

Kentucky 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. Kentucky accepted BRIC funding for Year 1 only. 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

- Review Kentucky State Health Improvement Plan to ensure nutrition security, access to physical activity, social connectedness, and health equity is considered.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Examine readiness of BRIC community pantries to informally assess pantry status as it relates to COVID-19 and readiness for adopting nutrition guidelines, among other strategies, to increase equitable distribution of healthy foods.

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Work with each of the selected communities to maximize existing or identify new opportunities to implement physical activity strategies including enhancements to infrastructure.

Social Connectedness

- Review state plan on aging in partnership with Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living for inclusion of social connectedness strategies and equity in services; provide recommendations."

Community-Level Activities

City of Frankfort, Franklin County (Rural)

Food and Nutrition Security

- Increase capacity of the St. Vincent DePaul Society food pantry by providing funding for the purchase of cold food storage to store healthier food options provided by God's Pantry food bank.

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Collaborate with the City of Frankfort to provide pedestrian striping and signage for an intersection in an area that includes a senior citizen center, independent living facility, assisted living facility, schools, and medical facilities.

Social Connectedness

- Enhance outdoor capacity for social distancing to allow for continued social activities through the Frankfort/Franklin County Council on Aging (senior center) by purchasing portable gazebos, reusable water bottles and hands-free water stations.

Kentucky River Area Development District – Lee County, Wolfe County, Leslie County, Letcher County, Owsley County, and Perry County (Rural)

Food and Nutrition Security

- Increase Cumberland Mountain Outreach (Lee County) food pantry capacity to distribute fresh and nutritious foods by providing cold food storage and a portable out-building to store donations, allowing for better product placement within the food pantry.
- Purchase emergency generators to support pantry during power disruptions and emergency weather scenarios.
- Provide funding for a part-time food pantry manager.

Social Connectedness

- Provide wellness checks and friendly visitor calls to vulnerable seniors through the Kentucky Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living. An average of 468 calls are made each month, with an average reach of 246 unduplicated individuals.

City of Hickman, Fulton County (Rural)

Food and Nutrition Security

- Provide funding to the Fulton County Alternative Resources for Kentuckians food pantry for space rent, along with needed regular and cold food storage space, to store an array of nutritious client food options.

City of Louisville, Jefferson County (Urban)

Food and Nutrition Security

- Enhance the ability of two food pantries in south and west Louisville to provide food to residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond through cold food storage units, rent for space, and staffing to address equity in their communities.

Social Connectedness

- Fund a part-time Senior Social Activity Coordinator at South Louisville Community Ministries to address social connectedness among its senior community members facing isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Equity Spotlight

- All communities selected to participate in BRIC were selected using the report provided by Leavitt Partners, which highlighted areas of poverty and racial inequality. With equity at the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided numerous opportunities at the state level for program staff to become more engaged in the equity process and incorporate it into BRIC and State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) work.

This opportunity allowed the BRIC team to create partnerships with community-based organizations whose stated mission was to engage people who have not been treated equitably. It also provided a framework for the BRIC team to better access grant funding through state and federal sources.



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