

Louisiana 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

- Serve on the State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan planning committee to ensure that integration of food and nutrition security, safe physical activity access, social connectedness, health equity, and PSE change are considered.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Assess and increase the number of food policy councils that serve high need areas in the state.
- Collaborate with the Northeast Louisiana Food Bank to assess food distribution methods and related, successful COVID-19 pivots.

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Create a statewide Healthy Community Design Guide in collaboration with Center for Planning Excellence.
- Review resources provided by Equitable Cities regarding arrested mobility and over-policing to inform physical activity access considerations.

Social Connectedness

- Engage and collaborate with the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) and Office of Aging and Adult Services (OOAS) through the Louisiana Alzheimer's Coalition to incorporate social connectedness strategies state-wide.

Community-Level Activities

City of Bunkie, Avoyelles Parish (Rural)

Safe Physical Activity Access and Social Connectedness (Reaching an estimated 3,858 residents)

- Spearheaded by Move Bunkie Forward, and with the support of Center for Planning Excellence and Jefferson Highway Association, plan and implement a historical walking tour and two pocket parks.
- Implement medium- and long-term Complete Streets and social cohesion recommendations, designated as priorities by the community, from the Bunkie Complete Streets Action Plan.

City of Tallulah, Madison Parish (Rural)

Food and Nutrition Security (Reaching an estimated 10,017 residents)

- Spearheaded by the Northeast Louisiana Food Bank, increase capacity of food pantries by providing refrigeration/freezers, allowing for storage of healthier food options.
- In partnership with Southern University AgCenter, enhance and implement community gardens to increase the number of people who receive healthier foods at no cost.

Health Equity Spotlight

- Well-Ahead Louisiana has an internal Health Equity Action Team (HEAT) that works to ensure all Bureau work has an equitable approach. HEAT provides resources on operationalizing equity in public health programming and WellSpot Designation staff utilize these resources to spark discussions around health equity and social determinants of health. The HEAT team is working to advance equity bureau-wide by creating a Health Equity Division.



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COMMUNITIES

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