



Newport Health Equity Zone Project

About

In April, 2015 the Women's Resource Center (WRC) became one of eleven organizations within the state of R.I. to receive a Health Equity Zone (HEZ) grant from the R.I. Department of Health. The Newport Health Equity Zone project is a place-based initiative focusing on the North End and Broadway neighborhoods. The WRC was awarded \$235,000 for year one of this project. Funding could be awarded for up to four years. The goal of this project is to not only mitigate current health disparities present in these communities, but also to empower residents with the skills needed to create community change.

Structure

The Newport-HEZ project is focused on 6 main areas that impact health: transportation, arts and culture, open space, physical and emotional health, education innovation and economic opportunities and food access. By focusing on these 6 areas, we hope to ensure that our efforts take a holistic approach to decreasing health disparities by addressing numerous social determinants of health. The project will have six working groups that will each concentrate on one of the six focus areas. A working group will comprise of one lead organization, numerous support agencies, and a minimum of 2 residents from the North End and Broadway neighborhoods.

Lead Organizations

Transportation	Physical and Emotional Health	Arts and Culture	Education, Innovation and Economic Opp.	Food Access	Open Space
Bike Newport	Boys and Girls Club of Newport County	Arts and Cultural Alliance	Fab Newport	MLK Center	Aquidneck Land Trust

In addition to these six core organizations, support agencies and residents, the Newport-HEZ project is also supported by Worldways, the Alliance for a Livable Newport, the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence and NewportFILM. These organizations have been respectively contracted for communications, outreach, evaluation and health through film support. All 10 organizations, in addition to the Women's Resource Center, make up the HEZ Collaborative.

Process

In year one, all partners involved will take part in designing and implementing a needs assessment. By conducting a needs assessment, it is our hope that members of the Newport HEZ collaborative will

- 1) Gain a comprehensive understanding of what health disparities exist in Newport
- 2) Be able to identify what place-based factors in the Newport-HEZ most strongly impact health outcomes
- 3) Establish a feedback loop with the community, specifically residents of the Broadway and North End neighborhoods

This needs assessment will be used to inform a Health Equity Plan for years 2-4. By starting this four year project with a needs assessment, we will ensure that all future efforts of the HEZ collaborative are informed by residents and positively impact the community.

Furthermore, year one will also include multiple capacity building opportunities for all members of the working groups. It is important to the HEZ-collaborative that our work has a lasting impact beyond the grant period.

How you can help

We are seeking new partners who are interested in getting involved!

Specifically, we need:

- Local businesses within the Broadway and North End neighborhoods that are interested in helping us reach community members and/or becoming members of a working group.
- Community members from the Broadway and North End neighborhoods that are interested in serving as a resident consultant

If you would like to be a part of this exciting project, please contact Olivia Kachingwe, HEZ Project Coordinator at the Women's Resource Center at 401-236-8344 or okachingwe@wrcnbc.org