be able to see what the Warren community views as major concerns and priorities to their own health and wellness. We will also be able to see and celebrate Warren’s strengths.</p>	<p>misuse and smoking and vape use.</p> <p>Also identified were the strengths of Warren. Most cited was its access to Health Care, the East Bay Bike Path, its local businesses and restaurants, the Waterfront and its proximity to other locations in Rhode Island.</p>	<p>details on the front page) and it was effective in reaching our target population.</p> <p>Challenges: Having to limit the survey to particular priorities so it would be accessible, easy and appropriately lengthened. We would've liked to have ask many more questions! Also, starting survey development earlier would have been beneficial as it would have allowed for a longer data collection period. We also ran into trouble with survey robots. Next time we will implement a survey question that weeds out false respondents.</p>
<p>Community Share-Out Event</p>	<p>Warren Residents, Warren Visitors and those employed in Warren were reached via in person and community outreach at two major events</p>	<p>Stakeholders met with Warren HEZ Director and engaged in informal conversation related to Warren's Health and Wellness. Data presented regarding the health and wellness issues facing Warren, was easy to understand by using Talk Out Boards. Attendees were given accessible, bite-sized data points to better inform/spark feedback.</p>	<p>The purpose of this event was to gain insight into and provide context for certain community priorities, with a main goal of connecting and creating conversation with Warren residents in an informal way. The priority areas that were the most significant conversation starters were: Youth Development, Mental and Behavioral Health and Housing Affordability and Availability.</p>	<p>Success: Great community engagement strategy, we will do more of them. The share-out provided us the opportunity to engage in informal conversations with locals and give them an introduction to HEZ. We were able to tailor questions and feedback prompts to target specific audiences.</p> <p>Challenges: Time to plan was limited; the established physical location for the share-out (within a storefront) changed due to factors outside of our control and prompted us to move outside - the weather made things difficult; we also would have liked to have shared data in more</p>

				than one way (Talk Out Boards, Mind Maps, etc.) and implemented a bigger, more well-rounded event.
Warren HEZ-Led Focus Group	Parents and Children within Head Start programming; reached via Mary V Quirk Community Center contacts and flyers; incentivized focus groups	Stakeholders (Parents) participated in focus groups facilitated by Warren HEZ Director: one in person/one virtual; guided conversation related to parents' concerns for their children's health, safety and development	Parents in both focus group sessions brought up concerns related to child safety and providing safe places for children to play. Conversations focused around ensuring street safety and playground accessibility (for both parents and children).	<p>Success: Participants were engaged and eager/willing to share their thoughts, felt heard and comfortable. Questions prompted many meaningful conversations.</p> <p>Challenges: It was difficult to get participants signed up. The enrollment/sign up process took a long time, but we found incentives helped. Additionally, Warren HEZ Director would also like more training in Focus Group facilitation.</p>
Data in My Backyard: Discussion and Share-Out	Bristol Warren Professionals and Community Stakeholders from the Public Health, Education and Community Development fields; Public and Town Officials, Policy Makers, and the Public Health Department at Roger Williams University; reached via partner contact lists, interest groups, social media, etc. Event partners were: Bristol HEZ, EBCAP Family Development programs, Bristol Warren Thrive by Five and Beyond and	In-person event with presentation from Rhode Island Kids Count; Q+A and discussion between stakeholders related to specific data and areas of concern for Bristol/Warren kids and families,	Data presented at this event was specifically related to children in the Bristol-Warren area of Rhode Island. Conversations between attendees about the data presented focused on child homelessness, family support and engagement and prioritizing social-emotional learning and development. When asked about what concerned attendees most about the data presented, those who responded to the survey listed the cost of living as their number one concern. Mental health was cited as another major concern.	<p>Success: In person event allowed people to connect and network; make connections across different fields with similar priorities; attendees feedback was positive and a range of community stakeholders attended; the event was also a beneficial partnership development and gave us credibility/recognition in working with RI Kids Count Rhode Island.</p> <p>Challenges: Attendees were asked to complete a post-survey to provide thoughts and feedback about the data presented at the event, but there were very few responses. Surveys should've been sent closer to the event date or we could have pushed paper surveys more heavily.</p>

	Rhode Island Kids Count.			
Community Stakeholder Interviews	Community officials and organizations focused on serving the town of Warren; town employees, school district officials, health officials focused on SDOH, etc.; identified and reached via existing HEZ contacts, community partnerships and town networking.	Community stakeholders participated in in-person and online interviews led by Warren HEZ Director; majority were one-on-one but a few were group interviews; questions related to the stakeholders' vision of Warren, the strengths of Warren, areas for improvement, their role in the health and wellness of Warren.	The purpose of these interviews was to connect with organizations and contacts within the Warren community and highlight their role in Warren's Health and Wellness. Many participants didn't see their connection to the Warren HEZ's mission. We learned that to establish and initiate potential partnerships, links between organizations within the community and Warren's health and wellness need to be made and SDOH indicators, HEZ's mission/purpose, and Warren HEZ's priorities need to be shared.	Success: Warren HEZ Director was able to make connections with local organizations and officials; share the purpose of Warren HEZ and how partnerships can support and improve Warren residents' wellness. People who were unaware of Warren HEZ's mission and purpose now know about us, their connection to Warren's health and wellness and how we can help them together. Challenge: We found it difficult to contact some community organizations/ leaders for an interview when there was no personal connection.

VIII. Summary

*Please include a brief summary of changes needed in the coming year to better support your HEZ. This **may include** your continuous assessment and evaluation efforts; limitations/barriers experienced or expected; the changes/expectations for the upcoming year; the future or continued impact of partnerships, community engagement and collaboration, and how the HEZ will strive to impact policy. **Please include your “asks” in terms of what additional support, resources, or technical assistance could help the HEZ overcome identified barriers/challenges.***

Warren HEZ enters its second year well positioned to continue assessment and evaluation efforts. An RFP for a shared Evaluation and Policy Consultant is open. This person or team will help to wrap up the final open survey and to assist the developing collaborative to make meaning from the data. Unfortunately, a new evaluation challenge will need to be dealt with, as the Survey Monkey tool was unable to keep ‘bots’ from entering fake responses. The data will be scrubbed and the legitimate entries will be reentered, allowing us to utilize the data visualization tools which make Survey Monkey an attractive application. We also hope to build more strategies for getting local data, specifically data that provides insight into an issue area with the lens of race/ethnicity. The community is not large, and diverse residents are not the majority. Often the data is not provided for Warren because the number of folks impacted is small enough that it may not meet confidentiality standards.

Warren HEZ is excited to communicate findings more broadly in the new program year. Strategies to disseminate what we’ve learned and how this data will lead to action groups is critical to maintaining momentum. We hope to have a celebration that includes the public, to begin quarterly community wide meetings, and to build an easy to read brochure that articulates themes, or buckets, that we hope will shape the action groups. And to improve our participation and engagement in social media. Our hope is to use Face Book and Instagram as the place to go for the most up to date information.

Finding new key staff members will be both a challenge and an opportunity. EBCAP has good systems, however we are all impacted by open positions in the fields of education and human services. It is our hope to find a shared Program Coordinator for the Bristol and Warren HEZ soon. The posting for a shared Family Navigator will go live in early July and informal recruitment for a part time Community Health Worker for Warren HEZ has begun. The three HEZs are collaborating to create a training and orientation plan for the year that will support new skills development, create opportunities for individual growth, and create allies between the common positions across East Providence, Warren and Bristol HEZes.

Warren HEZ has engaged many different groups and individuals and is ready to stand up its steering committee in July and work groups in the fall. Seeking leaders and participants for each group will be easier with support from additional staff. Attention to building the governance structure, defining work groups, finding champions and agencies to coordinate programs/activities will be core to our work in the first six months of the new program year.

Warren HEZ’s Director has participated in two contiguous groups focused on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work. EBCAP has formed an employee-led *Justice & Equity Taskforce* of which the HEZ Director is a member. EBCAP has been implementing a comprehensive two-year plan, to solidify its identity as a anti-racist organization and this will strengthen EBCAP’s effectiveness as a HEZ backbone agency. And with support and coordination from RIDOH, Bristol and Warren HEZ have connected with local allies to be trained in an *Accountability for Equity and Results* curriculum and to form an action plan to implement in 2023.

An important goal is to expand funding for the new Warren HEZ. The Town of Warren has expressed some interest in using ARPA funds to activate a strategy that comes from our community assessment. And internally EBCAP is exploring how to maintain funding for the work that has been initiated through the Preschool Development Grants. There is an

opportunity for the three HEZs to collaborate more intentionally with the Head Starts in our town to ensure success for all who enter kindergarten, and to ease the transition for students who have moved within the three towns and cities. The prospect of new areas being identified through the resident led action groups is exciting, and will need additional funding to translate their ideas into deeds.

Warren HEZ has support from local leaders and partners to explore several areas that could create policy change. Due to our early work with Housing Affordability the town planner sees us as a needed member at the table as the Housing Trust is formed. HousingWorks RI (HWRI) has asked to partner on better informed and activated local housing allies. HWRI received a United Way grant which will educate the community and empower residents to advocate regarding housing affordability. And the Town Manager has agreed to speak with local convenience stores and food markets to encourage them to accept WIC dollars. Currently only the CVS on Metacom Avenue accepts WIC dollars in the Town of Warren. This area is not central and requires a car.

Warren HEZ asks for continued support in seeking grant dollars to sustain the focus on PDG and COVID disparities. And, the Youth Community of Practice is very timely for Warren. RIDOH has already provided good counsel through the Program Officers and access to key staff within RIDOH who are focused on supporting youth and their health outcomes. Our town has space, talent and energy to tackle how best to support young people and young adults.