BRIC Bulletin | June 24, 2021

Welcome to the BRIC Bulletin!

The purpose of this bi-monthly communication is to provide BRIC States with regular updates on the BRIC program related to grants administration, evaluation, technical assistance and training, resources, and other relevant information.

Please note all links, dates, and resources can be found on the BRIC States Webpage https://chronicdisease.org/bric-states. For questions, contact jhefelfinger@chronicdisease.org.

Summary of Upcoming Important Dates

- **EXTENDED to June 30:** Review your state's Food and Nutrition Security Profile and provide feedback on missing food banks, food pantries, and other feeding sites and/or partners.
- **July 7:** BRIC Peer Exchange Session, 3:00 – 4:15 pm ET. REGISTER
- **July 15:** Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) progress report due
- **July 31:** Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30) invoice due

Grant Administration/Budget

- **BRIC Guidance Document:** Safe physical activity access and related allowable costs for policy, systems, and environmental changes
- **June 8 BRIC States Monthly Meeting** RECORDING
- **Q2 invoice and progress report submission:** This quarter will cover April 1 – June 30, 2021. The process of submission for both the progress report and invoice is the same as Q1. On the invoice, please be sure to include the date of submission, the invoice amount (which is fixed price), and check the boxes indicating completion of all deliverables associated with Q2. Submit your invoice to ap.nacdd@chronicdisease.org and Crystal at cdoxie@chronicdisease.org by July 31.

Evaluation, Action Plans, and Progress Reports

- Q2 progress reports for the April 1 – June 30 reporting period are **due July 15.** Enter Q2 updates in the blue columns of the BRIC Project Management Hub.
- An updated Progress Reporting Guidance document is available to describe what to report and how to enter information into the online Smartsheet Hub. This guidance document can be found on the BRIC States Webpage under Grant Document Guidance. For questions, contact Leah at lrimkus@chronicdisease.org.
- Bookmark the link to the BRIC Project Management Hub to readily access your State Action Plans, Community Action Plans, and Progress Reports.
- Thank you to all who have turned in Community Action Plans.
    - All submitted CAPs have been reviewed and states have been provided feedback. Please continue to submit your CAPs or revised CAPs, as needed, and reach out with any questions.

- Upload accepted CAPs via the BRIC Project Management Hub using the Attachments link at the bottom of your state dashboard page.

- As we complete our CAPs review, we will be **highlighting state and community stories** in upcoming BRIC Bulletins. If you are willing to share your stories, **please include the requested information in this form.** For questions or additional information, contact Mara at MGalic@chronicdisease.org.

Technical Assistance (TA) and Training Update

- **Individual state monthly technical assistance calls** will begin in June and July with your BRIC TA Liaison. More information on these calls will be shared via email.
- Register for the upcoming **BRIC Peer Exchange Session (VOLUNTARY)** to continue the conversation on nutrition security partnerships on July 7, 3:00 – 4:15 pm ET. REGISTER
- **BRIC Monthly Webinars (REQUIRED)**, every 4th Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET. REGISTER
  - **July 28:** Social connectedness
- Join our **BRIC Office Hours with NTAP**. Drop by with a question or stay as long as your schedule permits. Upcoming Office Hours in June and July:
  - June 25: 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET on Nutrition Security, Discussion Topic and Q&A: Nutrition Guidelines in Charitable Food System, led by special guest speakers Jessica Hager and Jeremy Reynolds with Feeding America, and Kirsten Adams and Megan Lott with Healthy Eating Research.
  - June 28: 1:00 – 3:00 pm ET on Nutrition Security, Discussion Topic: Nutrition Guidelines in Charitable Food System.
  - July 1: 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET on Physical Activity Access
  - July 15: 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET on Social Connectedness
  - July 16: 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET on Health Equity
  - July 23: 1:00 – 3:00 pm ET on Nutrition Security

New Resources related to BRIC Strategies

- **Thank you to those of you who have reviewed and shared feedback on your Food and Nutrition Security State Profile.**
  - **DEADLINE EXTENDED to review** your state profile. Let us know if there are any food banks, food pantries, and other feeding sites and/or partners missing. We value your feedback. Email Mara at mgalic@chronicdisease.org by Wednesday June 30.
  - **Access** your state's Food System Profile via BRIC States Webpage – BRIC State Recipient Profiles.
- New tools have been added to the BRIC States Webpage. This page is updated regularly with new publications, resources, and training opportunities across all BRIC Strategy areas.
- If you have not signed up to receive the **CDC DNPAO Weekly Digest**, send your name, organization, and email to dnpaoprogram@cdc.gov. The Digest contains resources from a variety of sources related to nutrition, physical activity, chronic disease prevention, health promotion, and COVID-19.

General

- **UPCOMING NACDD Webinar, June 24, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET:** *Six Months In: A Look at Federal and State Policy Trends Under a New Administration*. REGISTER
- The US Census Bureau recently posted Community Resilience Estimates, which are now available on the new ArcGIS dashboard.
- **UPCOMING Boston University Webinar, July 1, 4:30 – 6:00 pm ET:** Public Health Conversation, *Coming Back Better: Building Healthy, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities Post-COVID-19.* This webinar will explore how cities can be structured to support health and what we have learned about the future of urban living from the COVID-19 pandemic. REGISTER

- Build Healthy Places Network developed a **Rural Primer**, a new tool that guides cross-sector collaborations between community development, finance, public health, and healthcare sectors to support partnerships in rural areas and small cities.

Physical Activity Access

- **BRIC Guidance Document:** Safe physical activity access and related allowable costs for policy, systems, and environmental changes
- **UPCOMING America Walks Webinar, July 14, 2:00-3:00 pm ET:** *Authentic Community Engagement – Best Practices for Equitable Work*. REGISTER
- Active People, Healthy Nation Champions Institute, hosted by Smart Growth America, is now open. This training is an opportunity for local elected officials to gain the knowledge needed to effectively support safer and more Complete Streets. Selected participants will form a council of local leaders, attending six interactive learning modules beginning in September running through December, with readings and other work between modules, followed by a practicum in early 2022.

Social Connectedness

- **BRIC Social Connectedness Guidance Document** coming soon!
- The Foundation for Social Connection presents **Connect+Conversations**, a monthly web-event series that explores how to address the loneliness epidemic and promote social health in different settings. REGISTER

Health Equity

- **UPCOMING National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation Webinar, June 28, 1:00-2:00 pm ET:** *Achieving Health Equity for People with Disabilities During the Pandemic and Beyond*. REGISTER

Nutrition Security

- **UPCOMING Nutrition Security Webinar Series** from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The series will feature a range of topics and diverse speakers focused on prioritizing nutrition security during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Series begins on **June 24, 4:00-5:00 pm ET:** *Launching NIFA's Nutrition Security Webinar Series*. REGISTER
- **REPORT:** The Institute for Health and Social Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is pleased to share a new report — *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Waivers and Adaptations During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Survey of State Agency Perspectives in 2020* — co-written with researchers from the American Public Human Services Association. This report synthesizes results from a nationwide survey of state SNAP administrators to better understand the challenges of implementing federal waivers during the pandemic and opportunities for strengthening SNAP. See FULL REPORT and the EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.
- **POLICY BRIEF:** *Lessons Learned: Examining WIC During COVID-19 for Policy and Program Recommendations Going Forward* from UC ANR Nutrition Policy Institute and Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC.
- **NIH Hosts September Food Insecurity, Neighborhood Food Environment, and Nutrition Health Disparities Event** from Sept 21-23 that aims to review the state of the science around food insecurity and the neighborhood food environment, and then identify research gaps and opportunities. Participants will explore innovative research strategies that could inform policies and practices that help prevent diet-related health disparities, as well as promote health equity. Abstracts for the poster sessions are due by **July 9, 2021**. Registration is required by **September 7, 2021** to access the virtual meeting platform. LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

BRIC State Stories of COVID-19 Pivots, Resources Developed, and Other Lessons Learned

- **Leveraging health equity through the Request for Proposal Process:** Several BRIC states, including South Carolina, Philadelphia and Alaska, are issuing requests for proposal (RFP) for community partners. The states are using the RFP as a way to prioritize health equity. Examples from their RFP process include:
    - Requesting demographic make-up of Boards, staff, and volunteers of applicants. The demographics could include race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.
    - Requesting applicants to share how the proposed project will address health equity and providing extra scoring points for proposals that include a commitment to prioritize health equity/social justice through existing agency statement of values or guiding principles, or letter of commitment from agency leadership.
    - Requesting 2-3 references from community members that benefit from the work of the organization.
    - Respecting grant writing capacity of smaller non-profit organizations by making the process easier to follow and taking capacity into account through review/selection criteria.
    - Providing communities with zip code/Census tract level information on the high need communities within each county.
    - Providing extra scoring points for documented evidence of how an organization empowers community involvement in their decision making.
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Communications

- No Updates

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