

# Request for Proposals

## Central Providence Health Equity Zone

ONE Neighborhood Builders (ONE|NB) & the Central Providence Health Equity Zone with support from:

- The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)
- Rhode Island Foundation's Fund for Healthy Rhode Islanders (RIF)
- Central Providence Opportunities initiative

invites Central Providence Health Equity Zone collaborative members, community-based organizations, and residents to submit a proposal to **sustainably** address *health equity through economic opportunity* in our zip codes (02908 and 02909). Applicants must be a 501c3 organization or be fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 organization.

**\*\*Please note initiatives that are currently funded through the 2020-2021 RFP process are not required to resubmit and may request an interview if interested in continuing their current health equity project\*\***

Residents in the Central Providence area have a life expectancy that is approximately nine years less than that of residents from more socioeconomically advantaged neighborhoods of Providence and much of this is driven by social and economic conditions. To understand the barriers to economic opportunity, ONE|NB and partners conducted a 4-month needs assessment process. Included in this RFP are needs assessment findings. **We ask partners to incorporate relevant findings into their proposal.**

Also included in this RFP are the Rhode Island Department of Health's State Health Equity Domains and Determinants of focus. In addition to including needs assessment findings, **we ask that our partners include how their proposal will work towards improving one or more of the State's health equity determinants**

### **Project Title:**

Addressing Health Equity through Economic Opportunity  
Central Providence Health Equity Zone Initiative

### **Client:**

ONE Neighborhood Builders  
66 Chaffee Street, Providence, RI 02909

### **Contact:**

Belinda Philippe, Director of Strategic Initiatives at [philippe@onenb.org](mailto:philippe@onenb.org)

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## 1. Central Providence Health Equity Zone – Description

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) established Health Equity Zones (HEZs) in 2015 to improve community health in areas that need it most. HEZs are collaboratives of residents, community organizations, health professionals, and others who come together to address the root causes of health disparities. The HEZs work to ensure every neighborhood has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. This work requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, racism, and their consequences, including insufficient access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education, affordable housing, safe environments, and healthcare.

The Central Providence Health Equity Zone supports the 02908 and 02909 zip codes of Providence. Our work is built on a foundation of more than a thousand hours of resident interviews, dozens of community events, and countless organizational meetings. Integral to our HEZ is a cohort of over a dozen Community Health Workers who regularly screen residents for social determinants of health, work with them on their immediate needs, and provide “warm hand-offs” to other organizations better suited to address their longer-term goals. Importantly, the Community Health Workers provide continuous feedback to the HEZ collaborative concerning what they are seeing and hearing as they move through the community both as residents of Central Providence and as direct service providers. Their observations and recommendation determine the direction of our programing.

**Why Central Providence?** Providence zip codes have varied health outcomes. Central Providence, which encompasses the 9 neighborhoods of 02908 and 02909, has a life expectancy of about 9 years less than that of residents from more socioeconomically advantaged neighborhoods of Providence. We firmly believe that these neighborhoods—Elmhurst, Federal Hill, Hartford, Manton, Mount Pleasant, Olneyville, Silverlake, Smith Hill, and Valley— should not define your health and strive to diminish the life expectancy gap by supporting the development of health promoting neighborhoods.

### **Our Focus**

50% of the factors that determine health have to do with economic and social condition and therefore, while these drivers are not always understood as ‘health’, they are the primary focus of our HEZ. We aim to address socio-economic disparities by increasing housing stability and affordability, improving access to living-wage employment, and expanding basic needs, such as childcare and transportation. We are particularly focused on funding projects in these domains. Examples of proposals that we have funded in the past are workforce training programs, childcare improvement initiatives, business development and youth-focused activities.

### **Theory of Change**

By improving the social and economic conditions of the community, the overall health of a community will improve. When our neighbors are healthier, they use less of expensive

healthcare services. Savings realized by the healthcare system have the potential to be reinvested in actions that promote health.

## 2. Needs Assessment Findings

02908 and 02909 have a combined population of just over 81,000 residents with a median family income of \$47,177 and \$35,486 respectively. 22.11% of individuals in 02908 are living in poverty and 26.31% of individuals in 02909 are living in poverty. 37.7% of 02908 identified as White and 20.2% of 02909 identify as white. 39.6% and 60.3% identify as Hispanic in 02908 and 02909 respectively. 17.3% and 13.7% identify as Black or African American in 02909 and 02908 respectively. While their demographics vary, there are also similarities in the zip codes. For instance, 18.36% of the housing stock in 02908 is vacant and 17.16% in 02909. The lead exposure risk ranking is also 10 (scale of 1-10) in both of these zipcodes.

Over the course of four months (October 2019 to January 2020), ONE|NB and collaborative partners surveyed 376 residents living in the following Central Providence neighborhoods: Olneyville, Federal Hill, Hartford, and Valley and held three focus groups in Valley. In July of 2020, CP-HEZ increased our catchment area to include all of 02908 and 02909 and to bolster our needs assessment findings, we have screened hundreds of residents in these zip codes through our CHW program. ONE|NB has also started a resident advisory board and worked with residents throughout Central Providence to identify needs and priorities. We have synthesized several themes from these assessments below.

### **Key Challenges Reported by Respondents:**

#### 1). Lack of Adequate Income is the Most Pressing Concern

46% of residents felt hindered by not currently having (or having access to) jobs that paid a living wage. Many noted the lack of good-paying jobs in their immediate neighborhood. When asked why they struggled paying for their basic needs, overwhelmingly the answer identified was **limited income** (low wages, fixed income (i.e. ssi) and underemployment). 52% of residents noted that they felt tense, nervous or anxious or have trouble sleeping at night because of their income or the amount of money that they have in your savings. Focus group residents noted that lack of youth employment was a challenge in their immediate neighborhood (as youth are less likely to have the wherewithal to travel for work).

#### 2) Lack of Affordable Housing and Affordable Childcare are Top Concerns

43% of residents reported securing affordable housing in their own neighborhood was difficult. 33% reported that affordable childcare in their own neighborhood was not available. 59% of residents noted that they had trouble paying for childcare, medical care, housing or healthy food. When asked to identify which basic needs they had trouble paying for most residents identified housing followed by healthy food. With increased income, the

ability to secure quality and affordable housing and childcare would seemingly improve. However, we found in our Needs Assessment that even with increased income, quality housing and childcare that is affordable felt “out of reach” for residents. This lived experience corresponds to data that indicates increased wages are not keeping pace with wildly increasing cost for housing.

### 3) Health Insurance and Health Care Access is Not a Top Concern

Only 20% of survey respondents noted that access to affordable health care was a problem. Residents in the focus group noted that with Medicaid Expansion (“Affordable Care Act”) health care was now much more accessible and affordable.

### 4) Neighborhood Condition Continues to be a Concern

Focus group residents highlighted the sense of danger and disorder that is created when there is litter, graffiti, vacant and abandoned properties. This was a sentiment particularly expressed by residents in the Valley neighborhood.

## **Community Health Worker – Social Determinants of Health Findings**

While the expansion of our work happened after our needs assessment process, we have screened over 575 (and growing) residents in the past year including 273 from 02909 and 131 from 02908. From these screenings, we have identified that poor quality housing, followed by housing insecurity (fear of losing their housing) are the top two concerns facing our residents followed by the inability to afford food.

Our dashboard reflects nearly, real time data of our community’s identified needs. A snapshot of our dashboard follows and a live version can be found here:

<https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1e0a438a-15ae-468b-a831-c5a8db5aad3a/page/1M?s=u4JqxEyXPRU>

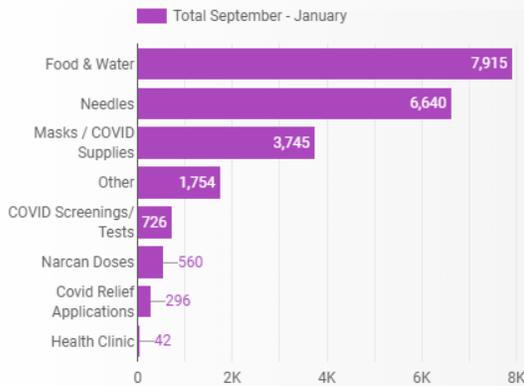
# Central Providence Conquers COVID-19 Dashboard



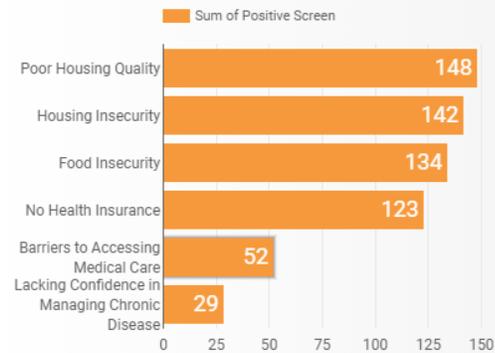
Total # of CPHEZ Clients Served  
**5,711**

Overall Assumed Undocumented on SDOH Screening\*  
**16.78%**

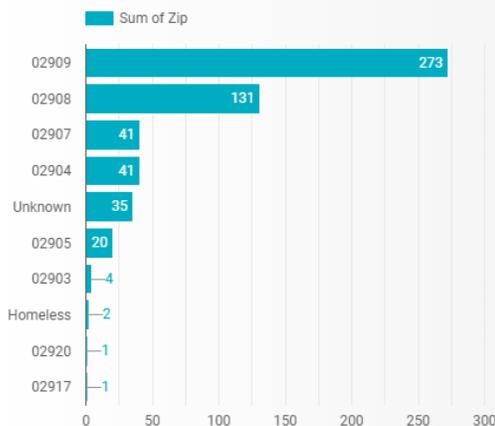
## CP-HEZ Services Provided



## What are Clients screening positive for on the SDOH Screening tool?



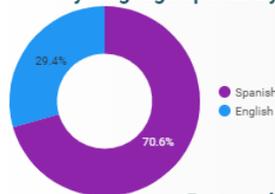
## Which zip codes are ONE/NB CHWs getting the most calls and referrals from?



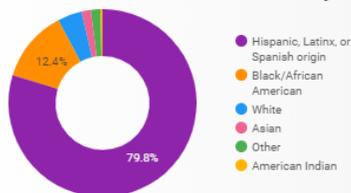
## SDOH Screening completed by month by referral

Month	New Callers	RIDOH	Self Referr...	Other Re...
April	2	0	2	0
May	51	0	51	0
June	51	0	51	0
July	17	0	17	0
August	10	0	10	0
September	14	2	12	0
October	32	2	10	20
November	120	25	84	11
December	128	80	33	15
January	92	62	18	12
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>70</b>

## Primary language spoken by clients



## Race and ethnicity of clients



Safe Harbor is an eviction diversion initiative from the United Way RI designed to help Rhode Island landlords and tenants resolve disputes over late or unpaid rent. Our CHWs work with residents to distribute these funds.

Learn more at <https://www.uwri.org>

Safe Harbor relief funds distributed with the help of CHWs

**\$96,708.40**

Number of Families Impacted

**34**

Average Relief per Family

**\$2,844.36**

Data is received upon initial SDOH Screening of residents that have reached out to Community Health Care workers or have been referred by RIDOH.

\* Number is estimated by the number those that are uninsured

The Resident Advisory Council (RAC) is a working group of 18 Central Providence Resident leaders who come together regularly to discuss neighborhood strengths and opportunities and to identify weaknesses and challenges. They have identified 11 priority areas that they would like to see improvement in in CP Zip Codes. Of those priority areas, are the 4 listed below that intersect with the CP-HEZ work. Both Strengths and Challenges identified by the RAC should be considered in proposals.

	<b>Strengths/Opportunities</b>	<b>Weaknesses/Challenges</b>
<b>Education/School Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All voices and contributions important regardless of formal education level</li> <li>-Youth are huge asset, need their input</li> <li>-Connect to local colleges- PC, RIC, that have resources and programming</li> <li>-Promote finishing high school and going to college</li> <li>-Libraries and other learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Most of population undereducated (high % didn't finish high school)</li> <li>-Cynicism among youth regarding school system</li> <li>-Most schools not serving students or building on community strengths</li> <li>-Cuts to educational resources (sports, arts etc)</li> </ul>
<b>Economic opportunities/jobs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Many independent businesses</li> <li>-Sees support for restaurants during pandemic</li> <li>-Provide campaigns to "buy local" and support businesses throughout year</li> <li>-Access to banks, particularly community banks and credit unions, would be impactful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Access to only low-wage, low-skill jobs</li> <li>-High poverty rates, families in survival mode</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Many renters interested in buying homes</li> <li>-Existing efforts to build and preserve affordable housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Not enough affordable housing- rental and ownership</li> <li>-Lack of information about how to buy home</li> <li>-Poor conditions, absentee landlords</li> </ul>
<b>Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-RI has progressive laws against discrimination in employment/housing/health care, but not always enforced</li> <li>-\$15 minimum wage and other policy campaigns to support low-income workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-State policies that impact our communities</li> <li>-Lack of transparency about decision making and reporting</li> </ul>
<p>To learn more about the Resident Advisory Council, visit: <a href="https://oneneighborhoodbuilders.org/central-providence-opportunities/">https://oneneighborhoodbuilders.org/central-providence-opportunities/</a></p>		

### 3. State Health Equity Domains and Determinants

Domain	Determinant
Integrated Healthcare	Healthcare Access
	Social Services
	Behavioral Health
Community Resiliency	Civic Engagement
	Social Vulnerability
	Equity in Policy
Physical Environment	Natural Environment
	Transportation
	Environmental Hazards

Domain	Determinant
Socio-economics	Housing Cost Burden
	Food Insecurity
	Education
Community Trauma	Discrimination
	Criminal Justice
	Public Safety

### 4. Schedule of RFP and Project Timeline

Schedule of RFP, Selection of Consultant, Evaluation Timeline	
April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Distribution of RFP
April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Questions accepted from proposers <i>Please send via email to: philippe@onenb.org</i>
May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Proposals due
June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Subcontractors selected and notified
June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	MOAs Completed between ONE NB and Subcontractors
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Funding period begins
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	First round funding period ends

## 5. Time and Place of Submission of Proposals

Please send a digital copy to the addresses shown below by May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

Atten: Ana Meerbott  
Email: meerbott@onenb.org

## 6. Elements of Proposal

Please provide the following information in your proposal:

- **Project Description:** *Describe your proposed initiative and how it will address economic opportunity and health equity of residents in the Central Providence area. Please include a) how your initiative addresses needs assessment findings; b) which health equity determinant(s) this initiative will address and how; c) how this initiative will promote sustainable change (Maximum 500 words)*
- **Organization/Team Qualifications:** *Explain how your organization/team is qualified to run this initiative (Maximum 250 words)*
- **Timeline, Outcomes and Evaluation:** *List the goals, activities, timeline and outcomes of your proposed initiative and how you plan to evaluate them*
- **Challenges:** *Describe any foreseen challenges towards meeting your goals and what technical assistance, training, or other you will need address these challenges*
- **Budget:** *Please fill out budget template attached*

## 7. Evaluation Criteria

ONE|NB will evaluate proposals according to the following criteria:

- Grounding in identified resident need(s)
- Logical connection to improving economic opportunity and health equity in CP-HEZ neighborhoods and to improving upon 1 or more State Health Equity Indicators
- Organizational capacity and experience
- SMART goals
- Initiative sustainability

## 8. Budget

Proposers may seek a maximum of \$35,000. Requests may not be funded in full.

**Logic Model Example**

*Please feel free to use this format to help in your planning process.*

<b>GOAL 1: 10 Unemployed/Underemployed Central Providence Residents will obtain full time employment by 2022</b>			
<b>CORE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<b>SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LONG-TERM OUTCOMES</b>
<i>Priority activities to deliver outputs &amp; results</i>	<i>Direct products of program activities</i>	<i>Specific changes that result from your program within 1-3 years</i>	<i>Changes that result in 4-7 years</i>
<i>i.e. Develop and run Construction Workforce Training Program for unemployed/underemployed CP-Resident</i>	<i>i.e. Graduate 10 CP-Residents from Construction Program</i>	<i>i.e. At least 80% of graduates will be employed in the construction field at year 3</i>	<i>i.e. By year 4, graduates will sustain fulltime employment and have increased their annual income by 15%</i>