

Alaska State Profile

Building Resilient Inclusive Communities

Overview

Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) is a program of the [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#) (NACDD) [Center for Advancing Healthy Communities](#). NACDD and its more than 7,000 Members seek to improve the health of the public by strengthening leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states, territories, and at the national level. Established in 1988, in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NACDD is the only membership association of its kind serving and representing every state and U.S. territory's chronic disease division.

In collaboration with the CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO) and the Division of Population Health (DPH), and a team of nationally recognized experts, NACDD is providing funding to 20 states (including 15 DNPAO SPAN-funded states and five DNPAO Ambassador states) to implement BRIC at both a state and local level. As part of the program, states are engaging more than 60 communities to address food and nutrition security, safe physical activity access, and social connectedness through policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies. Social determinants of health, health equity, and social justice principles are integrated into the planning and implementation of all three strategy areas, in addition to accounting for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on groups at highest risk.

The initial project period was Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021; an additional year of funding was awarded in 2021 and again in 2022, expanding the project period to Dec. 31, 2023. These profiles represent the state- and community-level activities planned by each BRIC state.

Learn more about the [BRIC program](#) or e-mail BRICinfo@chronicdisease.org.

State-Level Activities

Overarching

- Alaska Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN) program will help inform the statewide [Alaskan Health Equity Strategic Plan](#) and implement activities guided by the Strategic Plan.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Sponsor Alaska Farmers' Market Association in support of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) voucher acceptance, encouragement of new applications, as well as point-of-purchase healthy eating marketing materials at Farmers' Markets statewide and in priority communities.
- Sponsor Alaska Food Policy Council to promote BRIC food and nutrition security priorities in their annual conference including expansion of SNAP and WIC benefits.
- In partnership with the Alaska Food Coalition, coordinate two food training workshops on food bank nutrition standards and donation of traditional foods at food banks/pantries/distribution sites.

- Facilitate focus groups to inform and develop a messaging campaign and resources aimed at utilizing Early Care Education (ECE) partnerships statewide to connect families with SNAP, WIC, Farmers Market EBT programs, and other healthy sources of food in communities disproportionately experiencing food and nutrition insecurity.

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Serve on Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Council as Public Health representative to ensure transportation plans include a public health/health equity focus.
- Participate in Physical Activity workgroup of the Statewide Health Improvement Plan, Healthy Alaskans 2030 with a focus on health equity in physical activity.

Social Connectedness

- Collaborate with the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) and Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) to increase implementation of strategies that support social connectedness in the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services 2020-2023 and other partnership opportunities.

Community-Level Activities

Anchorage (Urban)

Safe Physical Activity Access (*Reaching an estimated 291,247 residents*)

- Support Anchorage Trails Coalition; convene meetings quarterly.
- Example of projects moving forward by Coalition members:
 - Folker Park Project: Anchorage Parks & Recreation identified a small area of unused green space, located across from an assisted living home, and is now in the process of making major renovations to make the space a welcoming, outdoor area for assisted living residents to congregate and connect. Folker Park features include a healing path/labyrinth, improved lighting and safety box installation, an outdoor musical instruments area, and a reflexology path.
 - Mountains to Sea Trail Development and Promotion: Connecting and promotion use of the Moose Loop.
 - Indigenous Place Names Signage Project

Northwest Arctic Borough (Rural)

Food and Nutrition Security (*Reaching an estimated 7,793 residents*)

- Convene community workgroup monthly to prioritize steps for further action based on importance; feasibility; and PSE focus.
- Community workgroup currently in the assessment/community input and prioritization phase.
- Conduct in-depth community assessment to determine barriers to breastfeeding and develop an action plan to guide future breastfeeding activities in this high-need community.

Safe Physical Access (*Reaching an estimated 7,793 residents*)

- Convene community workgroup monthly to prioritize steps for further action based on importance; feasibility; and PSE focus.
- Community workgroup currently in the assessment/community input and prioritization phase.

Social Connectedness (Reaching an estimated 7,793 residents)

- Convene community workgroup monthly to prioritize steps for further action based on importance; feasibility; and PSE focus.
- Community workgroup currently in the assessment/community input and prioritization phase.
- Explore funding option through a violence prevention grant opportunity with an equity focus. Intimate partner violence identified by community as impacting social isolation.

Health Equity Spotlight

- Conduct health equity training for State Health Department staff including keynote from Charles Brown, Equitable Cities, as part of 2022 Alaska Public Health Association conference.
- Guided by NACDD's "State Health Department Organizational Self-Assessment for Achieving Health Equity" toolkit, conduct surveys (staff and community partners) and key informant interviews/focus groups (staff and health department leadership); summarize results and develop recommendations.



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resilient inclusive
COMMUNITIES

Contact Information

Katie Reilly, MPH

katie.reilly@alaska.gov

Physical Activity & Nutrition Unit Manager
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

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