NAM Vital Directions for Health and Healthcare

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Communities are given initial seed funding through RIDOH for each HEZ starting over a four-year period to:

- Build, expand or maintain a **collaborative** of diverse partners from the local community of the self-defined zone.

  ➢ *Includes municipal leaders, residents, businesses, transportation and community planners, law enforcement, education systems, and health systems, among others.*
RIDOH Health Equity Zones

- Community led
- Place based
- Data driven
- Based on collective impact
- Equity focused (root causes)
- Evidence based
- Represent many sectors
Public health in action:
• Form a collaborative
• Assess needs
• Plan
• Act
• Evaluate
HEZs are helping communities build the infrastructure they need to drive lasting change at the local level in RI.

Examples of HEZ successes:

The Bristol Health Equity Zone facilitated the passage and implementation of a town-wide ordinance banning cigarettes and vaping in all town parks, ensuring access to smoke-free public spaces for all community members.

The Olneyville (now Central Providence) Health Equity Zone implemented the Youth & Police Initiative to build bridges between local police officers and teens.