

MARCH 2024

# WARREN HEALTH EQUITY ZONE

Newsletter



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY KRISTIN READ

*Warren HEZ was invited to make a bold prediction for the New Year as part of a segment that appeared in East Bay Life, January 3-4, 2024. With your partnership this will come true!*

**“In 2024, Warren Health Equity Zone’s Health and Wellness Goals will Hit Close to Home!**

We will support community engagement efforts that equip neighbors to meet the challenges of rising waters and empower them to drive changes from Market to Metacom. Advocates and groups who would not typically collaborate, will have new resources for learning and working together, as they shape a vision for safe and affordable housing for all. And as a community, we’ll shine a spotlight on neighborhoods with unequal access to nutritious food, reliable high-speed internet, after school options and transportation.”

**How will this get done?!** Members of the Health, Equity & Nutrition Work Group and the Safety & Climate Resilience Work Group are pooling their energy, experience and interest to develop actions and activities which will improve conditions that add to stress and lead to poor health outcomes.

To share a suggestion, attend a meeting or sign up for a work group, please contact us by emailing [warrenhez@ebcap.org](mailto:warrenhez@ebcap.org).

## IN THIS ISSUE:

GET CONNECTED WITH GATHERINGS AND EVENTS • LEARN NEW RECIPES • WARM UP WITH HEATING ASSISTANCE • FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL • READ ABOUT NEW HOUSING POLICIES

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WARREN HEZ, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT OUR LINK TREE AT THE LINK BELOW.



<https://linktr.ee/warrenhez>



WARREN  
**HEZ**  
HEALTH EQUITY ZONE



east bay community action program  
THE BRIDGE TO SELF-RELIANCE

Health Equity Zones are an initiative of the Rhode Island Department of Health. This newsletter is produced by East Bay Community Action Program, the backbone agency for the Warren, Bristol, and East Providence Health Equity Zone's, and does not necessarily represent the views of RIDOH.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

**Elsa Schloemer**  
**Project Coordinator for**  
**Warren and Bristol HEZs**



Elsa started her journey as a public health student at Roger Williams University, where she interned for the East Providence Health Equity Zone under EBCAP. She assisted the family navigator with data collection, programs, and outreach for families in 2020. And post-graduation, she became a Family Advocate for EBCAP's senior services! Elsa worked to connect seniors to health care, adult day, home care, and other public health resources in the Bristol and surrounding East Bay area.

In 2022, Elsa joined the Warren HEZ as its first staff person, where she plans events, collects data, and creates programs for HEZ in both towns. Elsa loves meeting community members of all different backgrounds and world views and connecting them to the help they need and learning from their experiences.

---

## WARREN HEZ, HOW IT BEGAN AND WHERE IT'S GOING

Established in July 2021, the Warren HEZ partners with residents to identify and act on issues that impact community health and wellness for all who live, work, and learn in our Town.

In 2024, the Warren HEZ collaborative is focusing on activities and systems change- to support teens and young adults, improve resiliency in the face of climate change and make clear the intersections of health and housing affordability.



### AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM IS ENDING, PLAN NOW!

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) internet program will end in April 2024. Households currently receiving a monthly ACP benefit should get notices from their internet providers about the end of the ACP benefit. Contact your internet company for questions about how the end of the ACP will affect your monthly bill and to ask about options.

### LEARN ABOUT FREE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS

East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) has free Early Childhood Learning Programs. Great for parents and babies, toddlers, and preschoolers! We have spaces open now in these nationally recognized programs.

- Healthy Families America (Early Family Visiting)
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Baby Steps
- Parents as Teachers

To learn more about EBCAP's Head Start early childhood education programs, please scan the QR code!



### URI'S SNAP ED HAS RECIPES FOR HEALTHY EATING AND MONEY SAVING!



Cook quick, healthy, affordable, and nutritious meals that stretch your SNAP dollars! Visit the link below to browse these fun and easy-to-learn recipes, recetas y recetas!

<https://web.uri.edu/community-nutrition/recipes/>

*Spanish & Portuguese available.*

## CONCERNED ABOUT FLOODING? STAY INFORMED, SHARE YOUR CONCERNS, JOIN US!



The Safety, Resilience and Climate Working Group formed in the spring of 2023 after residents and stakeholders completed a Climate Anxiety Workshop. Building on the ways that we all take care of each other, the group agreed to continue meeting, learning and raising up resident voices. Here two ways to take action:

- **CODE RED** - Stay informed about emergencies! Text the word 'WarrenRI' to 99411 and enroll in the Town of Warren's emergency alert program. This system is managed by the WVFD and keeps residents informed about dangers such as flooding, outages, fires and missing persons!
- **Door Knocking in Market Street**: Volunteers from the workgroup are knocking on doors in this neighborhood that deals with frequent flooding, to ask how residents want to get involved and invite them to a monthly meeting. This year, we have had lengthy conversations with 17 individuals and distributed 60 flyers. We hope to see you at your door soon!

Want to join our Safety, Resilience and Climate Working Group? Please contact us by emailing [warrenhez@ebcap.org](mailto:warrenhez@ebcap.org)

## New Housing Policies: No More Application Fees & End to Lead Hazard Exemptions

After identifying housing as its top priority this past year, Rhode Island's 2023 General Assembly passed legislation starting in January 2024.

These new laws include:

- Landlords can no longer charge application fees for prospective tenants.
- Tenants can now use their own credit reports and state issued background checks for landlords that require them- as long as they are within the past 90 days of applying.
- The exemption for owner-occupied 2/3 unit dwellings from the lead hazard mitigation law has ended. All Landlords with property built before 1978 must register with the Department of Health, and any rental unit that was built before 1978 will then need to be certified as safe.



## FAMILY GATHERINGS AND YOUTH EVENTS HAPPENING IN TOWN

High School Career Fair with East Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Highlander Charter School  
360 Market St. Warren, RI  
Thursday, March 21st 4:30pm-6:30pm.  
This event is open to students.

### Week of the Young Child Celebration!

La Piñata Mexican Grill  
520 Main St. Warren, RI  
Saturday, April 13th  
10am-1pm  
This event is open to the public but especially families with young children.



## UP TO \$25 MORE ON YOUR SNAP CARD!

According to the RI Department of Human Services Website, "all SNAP recipients are automatically enrolled in the **Eat Well, Be Well (EWBW)** program. The additional benefits, up to \$25 a month, are loaded to the customer's EBT card for the future purchase of qualifying SNAP products at in-store locations.

Accumulated EWBW rewards are shown on customers' grocery receipts, the HealthyRhode Mobile app, or through the Customer Portal ([healthyrhode.ri.gov](http://healthyrhode.ri.gov))."

Participating retailers include:

- Stop & Shop locations in RI
- Walmart locations in RI

## HELP WITH HEATING COSTS

The Low-Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a seasonal program, running from *October 1, 2023* to *May 1, 2024*, and income-eligible households may qualify receive a one time per season credit for fuel.

For more info or to apply online, please visit: [www.ebcap.org/programs/heating-and-energy/](http://www.ebcap.org/programs/heating-and-energy/) or call 401-437-1000, ext. 6606.

\*\*Ask about opportunities to replace old appliances.



## CONTACT US

KRISTIN READ, *DIRECTOR*

ELSA SCHLOEMER, *PROJECT COORDINATOR*

MEGAN CONWAY,  
*ACCESSING HOMES  
AMERICORPS MEMBER*

ARI SAMAYOA, *COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER*

DANIELLE DELUCA,  
*COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER*

BROOKE CONNEALLY,  
*COMMUNICATIONS*

WARRENHEZ@EBCAP.ORG  
401-431-9870, EXT. 1635

WE ARE LOCATED:

MARY V. QUIRK SCHOOL  
790 MAIN ST., WARREN, RI

THANK YOU FOR READING!

FOLLOW US



WARREN HEALTH EQUITY ZONE



@WARRENHEZ

## MAIL DELIVERY- FREE COVID-19 TESTS

**GOT FAMILY?  
GET FREE  
COVID TESTS!**

You can order tests now, even if you've already ordered this fall. Order them today!

Celebrate safely.

<https://www.covid.gov/tools-and-resources/resources/tests>

## BE A MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION

We can ALL be champions of suicide prevention and improving access to mental health supports!

Discover trusted resources that are available for you, veterans, families, students, clients and neighbors.

**EAST BAY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR**

WHEN: 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM ON SATURDAY MARCH 23RD, 2024

WHERE: HISTORIC WARREN ARMORY, 11 JEFFERSON ST, WARREN, RI 02885

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Visit resource tables staffed by the Veterans Administration, Prevention Coalition, Health Equity Zone, Domestic Violence & Suicide Prevention, local Veterans organizations, and more!
- Enter to win a gift card and enjoy free healthy snacks
- Explore strategies that help folks feel more connected and reduce isolation such as volunteering, hobby building, and an opportunity to connect with animals
- Schedule a future meeting with a navigator to apply for benefits and other services

Visit the Warren HEZ Facebook event page for up-to-date info or scan the QR code on the right. For any questions or accommodations, please email [warrenhez@ebcap.org](mailto:warrenhez@ebcap.org) or call 401-431-9870, Ext. 1635.

HEALTH EQUITY ZONES ARE AN INITIATIVE OF THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND EAST BAY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM IS THE BACKBONE AGENCY FOR THE WARREN, BRISTOL AND EAST PROVIDENCE HEALTH EQUITY ZONES.

Need support now?