



BRIC Bulletin | March 2023

Welcome to the BRIC Bulletin!

The purpose of this monthly communication is to provide BRIC States with 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 BRICinfo@chronicdisease.org.

Quick Reference - Summary of Important Dates/Reminders

Required Technical Assistance Events and Important Dates/Information:

- **April 11:** BRIC All States Quarterly Call, States Sharing: Mississippi, New York, Texas
- **April 14:** Quarter 1 Progress Report Due for Jan 1 – Mar 31 Reporting Period
- **April 30:** Quarter 1 Invoice Due for Jan 1 – Mar 31 Reporting Period
- **March 29 BRIC Webinar [Recording](#)** Integrating Social Connectedness into Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategies across the Lifespan.

Grant Administration/Budget

- No Update.

Evaluation Update

Evaluation and Reporting

- Thanks to everyone for entering your Year 3 SAPs into the Smartsheet project management hub. Please reach out to Leah with any questions, irimkus@chronicdisease.org.

BRIC STATE Shout-Outs

BRIC Mississippi

The BRIC MS partnered with Brown University's School of Public Health, led by Dr. Kali Thomas research team and TRIO Community Meals (the equivalent of Meals on Wheels) over the last two years to support their social connectedness strategy. Mississippi's social connectedness strategy, focuses on older adults who are isolated or at risk for isolation, is integrating social connectedness into existing meal delivery to older adults. In partnership with Brown University, a video and supporting material was developed for meal delivery drivers that centers on the concept that their work is More Than a Meal®, explains the concern about loneliness and social isolation among older adults and empowers meal delivery drivers that they can make a difference. To support the development of the video script/storyboard and other resources, the research team conducted focus groups and interviews with subject matter experts providing valuable insight into personal experiences regarding social interaction

with homebound older adults and the daily role of meal-delivery drivers. BRIC MS' next step is to train 25 TRIO Community Meals drivers using video and other tools including simple ways to interact with older adults that can make all the difference and reminding them that "What you do matters". A pre/post evaluation is also planned. In terms of sustainability, MSDH will work with TRIO Community Meals to make this training part of the organizational onboarding policy and procedures for future volunteers and meal delivery drivers.

Video: [Social Isolation Among Older Adults](#)

Article in *Brown Public Health Magazine* documenting the process - [Learn by Doing: Reducing Social Isolation](#) (one of the graduate students, Kristen Smith, BS, that worked on the project is from Mississippi).

Contact [Jesseca Chatham](#) or [Dr. Kina White](#) to learn more.

Optional BRIC T/TA Opportunities

- April 26 Peer Exchange (Optional): Topic: Relationships, Partnerships and Coalitions: The Heart of the Matter [REGISTER](#)
- April 12 SPINE Special Training and Learning Opportunity: Food Justice and Food Sovereignty. [REGISTER](#)
- **NACDD's Learning and Discussion Series on the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health** kicked off on March 30th. Monthly sessions from April-October 2023 will be held covering each Pillar as well as state and local success story sharing. Participants will engage in an interactive discussion about their current activities that align with the National Strategy and areas where they need support. The sessions are intended for public health practitioners at the state, territorial, and local level, and other agencies engaged in nutrition, food and nutrition security, and/or physical activity efforts. [Register for upcoming sessions](#). Learn more about [NACDD in Action](#) in support of the White House National Strategy.

Select Funding Opportunities and New Resources related to BRIC Strategies

Funding Opportunities

- Healthy Eating Research launched its 2023 Call for Proposals focused on research that advances health equity and sheds light on the drivers of inequities related to nutritional disparities, dietary quality and patterns, and food security. Short concept paper due April 5, 2023. [Learn more](#).
- The **GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program** to support and evaluate projects intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at the point of purchase among income eligible consumers participating in the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Apply by May 4. [APPLY](#)
- The **GusNIP – Produce Prescription Program**, demonstrates and evaluates the impact of projects on (1) the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; (2) the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and (3) the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs. Apply by May 16. [APPLY](#)
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) opened the portal for [local governments](#) to request technical assistance for its [Thriving Communities technical assistance program](#). This funding will help local governments who have received federal transportation funding ensure housing needs are considered as part of their larger infrastructure investment plans, with a focus on disadvantaged communities. Units of Local Government can request technical assistance using [this form](#). **If you applied to USDOT's Thriving Communities program and have a strong interest in addressing housing issues in your community, you are encouraged to also apply to HUD's Thriving Communities program.** Requests will be reviewed as they are received on a rolling basis, with review beginning on March 15, 2023.

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering \$100 million in environmental justice funding through two new grant programs.
 - \$70 million is available through the [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program](#), which provides funding to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms. Eligible entities include partnerships between a state, Tribe, or local government and a community-based nonprofit organization; and U.S. Territories, Freely Associated States, and tribal governments in remote areas. [View past webinar recordings and materials](#). **Apply by April 14, 2023.**
 - \$30 million is available through the [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program](#), which provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders to develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level. Eligible entities include community-based nonprofit organizations and partnerships of community-based nonprofit organizations. [View past webinar recordings and materials](#). **Apply by April 14, 2023.**

Webinars and Meetings

- Food Policy Councils as Key Players in Building Food System Resilience, April 11, 12:00 pm ET [REGISTER](#)
- Collective Impact Forum's annual and virtual **Collective Impact Action Summit 2023, Coming Together to Work Together**. April 25-27, 2023 [REGISTER](#)

Sustainability

- From the Tamarack Institute, [10: A Guide for Building a Sustainable and Resilient Collaboration](#). The guide features 10 stories, 10 resources, and 10 sustainability factors to consider ensuring our work and impact will last.

Health Equity

- From Equitable Cities, [Arrested Mobility, Barrier to Walking, Biking, and E-Scooter Use in Black Communities in the United States](#) March 2023.
- *Collective Impact Forum's [Racial Equity Toolkit](#).*

Food and Nutrition Security

- **March 2023 SPINE Peer Exchange: Incorporating Food Systems Work into State Partnerships Improving Nutrition & Equity** This session focused on the role that local food policy councils and sound procurement policies can play in building strong food systems in addition to why centering community-driven solutions and partnerships are the key to success. [Recording](#) (Passcode: c^B7Ej2n) | [SLIDES](#) | [FOOD SYSTEM JAMBOARD RESULTS](#)
- The Food Policy Networks guide on starting a food policy council, [From Partnerships to Policy: Promising Practices for New Food Policy Councils](#).

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Newly published research offers 141 strategies to mitigate or prevent displacement of people in the context of designing communities for physical activity. [Healthy Community Design, Anti-displacement, and Equity Strategies in the USA: A Scoping Review](#).
- The Intersections Initiative is a partnership between America Walks, the League of American Bicyclists, and Safe Routes Partnerships to help communities learn about the new federal programs for walking and biking infrastructure, upcoming opportunities and the initial steps communities can take to prepare to apply for funding. [RECORDING](#) from March 9th webinar and additional details.

Social Connectedness

- The Foundation for Social Connection recently released their [2023-24 national legislative policy agenda](#). *(Note: There is a comprehensive document. There may be some activities/strategies/ideas that could be included in your SHIP or State Plan on Aging, or support state level coalition/task force work on a smaller scale.)*

Questions? Have a resource or story to share? Contact BRICinfo@chronicdisease.org.