

Ohio 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

- Partner with public health offices and other organizations, as needed, to inform future development of the Ohio State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) based on timing of the next version and/or submit ideas for inclusion in future iterations of the plan.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Build relationships with local food banks to learn more about the needs of food insecure Ohioans impacted by COVID-19.
- Focus outreach to the Ohio Association of Food Banks to determine additional supports for the charitable food system.

Safe Physical Activity Access

- Utilize transportation and community engagement experts from Toole Design to assist in the development of plans and services that address mobility barriers related to COVID-19.

- Leverage existing contract with Toole Design to expand Transportation Demand Management to other communities in Franklin County who have experienced increased disparities due to COVID-19.

Social Connectedness

- Work with local communities to ensure their efforts focus on systems-level change rather than programs to ensure sustainability beyond the grant period.
- Communicate regularly with the Ohio Department of Aging to ensure coordination between departments in support of Ohio State Plan on Aging.

Community-Level Activities

Lucas County (Urban)

Food and Nutrition Security *(Reaching an estimated 37,440 residents)*

- Provide safe distribution of healthy foods through a produce box distribution program run by the YMCA, with financial support from Partnerships for a Healthier America; provide recipients with food choice along with educational opportunities, such as cooking classes on nutrition, to ensure equitable access to healthy foods.

Safe Physical Activity Access *(Reaching an estimated 431,271 residents)*

- Develop an Active Transportation Plan that provides opportunities for safe transportation regardless of transportation mode and socioeconomic status. This plan will address needs as gathered from all community sectors and through support from both local government/municipalities.
- Guide the adoption of the Active Transportation plan by the Toledo City Council and the Lucas County commissioners for incorporation into local projects.
- Develop an educational plan and timeline to educate county residents on newly adopted Active Transportation Plan.

Social Connectedness

- Partner with the YMCA to form a committee with organizations that serve the older adult population to help assess their needs to improve social connectedness.
- Develop a community assessment survey focusing on the social connectedness needs of older adults using American Association of Retired People (AARP) survey examples.
- Develop, facilitate, execute, and evaluate programming for older adults at two community sites based on participant input; programming may include virtual and in-person (socially distanced) educational, social, and physical activity classes.

Marion County (Rural)

Food and Nutrition Security *(Reaching an estimated 4,654 residents)*

- Inventory area food banks, pantries, and feeding sites to identify current nutrition assistance programs and availability in target areas.
- Collaborate with Food Access team to educate food assistance personnel and staff on Nutrition in Food Banking Guidelines; obtain and support three organizational commitments regarding the continued adoption of Nutrition in Food Banking Guidelines.
- Collaborate with the Ohio State University of Marion to identify strategies to utilize the on-campus micro farm for procurement of food for pantries.

Social Connectedness *(Reaching an estimated 17 residents)*

- Conduct assessment to identify organizations serving older adults and collaboratively develop a community action plan to address social isolation in older adults.
- Work with low-income residential housing facilities and communal gardening strategies to mitigate social isolation in older adults.
- Provide individual and group counseling sessions for older adults at Council on Aging.

Franklin County (Urban)

Safe Physical Activity Access *(Reaching an estimated 100 residents)*

- Create, market, implement (including training), and evaluate the Transportation Ambassador program system in the City of Columbus.
 - Focus on two high priority neighborhoods and clients of organizations such as Franklin County Jobs and Family Services.
 - Train paid Transportation Ambassadors to provide bicycle and bus rides to their networks, increasing the awareness and use of active transportation facilities as well as individual confidence in traveling around Columbus without a car.
 - Collect post-ride evaluations to ensure the program is utilized and rides are helpful in improving mobility. Evaluations of the ride and the Transportation Ambassador are completed by participants.

Health Equity Spotlight

- The Transportation Ambassador Program helps community members, in two priority neighborhoods in the City of Columbus, Franklinton and Linden, learn how to bicycle and ride the bus for transportation purposes. Transportation Ambassadors, individuals who live, work, or play in these communities, deliver bicycle rides and bus rides to community members and teach them bicycle and bus safety. The Ambassadors help participants feel more comfortable traveling by bus or bike to a destination that previously seemed inaccessible without a car.



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