

Pennsylvania 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

Food and Nutrition Security

- Assess existing Pennsylvania Healthy Pantry Initiative (PA HPI) materials for cultural relevance and identify gaps.
- Support and guide a new Task Force to explore the procurement of culturally relevant foods in charitable food systems. Task force will provide recommendations to PA HPI and Feeding Pennsylvania.
- Explore partnership with Philadelphia Community Garden Network to grow and supply culturally relevant produce to food pantries participating in PA HPI.
- Make progress toward including food and nutrition security objectives in the Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Develop a compendium of resources on the importance and benefits of active transportation in rural communities.
- Develop and implement a WalkWorks capacity building plan to increase reach of WalkWorks to vulnerable communities and identify additional strategies to enhance equity and anti-racism.
- Implement a tactical urbanism project in coordination with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Social Connectedness

- Strengthen partnership with the Department of Aging and explore opportunities to support equity objectives in the State Plan on Aging to ensure that populations experiencing disproportionate impact related to BRIC strategies area included.
- Partner with Equitable Cities to offer training and technical assistance aimed at increasing the capacity of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Senior Centers to engage populations disparately impacted by COVID-19 in social connectedness programming.
- Build the capacity of stakeholders engaged in developing and supporting the PA SHIP to implement and support social connectedness objectives.

Community-Level Activities

Philadelphia

Food and Nutrition Security (*Reaching an estimated 3,610 residents*)

- Continue to support a strong food policy and urban agriculture network in Philadelphia that implements key pieces of the Growing from the Root urban agriculture plan and the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council's (FPAC) long term vision.
- Continue installation of signage, raised beds, and other physical improvements to community gardens in Philadelphia Park and Recreation's Community Gardens network to increase accessibility and production.
- In partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) and the Free Library, support the creation of an Agriculture Book Collection.
- Support the Urban Tree Connection's Food Sovereignty Share project through farming, staff recruitment and training, and educational workshops to support food distribution in the West Philly community.
- Support the Agriculture/Horticulture Resource Center in Fairmount Park through solar panels, signage, and refrigeration to enhance its ability to support gardening equipment for community gardens and urban agriculture enterprises across the city.
- Support the Office of Sustainability's FPAC to develop a communications plan and quarterly communications campaigns; update, design, create, and/or manage media including website, social media, newsletters and emails, digital and print resources, press, events, and others, as needed, with support from contractor.

Safe Physical Activity Access (Reaching an estimated 108,283 residents)

- In partnership with the City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability, implement a series of low-cost safety improvements within the Mantua neighborhood, informed by citywide goals and community leaders' priorities and insights.
- Purchase and install park improvements to increase pedestrian safety and accessibility in Hunting Park.

Social Connectedness (Reaching an estimated 2,379 residents)

- Integrate relevant social connectedness programs and resources (e.g., We Walk PHL and Gardening) into Resource Connects (Findhelp.org) and other appropriate community/clinical referral systems.
- Coordinate, as appropriate, with implementation of the AARP Livable Community plan and disseminate BRIC social connectedness outcomes and lessons learned.

Health Equity Spotlight

- Ensure PA HPI materials are culturally inclusive and collaboration occurs to increase access to culturally relevant foods in state charitable food systems.
- Increase inclusivity of vulnerable community voices in strategies to increase access to safe physical activity.
- Provide training and technical assistance to support systems in improving engagement of populations disparately impacted by COVID-19 in social connectedness programming.



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