



Health Enterprise Zone Q&A Sheet

Q: What is a Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ)?

A: Bebashi was awarded a Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) grant that began on May 1, 2019. A Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) is a year-long grant program administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services. The HEZ Projects' objective is to reduce inequalities in access to essential health care services for under-served, vulnerable populations in targeted areas. Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) grant recipients will develop a program that improves the quality of life and availability of resources for community members. Bebashi's special area of focus for our project is food insecurity.

Q: What programs will be created with the HEZ grant award?

A: Bebashi plans to use awarded funds to physically expand the food pantry and the amount of individuals it reaches. We will do this by: (1) Hiring project staff including a Project Coordinator; Peer Support Workers (PSWs); who will come from the HEZ communities; and two Resource Navigators. HEZ staff duties will involve community outreach, making program referrals, and data collection and reporting.

To maximize our reach and increase our presence in the HEZ communities, HEZ staff will create a robust and evolving Resource Guide to post online and distribute to community members, places of worship, schools, and other community centers; Strategically partner with four (4) Philadelphia grade schools that are in need of additional resources to provide food and nourishment to families in need; Utilize ongoing partnerships with culturally-sensitive healthcare providers; and Develop and recruit a Coalition that will continue to address these needs, provide resources, and fund hunger relief initiatives. The Coalition will be comprised of other nonprofit organizations, food recovery groups, city and government officials, potential funders, regional farmers/growers, and members of the communities the project serves.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions about the project?

A: The HEZ project will be led by its new coordinator, Janice Tosto, a veteran social service worker and community activist who brings years of experience from her time working with vulnerable populations in the Bronx and Brooklyn in New York City. Janice will supervise the Peer Support Workers (PSWs) and two Resource Navigators who will be working closely with the populations served by the HEZ project. She can be reached at janicet@bebashi.org or 215.769.3561 x142. Janice will be supervised by Patrick Keough who will oversee the project administratively. He can be reached at patrickk@bebashi.org or 215.769.3561 x152.

Q: What will happen after the one year grant period is up?

A: Bebashi intends to continue the project after the end of the commonwealth's start up grant. Currently, we are developing a permanent name for the project

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Q: What areas of the city fall into the HEZ catchment area?

A: The HEZ area includes most of North Philadelphia including Port Richmond / Kensington and parts of the Northwest with the exception of Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill. The ZIP codes included are:

- 19120
- 19121
- 19123
- 19124
- 19125
- 19130
- 19131
- 19132
- 19133
- 19134
- 19138
- 19140
- 19141
- 19144

