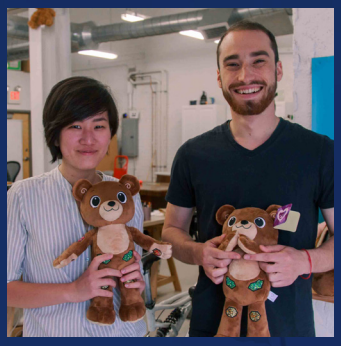












RISE TOGETHER:

BUILDING A STRONGER & MORE EQUITABLE RHODE ISLAND

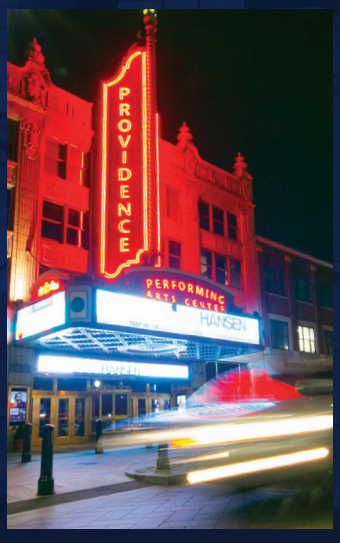
THE RAIMONDO ADMINISTRATION

















2015-2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 4 - 7

BUILDING A PROSPEROUS AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY
- Strengthening Rhode Island's competitiveness 8-15
- Supporting small, local businesses 16-23

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR WORKERS
- Building an economy that works for workers 24-25
- Promoting economic opportunity for women and people of color 26-27

BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE AND PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL
- Investing in job training that works 28-34
- Ensuring all Rhode Islanders can get a post-secondary degree 35
- Preparing kids for college and careers 36-37
- Investing in PreK-12 education 38-39

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, JOB-CREATING INFRASTRUCTURE
- Investing in job-creating transportation infrastructure 40-41
- Expanding housing and rebuilding schools 42
- Prioritizing green infrastructure and climate resiliency 43-47
- Preserving and growing Rhode Island's food infrastructure 48-49

BUILDING A SAFER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE BEAUTIFUL HOME
- Increasing access to physical and behavioral healthcare 50-51
- Decreasing opioid overdoses and deaths 52
- Passing gun safety legislation 52
- Preserving our beaches and parks 53
- Addressing child maltreatment 54-55

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE RHODE ISLAND
- Increasing representation among state leaders 56-57
- Reforming the criminal justice system 58
- Addressing racial injustice 59
- Promoting LGBTQIA+ rights 60-61

CONCLUSION 62 -63

REFERENCES 64-65



INTRODUCTION

When Governor Raimondo took office in 2015, Rhode Island was stuck in the wake of the Great Recession. Many believed the state's problems were too big to solve – that the system was too broken.

But Governor Raimondo stood on the steps of the Rhode Island State House and vowed that, together, we would ignite Rhode Island's comeback. She asked every Rhode Islander to step up and become part of the solution – to not be afraid to do things differently, to believe that change is always possible, and to hold on to the same eternal optimism of our founders as we charted a new course.

That moment marked not only the beginning of a new era in Rhode Island, but also the inauguration of the state's first female governor – a long-overdue milestone and a testament to the incredible women who paved the way. And over the past six years, Governor Raimondo has served as a tireless leader for all Rhode Islanders and inspired a new generation of young women leaders.

Rhode Island was hit particularly hard by the 2008 financial crisis and resulting economic collapse, and by the time Governor Raimondo took office, the state was still struggling to bounce back.

- Rhode Island's unemployment rate was the highest in the nation for eight consecutive months in 2013 and 2014, and Rhode Island's economic recovery occurred at a much slower pace than the U.S. the New England region, and neighboring states.[1] [see Fig. 1]

- **Rhode Island's construction industry lost 40% of jobs during the recession and maintained an unemployment rate of nearly 20% into 2013.**[2]

- Black and Latino Rhode Islanders were hit particularly hard, experiencing much higher unemployment rates than white Rhode Islanders. **In 2009, Black unemployment was at 18.2%, Latino unemployment was at 20.6% and white unemployment was at 10.7%.**[3] [see Fig. 2]

- In part, Rhode Island's long-term economic challenges exacerbated the recession. Global economic trade and policy choices had hollowed out the state's manufacturing sector through the 1990s. **Rhode Island lost more than 50% of the state's manufacturing jobs between 1990 and 2014, the largest percent decline in manufacturing jobs among all 50 states.**[4] Meanwhile, the state had failed to generate jobs in emerging industries. Further, in 2014, just 18.1 percent of Rhode Islanders over the age of 25 had a bachelor's degree, the lowest ranking in New England.[5] [see Fig. 3]

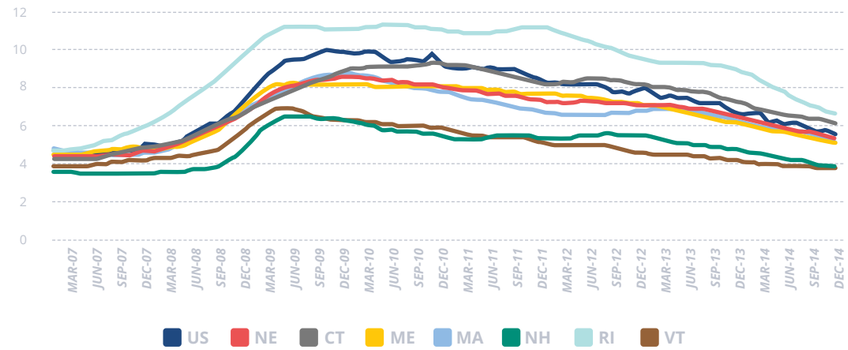
The State failed to make investments that could grow the economy. In 2011, Rhode Island issued a moratorium on school construction that lasted until Governor Raimondo lifted it in 2017. Rhode Island failed to maintain roads and bridges, ranking 49th in the nation on highway quality and last in the nation on bridges.[6] The state had too few economic development tools. **Unlike our regional counterparts, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey, Rhode Island had no state-funded small business loan program and no state-level incentives for real estate and business development.**

Rhode Island made cuts that hurt vulnerable populations and undermined long-term success. Cuts to higher education funding led to some of the sharpest increases in public tuition in the nation. Meanwhile, from 2009–2014, the share of Rhode Island residents 25 and older with an associate's degree increased just 0.3%, compared to 3% nationally, and the share of Rhode Island residents 25 and older with a bachelor's degree decreased 0.4%, compared with a 2.4% increase nationally.[7] Between 2007-2011, Rhode Island reduced childcare subsidies for nearly 2,000 children. In Fiscal Year 2009, Rhode Island eliminated nearly three quarters of state-funded Head Start seats.[8] The State cut funding for services to developmentally disabled Rhode Islanders by 11% from 2010-2011,[9] even as the population needs remained constant. Following the cuts, the US Justice Department declared Rhode Island in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act for failing to provide adequate services to residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



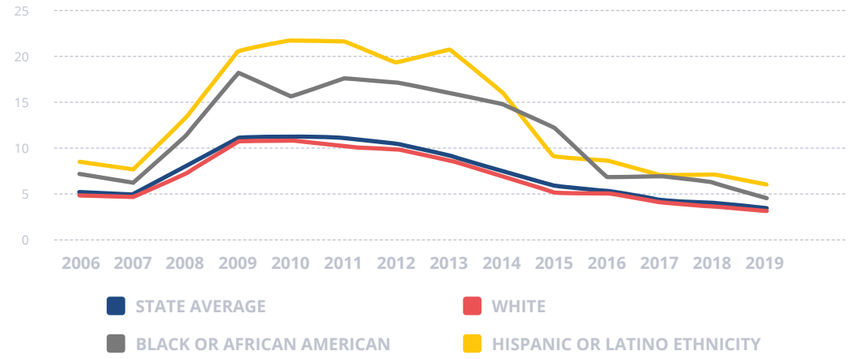
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE GREAT RECESSION

Fig. 1



RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Fig. 2



* Average of January to September 2020
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Geographic Profile of Employment & Unemployment

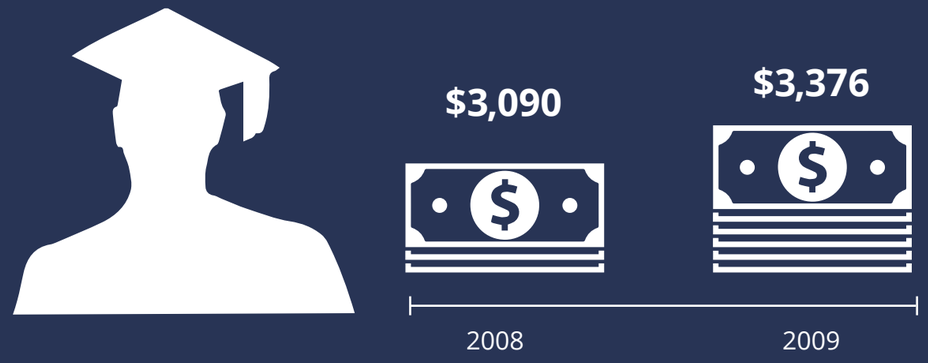
PERCENT OF POPULATION 25+ WITH HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES IN 2014

Fig. 3

	US	MA	NH	CT	VT	ME	RI
Percent Population 25+ with Associate's Degree	8.2	7.9	9.8	7.5	7.8	9.7	8.2
Percent Population 25+ with Bachelor's Degree	18.7	23.2	21.7	21.3	20.9	19.4	18.1
Percent Population 25+ with Graduate Degree	11.4	18	13.3	16.7	14	10	12.3

Source: Census Bureau, American Communities Survey data

CCRI students saw annual tuition increase by about 10% between 2008 and 2009, from $3,090 to $3,376.[10]



From Day One, Governor Raimondo focused her administration on creating jobs, raising wages and setting Rhode Island up for long-term economic success so all Rhode Islanders could thrive.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Between 2014 and 2019, the state's unemployment rate fell from 7.7% to 3.6% representing the largest unemployment rate decline among all 50 states in the nation. In February 2020 – right before the pandemic – Rhode Island saw an unemployment rate of 3.4% - its lowest in over 30 years. Unemployment rates for Black and Latino Rhode Islanders also dropped precipitously. [see Fig. 4]

EMPLOYMENT

For the first time in state history, Governor Raimondo grew the economy to surpass half a million jobs. Between 2014 and 2019, the number of Rhode Island jobs increased from 482,400 to 503,600, representing an increase of 21,200 jobs (or 4.4%) and reaching an all-time jobs high for the state.[11]

ADVANCED INDUSTRIES

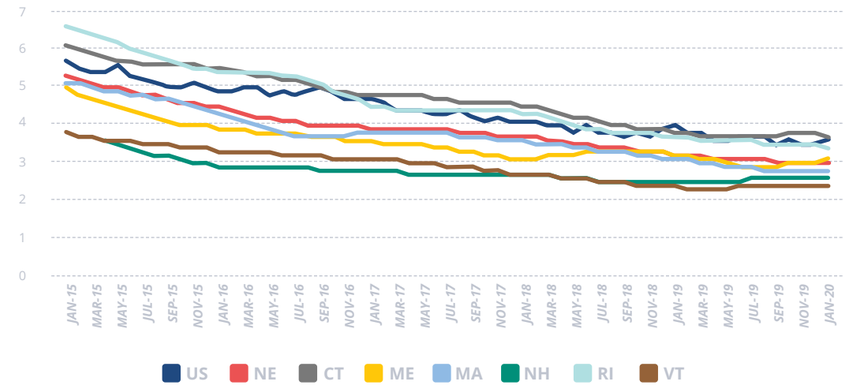
Between 2013 and 2017, Rhode Island's prioritized industry clusters grew 5% more than the Rhode Island economy overall, and advanced industries have become a more significant part of the Rhode Island economy.[12]

EDUCATION

Rhode Island increased the skills of its population and educated a higher share of STEM graduates in 2017 than in 2014. The share of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher has also grown.[13]

RI UNEMPLOYMENT RATE COMPARED TO NEW ENGLAND AND US

Fig. 4



(PERCENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The COVID-19 public health and economic crisis tested the strength of the state's economy. The cost in family and friends lost, businesses shuttered, and lives disrupted is incalculable. And the fight to tame the virus and rebuild our economy is still ongoing. There are signs of hope, however, that indicate Rhode Island's economy is more resilient today and that together, we will recover.

Like the rest of the nation, our state saw its economy upended by the pandemic. In Rhode Island, real GDP fell 31.4% in Q2 2020, and the unemployment rate increased from 3.4% in February 2020 to 18.1% in April 2020.[14]

- While there's still much more progress to make and rebuilding to do, between April 2020 and November 2020, Rhode Island added 57,200 jobs, and the state's unemployment rate fell from 18.1% to 7.3% –representing the 9th-largest unemployment rate decline among all 50 states.[15]

- Rhode Island has made particularly strong progress in some of the industries most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Between April 2020 and November 2020, Rhode Island's economy has added 7,500 retail jobs and 23,400 leisure and hospitality jobs.[16]

The following report outlines the policies and programs implemented to rebuild Rhode Island's economy and build a more equitable and resilient state since the last recession, and it provides a blueprint for how to recover from the pandemic stronger than ever. This report discusses policies, programs and accomplishments that have helped to:

1) Build a prosperous and innovative economy
2) Build an inclusive economy that works for workers
3) Build a strong workforce and provide educational opportunities for all
4) Build sustainable, job-creating infrastructure
5) Build a safer, healthier, and more beautiful home
6) Build a more equitable Rhode Island

1

BUILDING A PROSPEROUS AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY



When Governor Raimondo took office six years ago, Rhode Island was still suffering the effects of the Great Recession. With the highest unemployment rate in the region, and a painfully slow recovery, we needed aggressive action. The Governor focused intensively on putting Rhode Islanders back to work. She launched an agenda to build advanced industries, promote innovation, support local entrepreneurs and grow small businesses. Before the COVID-19 crisis, Rhode Island had made huge strides. The decrease in unemployment between 2014 and 2019 was the largest in the nation, and the state's unemployment rate reached its lowest level in over 30 years.

STRENGTHENING RHODE ISLAND'S COMPETITIVENESS

Building an Economic Development Toolbox to Secure Opportunities for Rhode Island

Coming out of the Great Recession, Rhode Island lacked the tools and resources to help communities get projects off the ground, assist local companies aiming to expand, recruit new companies to Rhode Island, or provide state financing for small businesses. From Day One, the Raimondo administration focused on implementing policies that would create new jobs in Rhode Island, without any broad-based tax increases. Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, Rhode Island Commerce developed a range of programs to solidify Rhode Island's regional and national competitiveness, including policies to support workforce development, enterprise innovation, visitor attraction, and business expansion and recruitment. Over 10 years, these programs are on track to return more than $300 million in state tax revenue.

THE PROVIDENCE INNOVATION AND DESIGN DISTRICT

The Raimondo Administration brought the Innovation and Design District to life on 19 acres in Downtown Providence that was reclaimed when a portion of Interstate 195 was relocated. The mission is to foster economic development and generate jobs in this newly created district. As of January 2021, more than two million square feet of new development is completed, underway or planned, for a total value of more than $675 million.

Wexford Innovation Center (Point 225)

Located within and anchoring the Providence Innovation and Design District is the Wexford Innovation Center. This 200,000-square foot facility opened in July 2019 and is anchored by the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC), Brown University's School of Professional Studies and Johnson & Johnson. As of January 2021, over 80 companies with more than 200 employees are located within the Cambridge Innovation Center.

Offshore Wind Innovation Cluster

As part of Ørsted's commitment to building an offshore wind industry supply chain in the U.S., the company has established its Innovation Hub in Rhode Island at Providence's CIC. The purpose of this team is to identify, foster, and, where appropriate, finance enterprises related to offshore wind, with a focus on next-generation technology and related innovation in the offshore wind energy field. In addition, seven other wind industry-related companies have located at CIC.



RHODE ISLAND INNOVATION CAMPUS

As part of Governor Raimondo's effort to strengthen Rhode Island, the State sought to bridge structural and programming gaps in the innovation ecosystem. These gaps impacted the ability of our institutions of higher education to transform cutting-edge research into commercial products and services, spinning off new companies and creating jobs. They also impacted the capacity of small and start-up businesses to develop innovative products and services. In 2016, the Governor proposed $20 million in bond financing to encourage academic institutions to build research partnerships in various industry sectors.

401 Tech Bridge

With a $1 million grant, URI established "401 Tech Bridge" to research and deploy textile and composite projects with industry sponsors. Partners include POLARIS Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Toray (Composites), Composites One (Composites), Hope Global (Textiles), The Office of Naval Research (ONR), Rhode Island Marine Trades Association/Composites Alliance of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Textile Innovation Network, DESIGNxRI, and the Rhode Island Bridge and Transportation Authority (RIBTA). The 401 Tech Bridge recently received a $2.3 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the construction of a facility.



QUALIFIED JOBS

The Raimondo Administration launched the Qualified Jobs tax credit program, which helps companies land or expand in Rhode Island. Using the tax credit program, over two dozen companies have either relocated to or expanded in Rhode Island, helping to create over 3,000 new jobs. Companies that expand their workforce in Rhode Island or relocate jobs from out-of-state may receive annual, redeemable tax credits for up to 10 years with the Qualified Jobs Incentive program. Jobs must be established and paying state taxes for one year before any credits are awarded. Of the awardees of the program, approximately 40 percent of the credits have gone to Rhode Island companies, and 60 percent have been attractions from other states.

Infosys

In 2019, Infosys, the India-based IT company, announced plans to establish a Digital Innovation & Design Center in Providence and create 500 new jobs. In 2020, the company announced plans to double-down on its commitment to the state and add 1,000 new Rhode Island jobs (increasing its pledge by 500 jobs) in the coming years. In addition, the company partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Health on the Crush COVID application, lending their technical expertise to the state's efforts to combat COVID-19.



REBUILD RI

Launched in 2016, a set of brick-and-mortar investment tools – the Rebuild RI Tax Credit, Tax Increment Financing program and Tax Stabilization Incentive initiative – have facilitated job-creating projects such as new manufacturing facilities, corporate offices, hotels and mixed-use residential developments within our state. The Rebuild RI program has leveraged more than $2 billion in capital spending on 52 separate projects, contributing an estimated 10,200 construction jobs, 3,300 direct new ongoing jobs and 4,800 ongoing indirect jobs to the state over the last four years. Successful projects include the recently -completed Gotham Greens in Providence, a 110,000-square foot state-of-the-art greenhouse that is producing 10 million heads of farm-fresh lettuce and leafy greens annually; and hotels like the Residence Inn in Downtown Providence and Hammett's Wharf in Newport.

Amgen

Amgen, a world-leading biotechnology company, used this program to help expand in Rhode Island, with a new $160 million next-generation biomanufacturing plant – the first of its kind in the United States – that employs up to 300 new employees. Initially, the company was focused on a site in Texas and a site in Singapore. An award of $3.75 million in Rebuild Rhode Island tax credits, in combination with other programs, helped the company reconsider Rhode Island, and the facility is now operating in West Greenwich.



SITE READINESS

Created in 2019, the Site Readiness program partners Rhode Island Commerce with municipalities and developers to fund municipal technical assistance and site-specific planning and improvements. The program addresses the state's too-constrained availability of large-scale industrial sites. In the first year of funding, the program awarded grants to 15 projects in 11 municipalities involving over 300 acres of potential development.

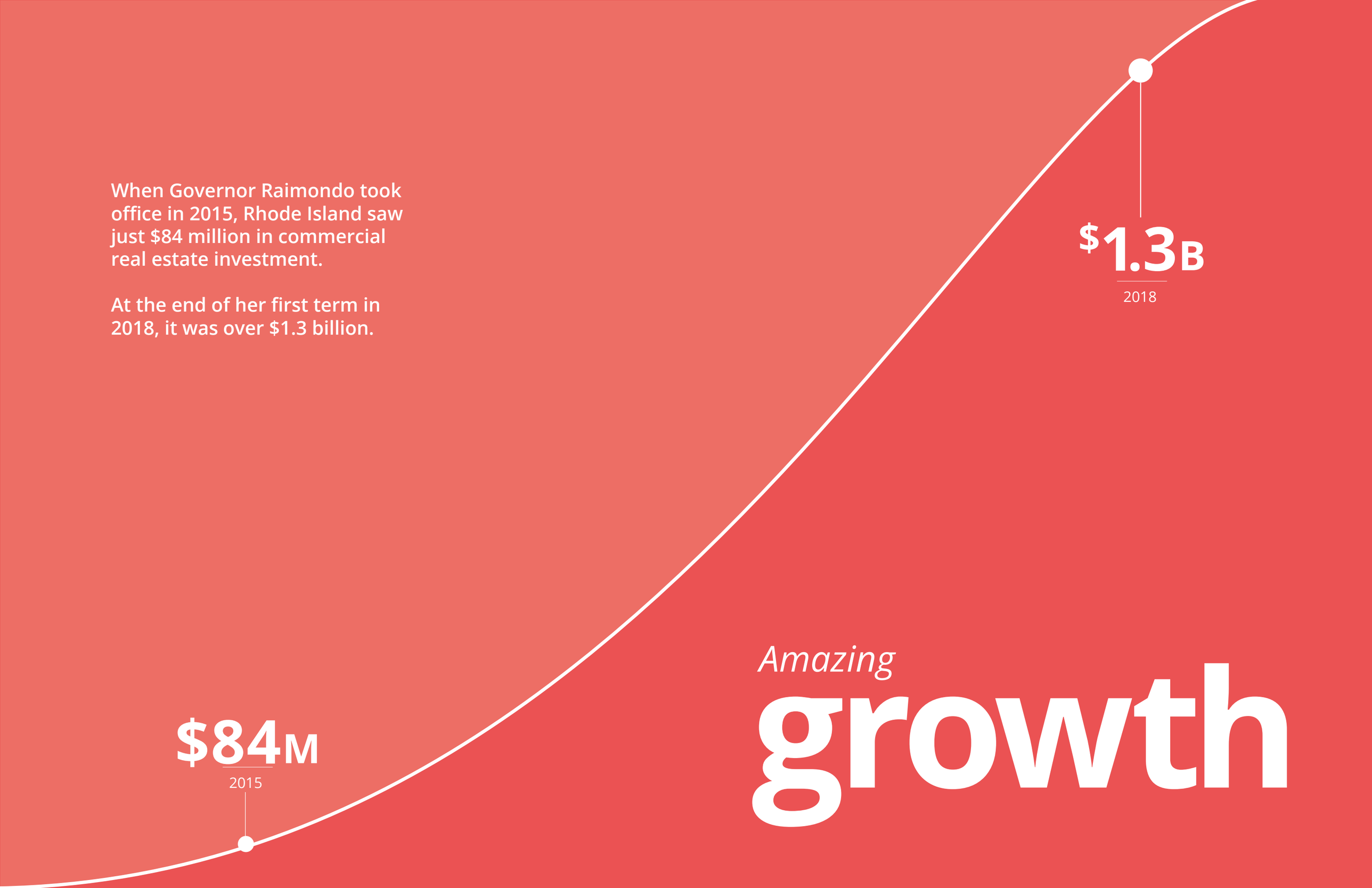
Rubius Pharmaceuticals

Rubius is a biopharmaceutical company that is genetically engineering red blood cells to create cellular medicine to treat disease. Because of the Qualified Jobs and Rebuild RI tax credit programs, the company located to Rhode Island in 2018 and is already eyeing local expansion. To help streamline the expansion process, the Site Readiness program funded the development of a preliminary masterplan study and supported engineering studies of the site.

Amazing growth

When Governor Raimondo took office in 2015, Rhode Island saw just $84 million in commercial real estate investment.

At the end of her first term in 2018, it was over $1.3 billion.



SUPPORTING SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESSES

Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP)
Established in 2015, the Small Business Assistance Program is the first State-financed loan program that provides much-needed capital to Rhode Island's small business community. The program partners with six qualified lending organizations to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses that encounter difficulty obtaining adequate credit from traditional lending institutions. At present, $4 million in state funds have allowed lenders to unlock more than $20 million in loans to 150 small businesses. More than half of these loans have gone to minority- or woman-owned business enterprises.



NUMBER OF CLOSED LOANS **150**

RI COMMERCE DISBURSED **$4,000,000**

LEVERAGE AMOUNT **$20,000,000**

MBE/WBE **51.3%**

JOBS CREATED/ RETAINED **1,124**

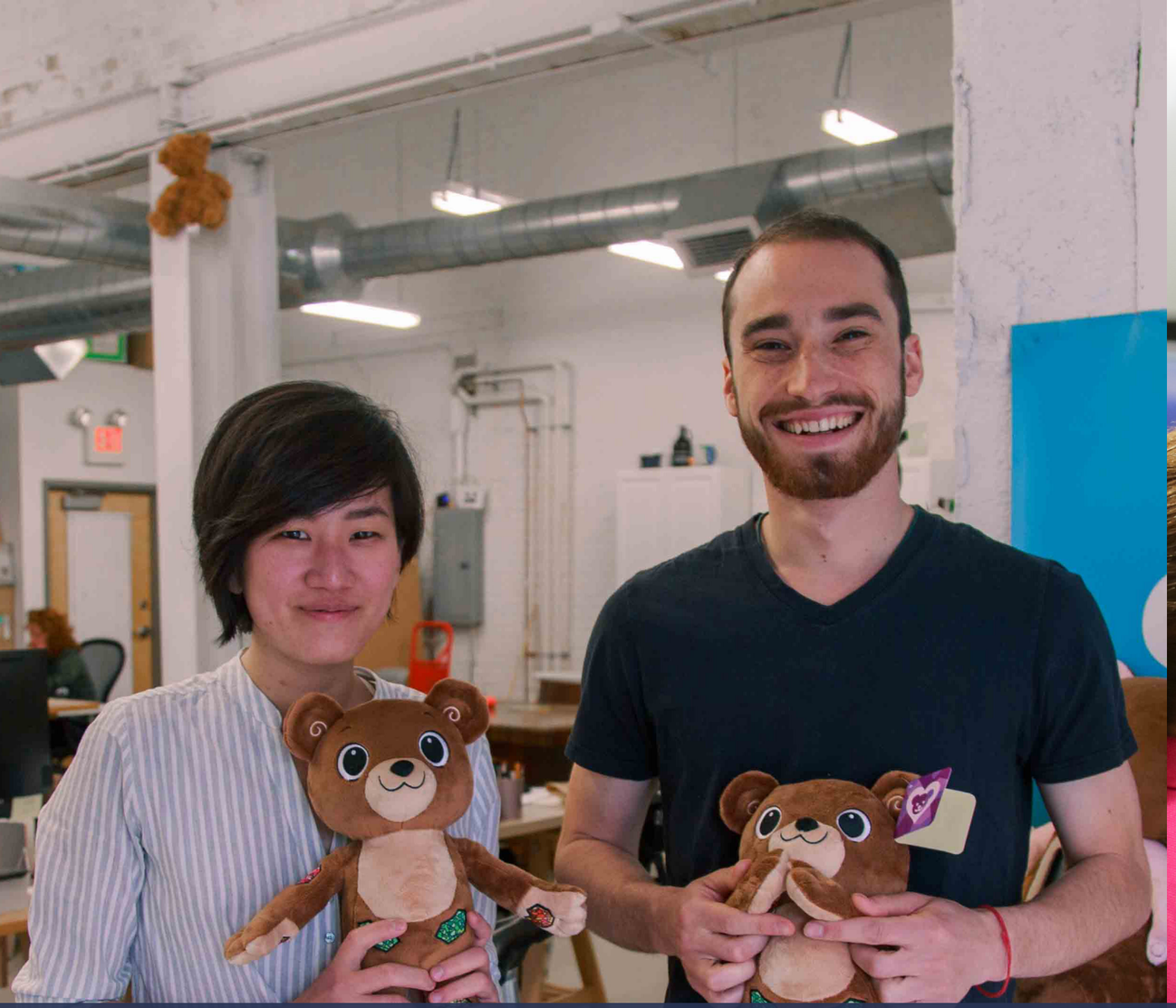


The Family Cake

The Family Cake is a family-owned business specializing in cakes for all occasions, founded in 2014 in the home kitchen of Juan and Wendy Lantigua in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence. The state's Small Business Assistance Program provided access to capital that allowed Family Cake to move into a brand-new storefront on Manton Avenue. Today, the bakery retail-establishment sells cakes in grocery stores throughout New England and is looking to further expand its distribution network.







INNOVATION VOUCHERS

Governor Raimondo established the Innovation Voucher Program in 2016 to help small businesses compete and succeed in the marketplace by making strategic investments in Research and Development. Innovation Vouchers are grants of up to $50,000 that that can help small companies in Rhode Island buy the expertise needed to develop a new product or process to fill a product development gap. Vouchers can be redeemed for services at a university or other research institution. If the company is a manufacturer, it has the option to apply for a voucher to fund an in-house research & development project. Since launching this program, the administration has awarded 90 vouchers totaling $4.2 million to support projects at 10 research partners and over 20 manufacturing facilities. According to a 2019 Impact Report, funding has directly led to 17 patents, $6.8 million in new investment and $3.2 million in federal grant awards. One recipient's work has been selected as one of the "Top 50 Inventions of 2018" by TIME Magazine.

Sproutel, Inc.

Sproutel, Inc. combines talent in medical research, human factors in design, and manufacturing, which collect and deliver information through a patient-centered product. The company's original product was Jerry the Bear, a teddy bear that assisted children with Type 1 Diabetes learn about and cope with their disease. With an innovation voucher, the company worked with Brown University for clinical testing of a product improvement.



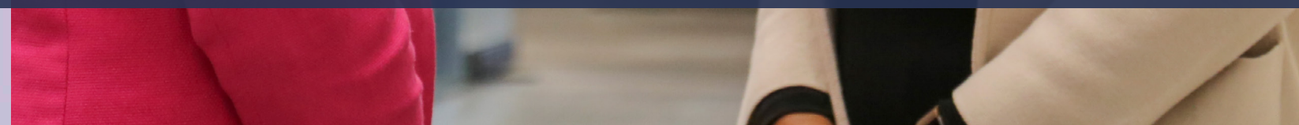
> *SupplyRI has been a valuable resource for Symtek as we've tried to navigate state and local purchasing rules and regulations regarding PPE. Their help has greatly reduced our learning curve, and we can't thank them enough for their help."*
>
> *- Mark Mesrobian, Executive Vice President, Symtek Inc*

SUPPLY RI

SupplyRI is an initiative to connect small local suppliers to procurement opportunities at larger Rhode Island companies and institutions. With a database of 1,875 diverse suppliers, SupplyRI has connected small Rhode Island businesses with more than $108 million in contracts across a range of sectors. In 2020, the SupplyRI team fulfilled more than 250 requests for COVID-19-related supplies and services.

> *SupplyRI was instrumental in connecting the dots for Under Cost during this challenging time for small businesses. With their helming, we were able to provide over 600 outdoor patio heaters to local towns and municipalities, helping extend the outdoor eating season. Communication from SupplyRI was excellent and I cannot thank them enough for the help."*
>
> *- Tyler Blake, President, Under Cost Media*









NETWORK MATCHING GRANTS

Launched in 2016 to support the growth of local entrepreneurs, Network Matching Grants are designed to tackle the hurdles small firms face on the path from idea to market. Network Matching Grants provide successful entrepreneurship programs with funding to expand their programming to help more companies start and grow their firms, with a focus on key industries (e.g., life sciences, health care, food and agriculture, clean technology, energy efficiency, cybersecurity and others as designated).

Hope & Main

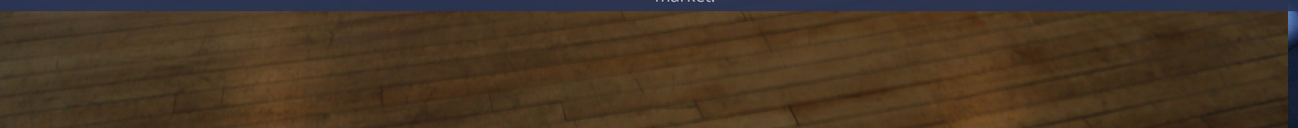
Hope & Main is Rhode Island's leading packaged foods incubator and has received three Network Matching Grants. These grants over the years have supported the addition of a fourth kitchen, helped expand the geographic footprint of its small-batch Contract Manufacturing kitchen, and launched "Dish Up RI," a program in response to COVID-19 aimed at assisting local restaurants. The program helps monetize a component of a restaurant's existing menu (such as a sauce or condiment) and helps tailor the product to consumers who are seeking a restaurant-quality experience as part of their at-home cooking. The program provides restaurants physical space, technical assistance and a "Restaurant Retail Road Map" designed to guide "resto-preneurs" step-by-step through the product development process, getting new products swiftly and safely to market.

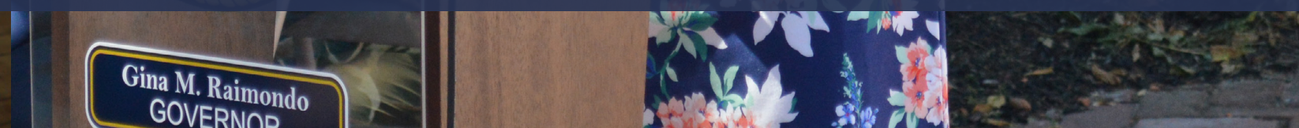
MAIN STREET STREETSCAPES

Launched in 2016, the Main Street Rhode Island Streetscape Improvement Fund is a grants program targeted to improve Rhode Island's commercial districts and thoroughfares. Project examples include enhanced sidewalks, new street furniture, way-finding signage, upgraded building façades, and improved street lighting. Beginning in 2016, the Main Street Grant Program has awarded grants to 24 projects across the state and awarded almost $3 million in grant funds.

Central Falls

Along Dexter Street, this $300,000 grant provided for façade improvements, utility improvements, and public access Wi-Fi in the commercial district. Notably, these façade improvements provided much-needed investment in private main street businesses that leveraged further private investment for local entrepreneurs.





Regulatory Reform

Governor Raimondo sought to grow Rhode Island businesses, particularly supporting the growth of small local businesses, by tackling the state's outdated and burdensome regulatory system. Under her leadership, the state reduced the number of regulations from 1,387 to 932 - more than 30 percent – and removed more than 8,000 pages of regulatory code on the books.[17]



Before Governor Raimondo took office, one in three businesses had to hire an outside consultant in order to navigate state regulations, according to surveys from the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR). In 2016, the Governor and legislature passed a revised version of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), directing ORR to oversee the first system-wide review of the regulatory code. As a result of the review, agencies revised or reformed 77 percent of their regulations, tackling issues ranging from onerous notary requirements to restructuring underground storage tank rules. Further, the revised APA required that all regulations be uniformly formatted, searchable, and sequentially indexed. Each agency now has a digital table of contents, allowing users to search for regulations and provisions online. To ensure a clear, predictable, and reliable regulatory system moving forward, the Governor also implemented an executive order requiring rigorous oversight and comprehensive analysis during the rulemaking process, with the goal of minimizing regulatory burden. The regulatory reform effort was part of a larger initiative by Governor Raimondo to streamline onerous regulations and reduce the burden on small businesses, including eliminating the so-called "keg tax" and streamlining food truck permitting.

REGULATIONS REPEALED **160**

REGULATIONS CONSOLIDATED **433 into 134**

REGULATIONS AMENDED **467**

REGULATIONS CODIFIED AND UPLOADED **327**



"The recent elimination of the brewery keg tax as well as the state bonding requirement are small but important steps in making it easier to do business in Rhode Island. I hope that the state continues this crucial work to support our growing yet fragile industry."

- Nick Garrison, president and founder of Foolproof Brewing Company in Pawtucket

2

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR WORKERS

In addition to creating new jobs, Governor Raimondo pursued an agenda to ensure all Rhode Islanders got a slice of the growing economy. The administration sought to ensure Rhode Island's working families shared in the state's prosperity, passing legislation and implementing policies to raise earnings, expand benefits and increase opportunity. More targeted approaches worked to raise wages and build wealth for women and people of color as workers and as business owners.







Building an economy that works for workers:

PAID SICK AND SAFE LEAVE

Governor Raimondo signed Rhode Island's first law mandating employer-provided paid sick and safe days for workers to care for themselves and their families. Thanks to the historic 2018 law, more than 100,000 full-time, part-time and seasonal workers gained access to sick leave.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT EXPANSION

In her first term, Governor Raimondo fought for and signed into law two consecutive expansions of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), raising the state's refundable EITC to 15% of the federal credit in tax year 2017, up from 10% in tax year 2015. The EITC has proven one of the most effective tools to reduce poverty, and the increase boosted incomes for more than 75,000 working Rhode Islanders, the vast majority of whom are parents working more than 35 hours a week.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES

Governor Raimondo signed four minimum wage increases into law, **raising the wage from $9.60 in 2016 to $11.50**. The most recent hike, from $10.50 to $11.50 in October 2020, boosted income for 27,000 Rhode Islanders.

FAIR CHANCE LICENSING

In 2020, Governor Raimondo signed the "Fair Chance Licensing Act" which prevents regulators from denying occupational licenses to workers due to an unrelated or minor crime. Given the disparate policing and incarceration of Rhode Island's Black and Latino communities, these regulatory barriers further institutionalized inequality. The act's passage opens opportunities in over 90 occupational categories, including plumber, hairstylist, social worker, and security guard, for justice-involved Rhode Islanders.[18]

WORKER ADVOCACY

The Raimondo administration worked closely with community-based worker centers and unions to fight wage theft and discriminatory employment practices, directing significant resources toward investigating and addressing exploitative practices. The administration promoted legislative reforms that support workers and level the playing field for small businesses, like banning non-compete agreements for low-wage or short-term workers and overhauling the state's workers' rights enforcement mechanisms to ensure more efficient and fair outcomes.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

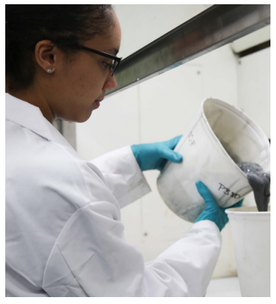
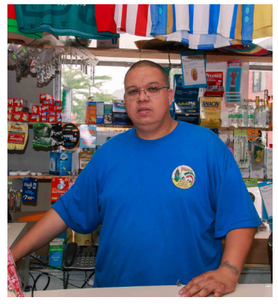
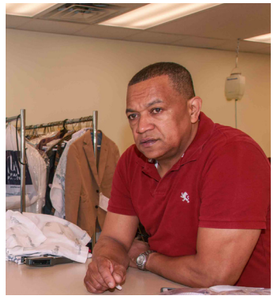
Supporting Minority and Women Business Enterprises
Early in her administration, Governor Raimondo tasked leaders across state agencies to increase participation of small businesses, including minority and women business enterprises (MWBEs), in the state's procurement process. As a result, the state adopted national best practices in contracting and increased the project money awarded to women and minority-owned businesses from $36 million in 2014 to $105 million in 2019.[19] Among the many changes made, the administration established the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), which proactively works to increase the number of certified MWBEs and their utilization through pre-certification workshops, technical assistance and advocacy. The administration reformed Request-for-Proposal (RFP) evaluations to award points for MWBE participation and incentivize increased involvement. The State encouraged certified MWBEs to get pre-qualified for Master Price Agreements (MPAs) and required all projects to solicit at least one bid from a MWBE, where there is at least one pre-qualified MWBE vendor. In addition, the Governor successfully passed legislation to increase the threshold for required bonding on public works projects (an expense that served as an obstacle to participation for small businesses) from $50,000 to $150,000. The data speaks to the success of these reforms.

Care Workforce: Governor Raimondo worked with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to expand unionization and raise wages in the childcare care and home care industries, where the low-wage workforce is predominantly female and disproportionately comprised of women of color.

Minority Business Accelerator: In 2020, Rhode Island Commerce, in partnership with the Rhode Island Foundation, launched a multi-phase initiative to build a minority business accelerator in Rhode Island. The incubator draws from best practices in Rhode Island and around the country to provide emerging Black and Latino enterprises with strategic and substantive support.






Average annual EITC benefit increase from $223.06 in 2015 to $333.87 in 2017.

Median earnings in Rhode Island rose by more than 5%, when adjusted for inflation, from $37,131 in 2015 to $39,145 in 2019. Median earnings for Latino Rhode Islanders grew 22%, beginning to narrow the long-standing wage gap.[20]

The amount of project funds allocated to minority business enterprises increased from $20 million in 2014 to $52 million in 2019. Total funds awarded to women business enterprise rose from $16 million in 2014 to $53 million in 2019.[21] Rhode Island nearly doubled MWBE certification, and MWBE utilization as a share of total project funding rose from 4.3% in 2014 to 13% in 2019.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Unemployment Insurance Reimagination
When major parts of Rhode Island's economy were shut down as a result of COVID-19, Rhode Island began to experience a dramatic surge in unemployment insurance (UI) claims. In just 45 days, the state received more than 140,000 initial claims, and quickly recognized that the 30-year-old COBOL-based processing system was not equipped to handle this volume. So, Rhode Island turned to Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Research Improving People's Lives (RIPL) for help. In just 10 days, the state was able to implement Amazon Connect, a cloud-based call center solution, to handle the influx of payment certifications. When Congress established the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program – which provides benefits to gig workers and other individuals who would not normally qualify for unemployment insurance – the State and AWS launched a new, cloud-based application for the program, making Rhode Island the first state in the country to make PUA available to its residents. Rhode Island continues to work with Amazon to implement long-term improvements to the unemployment insurance program.


THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

POLITICS

Amazon, Google Help States as Coronavirus Boosts Unemployment Claims

Newer technology addresses challenges including busy phone lines and website crashes

Rhode Island was the first state in the country to make the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) application available. In Rhode Island, the application launched on April 7, 2020. [22]

When the flood of unemployment insurance claims first began in March, Rhode Island was by far the best state at successfully managing the influx, both in paying the highest percentage of claims and taking in a high proportion of claims relative to our labor force. [23]

As of November 1, 2020, Rhode Island was first in the nation in payment timeliness. [24]

3

BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE AND PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL



To expand opportunity to all Rhode Islanders, Governor Raimondo increased investments in education from cradle-to-career. In Rhode Island, like many states, students of color and differently-abled students face steep opportunity gaps to graduating high school with the skills they need to succeed. Governor Raimondo's commitment to re-imagining education to focus on equity, high-quality programming, and high-demand skills has helped make education – from pre-K through higher ed – an engine for opportunity for all students, regardless of zip code. Real Jobs Rhode Island – the state's signature workforce and economic development program – has helped thousands of Rhode Islanders get the skills they need for a new job. Rhode Island became the fourth state to offer tuition-free community college to every high school graduate. The number of public Pre-K classes in Rhode Island quadrupled, and Rhode Island became the first state to implement computer science education in every school and at every grade level.

INVESTING IN JOB TRAINING THAT WORKS

Real Jobs RI

When Governor Raimondo took office, the state completely revamped the way it did job training by launching Real Jobs Rhode Island. The program was created to jumpstart the state's economy by preparing Rhode Islanders for jobs that exist and can be obtained once training is completed. In the past, too many workforce development programs adopted "train and pray" strategies, focused on providing workers with skills they might need and "praying" these skills led to a job. Too often, these jobs failed to materialize, disappointing workers who had sought to improve their opportunities. Real Jobs starts by identifying actual jobs that employers need to fill. The State works with employers to design the training programs, ensuring Rhode Islanders get the exact skills they need to land a job right away. Over the past six years, the Raimondo administration expanded Real Jobs to include 43 different partnerships across 16 different industries, ranging from manufacturing and healthcare to offshore wind and aquaculture. As of February 2021, the state has worked with 1,946 companies to provide skills to 12,363 Rhode Islanders for jobs in the modern economy.

Electric Boat's pipeline to manufacturing careers in shipbuilding

A nationwide shortage of defense workers presents a serious threat to national security. In response to the increased workforce demand created by newly-awarded contracts to General Dynamics Electric Boat to produce and repair submarines for the U.S. Navy, Rhode Island worked in partnership with the company to develop a multifaceted strategy to build and sustain a robust talent pipeline. New workforce training programs in Maritime Trades were created in partnership with the New England Institute of Technology, the Westerly Education Center and the Community College of Rhode Island, and an innovative post-employment training model was tested and implemented by Electric Boat, ensuring a 99% training program success rate. While focused on recruiting veterans as well as unemployed and underemployed adults, the partnership is also cultivating the next generation of tradespeople by working with the Rhode Island Department of Education and career and technical schools across the state to expand demand-driven programming in Maritime Trades.



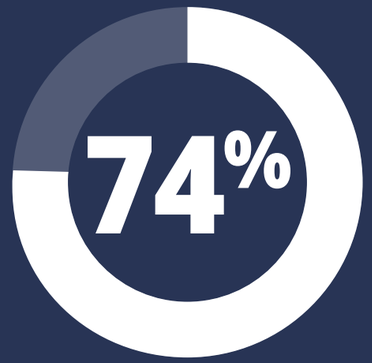
AS OF FEBRUARY 2021, THE STATE HAS WORKED WITH 1,946 COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SKILLS TO 12,363 RHODE ISLANDERS FOR JOBS IN THE MODERN ECONOMY.

12,363
RHODE ISLANDERS HIRED OR UPSKILLED

5,298
NEW HIRES PLACED

618
BUSINESS OWNERS & ENTREPRENEURS SERVED

6,447
INCUMBENT WORKERS UPSKILLED



TRAINEES HIRED UPON COMPLETION



REAL JOBS RI PLACEMENTS HAVE NO DEGREE BEYOND HS DIPLOMA

17%
HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

35%
REAL JOBS RI PLACEMENTS ARE LATINO

20%
REAL JOBS RI PLACEMENTS ARE BLACK

Data as of February 1, 2021. Source: Real Jobs RI February 2021 Impact Report

Real Pathways RI: Real Pathways RI, an associate program of Real Jobs RI, invests in workforce partnerships that include education and training providers that specialize in advancing career pathways for individuals who face increased barriers to employment, such as veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, those recovering from addiction, long-term unemployed, non-English speakers, and people with disabilities. Unemployment among many of the populations being targeted far exceeds the state average for all workers. Real Pathways RI partnerships provide workforce development programming that is demand-driven and designed to help these individuals obtain employment and increase their education. Further, individuals receive support services along the way. In total, more than 2,000 participants have been placed or upskilled through Real Pathways RI.

Real Skills for Youth: The administration launched Real Skills for Youth to close the gap between what students learn in school and what they need from high-demand jobs, and to ensure that historically underserved student populations have expanded access to quality career preparation opportunities in priority sector industries through scaling-out activities such as career exploration and work-based learning opportunities. Since the beginning of the program, nearly 6,000 youth have gone through a Real Skills for Youth program.

Wavemaker Fellowship: The Wavemaker Fellowship program provides a financial incentive to help companies in Rhode Island retain and attract STEM and design workers to fill key jobs, by defraying the cost of student-loan debt through a multi-year refundable tax credit award. Anyone working or going to work in a qualifying field in Rhode Island is eligible to receive a refundable tax credit awarded for up to four years. In addition to student debt relief, Fellows benefit from engagement programming such as homebuying workshops and networking events that help Fellows deepen their roots and grow their careers in the state. As of 2020, 893 Fellows have been served by this program, and roughly $6.7 million has been allocated to these awardees. Fellows come from over 300 companies throughout Rhode Island and represent professions ranging from architecture, to software development, to medical device manufacturing, to submarine engineering.

Westerly Education Center: The Westerly Education Center was launched by Governor Raimondo, philanthropist Chuck Royce, local donors, the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and the Rhode Island General Assembly in 2017 to deliver high-quality educational classes to meet projected workforce growth in the region. All Rhode Island public higher education institutions and the Department of Labor and Training are partners in the effort to provide workforce training and improved regional access to postsecondary offerings. The facility features instructional classrooms and lab space for hands-on, industry-ready training programs, with General Dynamics/Electric Boat and the Community College of Rhode Island as the anchor partners. The model will be replicated in Woonsocket in 2021. More than 3,000 students have gained skills for employment through this center.

Skills for Rhode Island's Future: In 2016, Governor Raimondo led the charge to launch Skills for Rhode Island's Future (SkillsRI) -- a local non-profit that matches businesses that have current, unmet hiring needs with unemployed and underemployed jobseekers in Rhode Island. SkillsRI is based off of the successful Skills for Chicagoland's Future demand-driven intermediary model. The organization has touched over 11,000 candidates by providing career enhancement services and placed an additional 3,500 Rhode Islanders in jobs or Real Jobs RI training programs, resulting in an economic impact of $67.4 million since its inception. The organization has collaborated with over 170 employer partners and 60 community partners to deliver on its mission of helping Rhode Islanders gain access to meaningful employment opportunities and economic mobility.

Adult education programs upskill adults to complete their GEDs, improve their English, or transition to college, ensuring that all Rhode Islanders can participate in the state's economy. Throughout Governor Raimondo's administration, Rhode Island's adult education system was the strongest performing among the states in the New England region. [2]

2,000+

IN TOTAL, MORE THAN 2,000 PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN PLACED OR UPSKILLED THROUGH **REAL PATHWAYS RI**

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM, NEARLY 6,000 YOUTH HAVE GONE THROUGH A **REAL SKILLS FOR YOUTH** PROGRAM

6,000

$6.7million

AS OF 2020, 893 FELLOWS HAVE BEEN SERVED BY THE **WAVEMAKER FELLOWSHIP**
ROUGHLY $6.7 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THESE AWARDEES

11,000+

$67.4m

SKILLS FOR RHODE ISLAND'S FUTURE HAS HELPED OVER 11,000 CANDIDATES BY PROVIDING CAREER ENHANCEMENT SERVICES AND PLACED OVER 3,500 RHODE ISLANDERS IN JOBS OR REAL JOBS RHODE ISLAND TRAINING PROGRAMS RESULTING IN AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF $67.4 MILLION

3,000+

MORE THAN 3,000 STUDENTS HAVE GAINED SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE **WESTERLY EDUCATION CENTER**

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Back to Work RI

Even before COVID-19, Rhode Island's economy was changing rapidly, and jobs were threatened by technology and automation. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated those trends. That's why Governor Raimondo launched the Back to Work RI initiative, which is on track to get 7,000 Rhode Islanders back to work in good-paying, family-supporting jobs. The program trains workers to fill jobs that already exist. Back to Work helps employers hire differently — that means valuing competency and hard work over credentials. Further, Back to Work provides targeted training programs that meet employers' needs. Perhaps most significant, Back to Work provides wraparound supports to trainees. Governor Raimondo knows that people can't put their life on hold while they train for a new career, and too often, life gets in the way – transportation, childcare, or other barriers often keep people from completing training programs. The program has demonstrated that small supports, like a $50 gas card, can dramatically increase a participant's likelihood of success. Back to Work RI supports those who were left behind in the old economy: people without a degree past high school, people living in poverty, formerly-incarcerated individuals, parents who took time off from the labor force, people in low-wage jobs that were threatened by automation, and people of color.


The Providence Journal

CORONAVIRUS

With help from big companies, R.I. to launch $45-million initiative to get residents back to work

Katie Mulvaney kmulvane@providencejournal.com

Published 11:46 a.m. ET Jul. 28, 2020

The Back to Work RI initiative is on track to get 7,000 Rhode Islanders back to work in good-paying, family-supporting jobs.

> *"In this national emergency we must move beyond business as usual and that's exactly what Back to Work RI does. Building our communities back stronger, and in a more inclusive way, is how we will fix economic and racial injustices that existed long before the coronavirus."*
>
> *- Mary Kay Henry, International President, SEIU*

> *They always say in this field that you can't be prepared for everything. But I really think that they did their best to make sure that we were as prepared as we possibly could be. It just felt like this amazing gift. It didn't just feel like a training course before a job -- it really felt like so much more."*
>
> *- Mary Claussen, Lifespan's Behavioral Health Specialist training, hired at Bradley Hospital*

> *"I've been at some good jobs, but this is a career path job. You don't really get that too often. I'm happy to wake up every day. I'm happy to go to work every day. I'm learning something new every single day. It's never a dull day."*
>
> *- Craig Garner: Polaris/RIMTA Machine & Marine training, hired at Yushin*

ENSURING ALL RHODE ISLANDERS CAN GET A POST-SECONDARY DEGREE

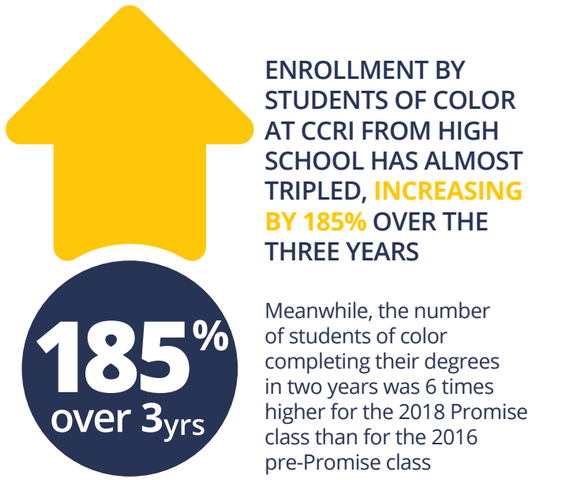
RI Promise

In 2017, Governor Raimondo launched Rhode Island Promise — a last-dollar scholarship that enables all recent high school graduates in Rhode Island to enroll at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) tuition-free. When launched, the idea of free community college was an innovative approach few states had taken. Today, 12 other states have followed Rhode Island's lead, recognizing the importance of continuing education and the state's role in ensuring that it is affordable to all students. The Promise Scholarship is a proven success. **In the Fall of 2020, a time when community colleges across the country have seen declining enrollment, CCRI saw a 136% increase in enrollment of full-time, first-time students who enroll straight from Rhode Island high schools. The two-year graduation rate at CCRI among first-time, full-time students tripled since Promise was first introduced.** RI Promise has benefited a cross-section of young Rhode Islanders, but it has also proven a particularly effective tool in increasing college enrollment for communities of color. **Enrollment by students of color at CCRI from high school has almost tripled, increasing by 185% over the three years. Meanwhile, the number of students of color completing their degrees in two years was six times higher for the 2018 Promise class than for the 2016 pre-Promise class.**



The Promise program, coupled with other initiatives at CCRI, led to more credentials being awarded in the 2018-2019 school year than in any other year over the past 20 years. In 2021, Governor Raimondo was able to secure over $5 million to expand the access to the Promise scholarship to the class of 2020 (students who graduated during the pandemic) as well as establish a first in the nation "finish what you start" program at CCRI, providing free access to CCRI for adults who started school but did not complete a degree.

Second Chance Pell: Under the Governor's leadership, Rhode Island was selected as a Second Chance Pell site for the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) to work in collaboration with the Department of Corrections. The program will expand the number of classes available to individuals during their rehabilitation with the goal of individuals receiving a certificate or associate's degree.



ENROLLMENT BY STUDENTS OF COLOR AT CCRI FROM HIGH SCHOOL HAS ALMOST TRIPLED, INCREASING BY 185% OVER THE THREE YEARS

Meanwhile, the number of students of color completing their degrees in two years was 6 times higher for the 2018 Promise class than for the 2016 pre-Promise class

In 2019, the Community College of Rhode Island was named the nation's two-year college of the year by Education Dive: Higher Ed. The award is given to recognize institutions that have made substantial efforts to innovate higher-education institutions.

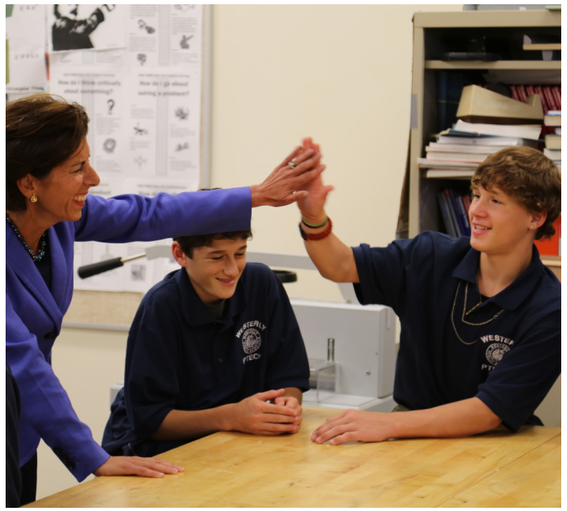
In 2018-2019, Rhode Island ranked 6th in the country for the number of high school seniors who completed a FAFSA form. [26]

PREPARING KIDS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

PrepareRI Internship: In 2017, Rhode Island launched the PrepareRI High School Internship program to provide Rhode Island students with high-quality paid internships and work-based learning opportunities. To date, SkillsRI has placed over 950 students in the program. In 2019, SkillsRI expanded internship efforts to launch the PrepareRI College Internship program for first-generation college students and has placed 51 first students in the program to date.

SAT Access: The Administration worked to ensure every student has the chance to take the SAT for free, during the school day, as opposed to for a fee on weekends. **Since the programmatic change, SAT participation has increased by 20% in Rhode Island.**

Dual Enrollment: Dual and concurrent enrollment, **taking college-level classes while still in high school, has increased 2.5x since 2015, with thousands of high school students now graduating with free college credits in addition to high school diploma.** 29% of the entire 2016 9th grade cohort earned credit from a public university in Rhode Island before officially starting college.



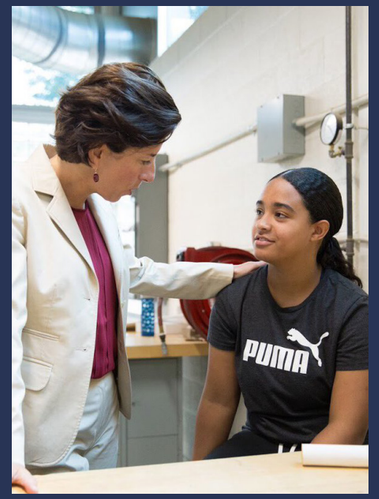
P- TECH: Rhode Island's P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) was started under Governor Raimondo's leadership as an initiative that forges long-term partnerships between high schools, colleges, industry associations and businesses. To date, around 650 students have enrolled in the programs that offer high school students industry mentorship, college-level classes, internship experience and a pathway to an associate degree in an in-demand field.



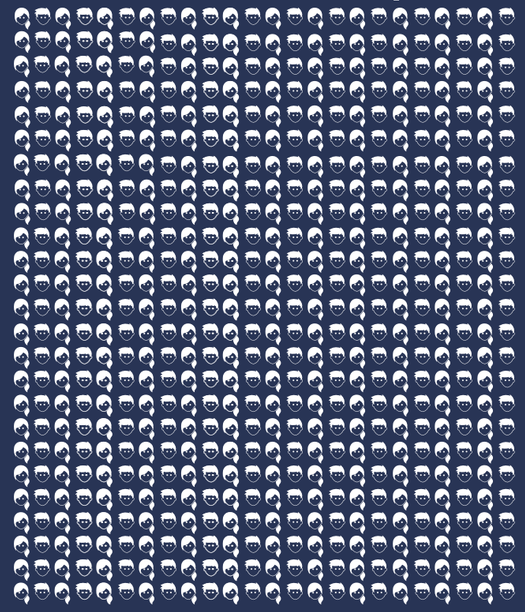
CS4RI: In 2016, Governor Raimondo launched Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI), which has become one of the most comprehensive statewide computer science (CS) initiatives in the country. Rhode Island has become the state with the second-highest percent of high schools offering computer science (86%) with every student having access to AP Computer Science through the advanced course network. This has resulted in a 55% increase in Computer Science Post-Secondary degrees received at our public higher education institutions.

Rhode Island has become the state with the second-highest percent of high schools offering computer science (86%) with every student having access to AP Computer Science through the advanced course network. This has resulted in a 55% increase in Computer Science Post-Secondary degrees received at our public higher education institutions.

RHODE ISLAND WENT FROM LESS THAN 50 STUDENTS EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT DURING HIGH SCHOOL FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE IN 2015 TO **OVER 1,200** IN 2020.

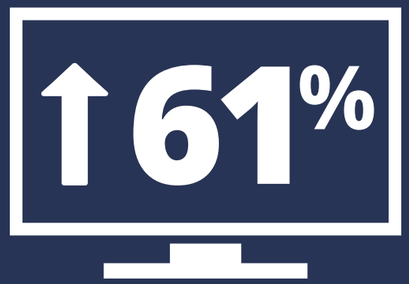






1,600+

OVER 1,600 YOUTH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND HIGH-QUALITY WORK-BASED LEARNING THROUGH STATEWIDE PREPARE RI INTERNSHIP OR REAL SKILLS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS



THE STATE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS IT OFFERED BY **61%** SINCE 2015, ENSURING EVERY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO CTE PROGRAMMING IN A HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND SECTOR

INVESTING IN PREK-12 EDUCATION

Expanded Pre-K
Governor Raimondo has committed to ensuring that all young children have access to high-quality Pre-K, an essential program to increase educational equity by helping students be ready for Kindergarten and on track to read proficiently by third grade. Under her leadership, Rhode Island more than quadrupled the number of free, high-quality state Pre-K classes available to four-year-olds. The Rhode Island Department of Education program is delivered through a mix of Local Education Agencies, Head Start programs and community-based organizations, and is one of only four state-run pre-K programs in the nation to meet all 10 of the National Institute for Early Education Research quality standards. The state is on track to expand even further with additional federal funds that Governor Raimondo leveraged in her final year, and with the $15 million early learning facilities bond on the ballot in March 2021.

Increased Child Care Reimbursement: Governor Raimondo advanced the child care sector in Rhode Island by implementing tiered rates of reimbursement for the Child Care Assistance Program and increasing the rates for Infant/Toddler and Preschool ages. Since this policy was implemented, many Rhode Island child care providers have increased their Bright Star quality rating, ensuring that more of the state's most vulnerable children have access to high-quality early learning.



Under her leadership, Rhode Island more than quadrupled the number of free, high-quality state Pre-K classes available to four-year-olds.

School Year	*# of Seats*	*# of Communities*	*# of Classrooms*
2014-2015	306	8	17
2015-2016	522	9	29
2016-2017	1008	11	56
2017-2018	1080	11	60
2018-2019	1080	11	60
2019-2020	1420	13	78
2020-2021	1848	16	100

Expanded Federal Funding: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, Rhode Island won over $30 million in competitive federal funding to advance the early childhood sector. The state used this funding to expand Rhode Island Pre-K seats, expand Family Home Visiting seats, invest in direct family support, and invest in crucial capacity-building, such as through workforce investments, data system enhancements, and public awareness.

Full-day Kindergarten: In the 2014-2015 school year, 19% of Kindergarten-age children did not access a full-day Kindergarten program. Governor Raimondo implemented universal, full-day Kindergarten statewide beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, ensuring that all Rhode Island children have access to a full-day program at age 5. Attendance in Kindergarten has a causal impact on students' ability to read proficiently in third grade, and this change was a crucial investment to support student outcomes.

Children's Cabinet: Governor Raimondo reconvened the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet for the first time in over a decade. The Cabinet convened monthly meetings to address opportunities to increase collaboration and coordination across agencies to improve outcomes for children. The Governor charged the Cabinet with achieving her third-grade reading goal of doubling the rate of third-grade reading proficiency by 2025.

Expanded School Meals: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, the state expanded participation in school breakfast, lunch and summer meals programs, removing administrative barriers and making it easier for more students to access free meals at school.

PPSD turnaround: In 2019, after decades of underperformance, the State took over Providence Public School Districts (PPSD). In the first year of he turnaround effort, the State implemented a new organizational model for the Central Office that followed a coherent and strong theory of action for school improvement, set the district up to implement the turnaround plan, and also netted nearly $1 million in annual savings, primarily through a consolidation of more than 20 staff positions – prioritizing the success of students and ensuring financial sustainability.

During her time as Governor, the state has brought in around **$79 million** in federal education grants, including over **$21 million** in grants that support social emotional learning and mental health supports in schools.

37% → 48%

2015 2019

The third-grade reading proficiency rate has increased from **37%** in 2015 to **48%** in 2019.[27]

17% → 25%

2015 2020

The number of early learning centers that are rated as high quality has increased from **17%** in 2015 to **25%** in 2020, and the percentage of public schools serving preschoolers with a high quality rating has increased from **9%** in 2015 to **22%** in 2020. [28]

$223M

TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Governor Raimondo made record investments in K-12 education every year, overseeing an influx of **$223 million** to the public school system.

4

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, JOB-CREATING INFRASTRUCTURE



Governor Raimondo came into office committed to creating good jobs and long-term economic growth through investment in Rhode Island's infrastructure. The state's construction industry was decimated in the Great Recession, and four years after the financial crisis, the industry's unemployment rate remained above 20%[29]. Meanwhile, after decades of underinvestment in our state's infrastructure, Rhode Island schools, roads, bridges, housing and energy infrastructure was crumbling. During her time in office, Governor Raimondo invested in transportation, housing and green infrastructure, building a more resilient economy and creating thousands of construction jobs.

INVESTING IN JOB-CREATING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

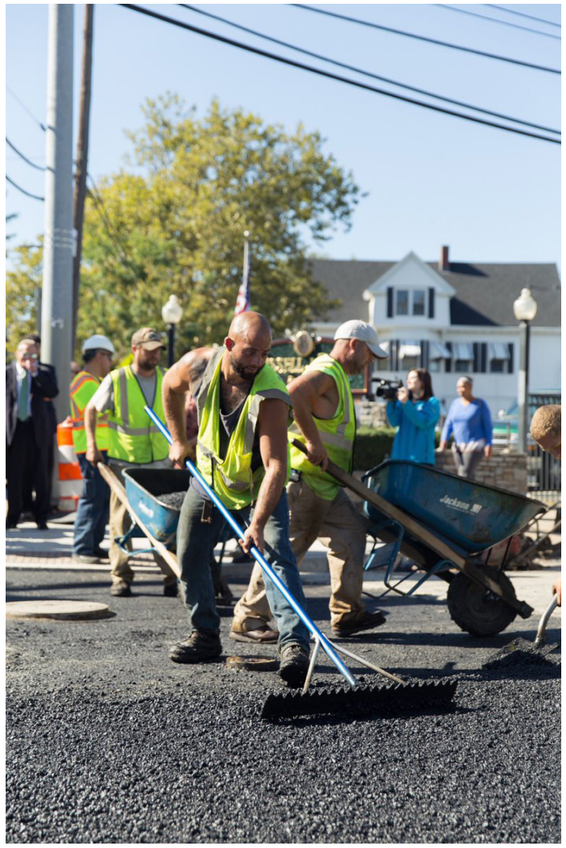
RhodeWorks

Governor Raimondo launched the RhodeWorks plan in 2016 to rebuild Rhode Island's crumbling roads and bridges. At the time, the state ranked last in the nation in overall bridge conditions, with approximately 25% of the 1,173 bridges structurally deficient. Without immediate action, about half of our bridges would have been structurally deficient by 2025. Roads and highways also lagged the nation in quality.

RIDOT has overseen 207 road and bridge projects with a total investment of $2.2 billion.

Through RhodeWorks, the State targets investment in roads and bridges by launching a truck-only tolling program to provide upfront revenue and competing aggressively for federal project dollars. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) submitted a 10-year transportation plan to the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administration and became one of only four states in the country to adopt a long-range plan. In addition to major infrastructure improvements, RIDOT implemented new technologies to fix potholes on state roads, addressed stormwater management, and adopted accelerated construction and task-ordering design methods to improve project design and shorten the length of projects. RhodeWorks paved the way for a new Rhode Island Department of Transportation, reorganized into a transparent, accountable and highly efficient state agency.

Within one year of passing RhodeWorks, Rhode Island initiated millions of dollars in construction projects and put hundreds of people back to work. Since the program's implementation, RIDOT has overseen 207 road and bridge projects with a total investment of $2.2 billion. The program has supported and created hundreds of jobs in the construction industry, boosted our economy, and provided our residents with a modern infrastructure system. Key achievements include current bridge projects such as the 6-10 Interchange, Henderson Bridge, and I-95 North Viaduct. RhodeWorks continues to provide the state with the means to improve our aging infrastructure on-time and on-budget.



Pawtucket/Central Falls Commuter Rail Station: Under the Raimondo administration, the state broke ground on a new Pawtucket/Central Falls commuter rail station and bus hub that will improve intermodal connectivity, promote local economic development and revitalize historic mill sites. The $47 million collaboration between the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA), the federal government, and local municipalities is expected to open in 2022 and attract 520 daily passengers.

Transit Master Plan: Governor Raimondo commissioned RIPTA, RIDOT and the Division of Statewide Planning to develop a Transit Master Plan. Completed in 2020, the plan lays a comprehensive vision of Ocean State travel that includes light rail, improved regional rail services, and rapid bus services.

State road and bridge construction projects employed 2,333 Rhode Islanders in fiscal year 2020 and created around 2,000 jobs a year since 2018.

By Fiscal Year 2019, 90% of road and bridge projects were completed on-budget, and 95% were completed on time, up from 83% and 67% respectively at the beginning of the Raimondo administration.[30]

Since 2016, RIDOT has completed a total of 167 bridges.



EXPANDING HOUSING AND REBUILDING SCHOOLS

2016 Housing Bond: In 2016, the Raimondo administration successfully put on the ballot and passed a $50 million Housing Opportunity Bond that created 1,272 affordable housing units and supported 1,361 jobs.

2021 Housing Bond: Governor Raimondo advocated for and put on the ballot a $65 million Housing and Community Development Bond designed to support new construction and preservation of affordable housing, along with the redevelopment of mixed-use and public space. Voters will have an opportunity to approve the initiative in March 2021.

Mortgage Underwriting: Under the Raimondo administration, Rhode Island Housing has written more than $650 million in mortgage loans, helping nearly 4,000 Rhode Islanders purchase homes.

New Construction: Under the Raimondo administration, the state incentivized over 30 development projects that include over 1,600 new residential units and invested more than $25 million in Community Development Block Grant funds in affordable housing and community revitalization.

School Construction: When Governor Raimondo took office, there was a statewide moratorium on school construction, despite the fact that 70 percent of Rhode Island school buildings ranked "poor" or "very poor" in quality. The Governor lifted the moratorium and proposed a successful $250 million bond initiative to fund school repair and construction. Across the state, more than $1.3 billion in new school construction projects have been approved, a record number.[31]

Across the state, more than $1.3 billion in new school construction projects have been approved, a record number.







PRIORITIZING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Offshore Wind

Rhode Island became home to the nation's first offshore wind farm in 2016, with the 30 megawatt Block Island Wind Farm. Rhode Island's coastal location, shallow continental shelf, high wind speeds, and deep-water ports put the state in a unique position to benefit from the growth of offshore wind development, the supply chain needed to service offshore wind farms up-and-down the East Coast, and the thousands of green jobs being created throughout the clean energy economy.

The Raimondo administration has continued to expand offshore wind development. In 2019, Rhode Island approved a contract with the 400-megawatt Revolution Wind project, a joint venture of Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind and Eversource. This project, scheduled for operation by the end of 2023, will produce enough energy to meet 25% of the state's entire electric demand. Moreover, the project is projected to support more than 800 construction jobs and 50 permanent positions and invest $250 million in the local economy, including a $40 million investment in Rhode Island's port infrastructure. In October 2020, the Governor announced that Rhode Island would seek an additional 600 megawatts of offshore wind energy, representing an additional 36% of state demand.

Rhode Island's commitment to offshore wind has positioned the state to attract and expand industry investment and the supply chain. Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, numerous companies have moved into and expanded within the state, including Boston Energy and GEV Wind. Additional offshore wind-related companies that have recently chosen Rhode Island include Burns & McDonnell, Glosten, and Midland Communications. Rhode Island Commerce also had a role in assisting in state expansion for Rhode Island-based companies, including Blount Boats and Inspire Environmental.

Quonset Business Park

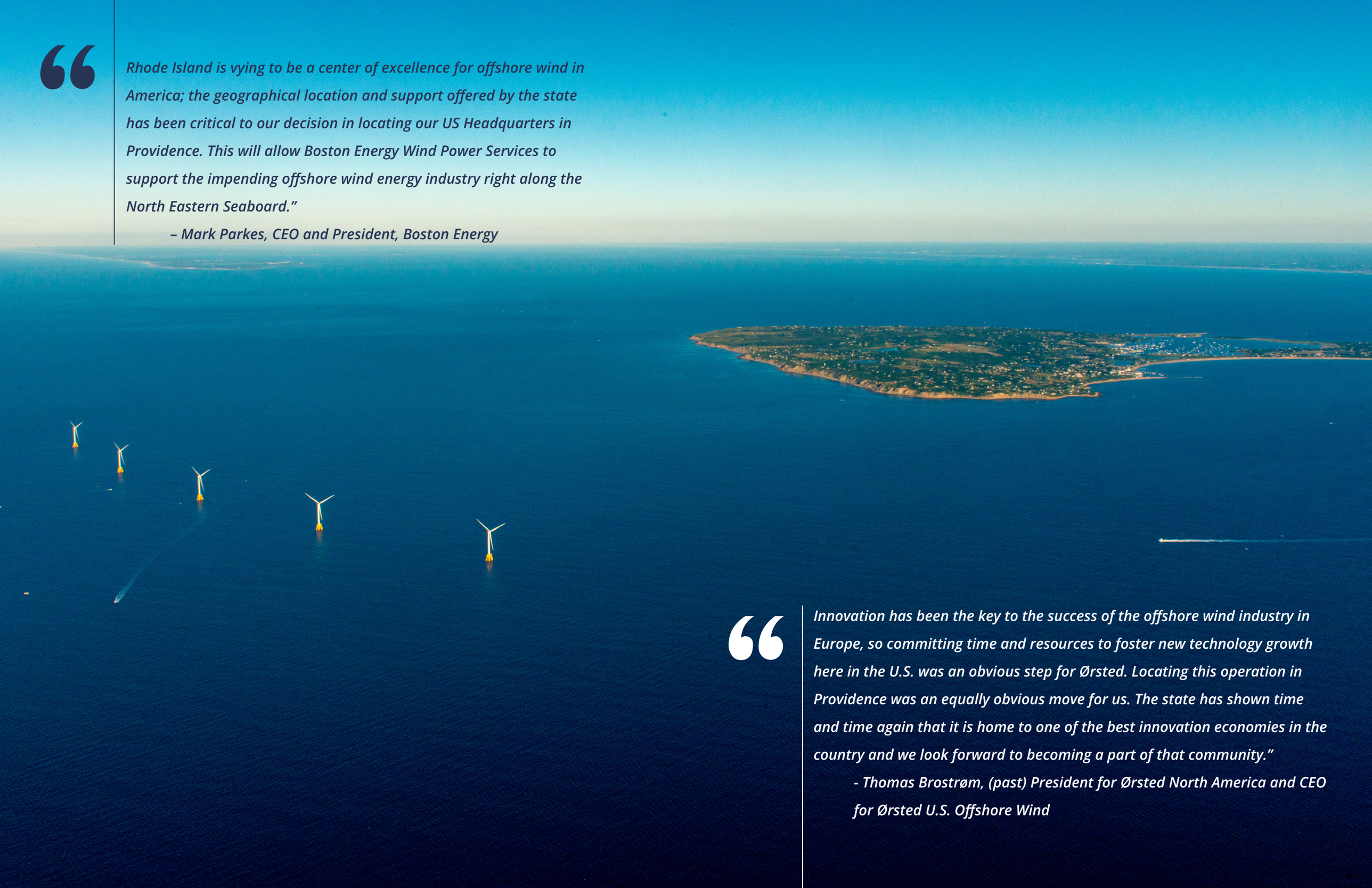
To support the growth of Rhode Island manufacturing, including offshore wind, the Raimondo administration invested in industrial infrastructure, prioritizing the expansion of the Quonset Business Park, one of New England's premier business parks. Between 2015 and 2020, Quonset has secured nearly $1.1 billion of investment, leveraging $155 million of public infrastructure investment to secure $922 million from the private sector to create over 1.8 million square feet of new facilities. As a result, Quonset saw the creation of 2,282 new jobs, an increase of 22.8%. The Port of Davisville, included in the business park, saw imports increase 26% from 2015-2019. Major business expansions or new sitings have included General Dynamics Electric Boat, Infinity Meat Solutions, Edesia, Toray Plastics America, and more.

As of 2020, the 3,200-acre facility is home to over 200 companies, employing over 12,000 people in full-and part-time jobs across a variety of industries. One of every six manufacturing jobs in Rhode Island is located at Quonset and the park creates $4.27 billion in annual economic output – resulting in $1.28 billion in household income for Rhode Island families and $128.8 million in annual tax revenue, according to a 2019 Bryant University Study.[32]



Rhode Island is vying to be a center of excellence for offshore wind in America; the geographical location and support offered by the state has been critical to our decision in locating our US Headquarters in Providence. This will allow Boston Energy Wind Power Services to support the impending offshore wind energy industry right along the North Eastern Seaboard."

– Mark Parkes, CEO and President, Boston Energy



Innovation has been the key to the success of the offshore wind industry in Europe, so committing time and resources to foster new technology growth here in the U.S. was an obvious step for Ørsted. Locating this operation in Providence was an equally obvious move for us. The state has shown time and time again that it is home to one of the best innovation economies in the country and we look forward to becoming a part of that community."

- Thomas Brostrøm, (past) President for Ørsted North America and CEO for Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind

Clean Electricity by 2030: In January 2020, Governor Raimondo signed an executive order setting the goal of meeting 100% of the state's electricity demand with renewable energy by 2030, the most aggressive target set by any state in the nation.

State leadership: In 2015, Governor Raimondo signed an executive order requiring state government to lead by example in energy efficiency, by obtaining 100% renewable electricity by 2025, and building a state vehicle fleet with a minimum of 25% of new light-duty vehicles that are zero-emission electric vehicles by 2025.

Chief Resilience Officer: As part of investing in strong sustainable infrastructure and growing green jobs, Governor Raimondo has prioritized building Rhode Island's climate resiliency. She expanded the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank in 2015 and appointed Rhode Island's first-ever Chief Resilience Officer.

Resilient Rhody: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, the state developed Resilient Rhody, a comprehensive climate preparedness strategy that details an actionable vision for addressing the impacts of climate change in Rhode Island. To date, Resilient Rhody has catalyzed over $16 million in new, dedicated funding for climate resilience projects.

Municipal Resilience Program: Under the Raimondo administration, the Infrastructure Bank launched the Municipal Resilience Program, which provides direct support to communities to identify priority projects and strategies to improve their climate resilience. Since its inception in 2018, 33% of Rhode Island municipalities have participated in the Municipal Resilience Program, identifying over 150 actionable projects.

Transportation and Climate Initiative: In December 2020, Governor Raimondo signed a groundbreaking multi-jurisdictional MOU that commits Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut and the District of Columbia to putting a brake on transportation pollution, while accelerating investment and innovation in cleaner transit and healthier communities for all. By capping emissions, the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program is predicted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 26% and generate $3 billion for further clean transportation investments by 2032.[33]





↑101%

THE STATE'S CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR **EMPLOYED 16,348 WORKERS** AS OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2019, A 77.3 % INCREASE IN CLEAN ENERGY JOBS SINCE 2014. THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME CLEAN ENERGY WORKERS GREW BY **101.8%** SINCE 2014.[34]

$605M

IN 2019, ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS ACHIEVED TOTAL BENEFITS OF **$605 MILLION** AND SUPPORTED 877 FULL-TIME JOBS IN RHODE ISLAND.[35]

$700M

SINCE 2015, THE RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK HAS INVESTED OVER **$700 MILLION** IN CLEAN WATER, ROAD WORK, AND CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED 16,000 LOCAL JOBS. IN 2020 ALONE, THE BANK FINANCED OVER $160 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SUPPORTING ALMOST 3,000 JOBS.



PRESERVING AND GROWING RHODE ISLAND'S FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

Relish Rhody: As part of her efforts to grow Rhode Island's economy, Governor Raimondo announced the hiring of the state's first Director of Food Strategy to lead the development of Rhode Island's first comprehensive food strategy. Relish Rhody, the 2016 food strategy, identified key policies to support the state's food infrastructure – including local agriculture, fisheries, premier eateries and nascent food businesses – and create jobs. In addition to supporting infrastructure investment and business development, Relish Rhody outlined strategies to reduce food insecurity and grow the local food economy.

Local Agriculture and Seafood Act: The administration has consistently worked to assist local farmers in growing their businesses, including with funding to catalyze expansion. In Fiscal Year 2020, the state invested $210,000 in grants to 21 small businesses through the Farm Viability and Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) programs to foster innovation and support food system partners. Since 2014, LASA has provided over $1.2 million – through grants up to $20,000 – to support the growth of Rhode Island's local food economy.

Shellfish Initiative: Governor Raimondo joined industry, academia and community partners to announce the Rhode Island Shellfish Initiative in 2017 to further efforts to sustainably manage local shellfish stock, create jobs, and promote economic growth. The initiative launched a Rhode Island Seafood logo to uniquely identify Rhode Island seafood in the marketplace and an annual Quahog Week, which spotlights the many restaurants, fishers and food-based businesses committed to growing the local food economy.

Reopened Shellfish Areas: In 2017, the state lifted restrictions on parts of Upper Narragansett Bay, allowing shellfishermen to harvest areas that had been off limits for over 70 years. The increase in shellfishing opportunities resulted from infrastructure investments and federal-state-local cooperation aimed at cleaning up local waters.

Support for Fisheries: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, Rhode Island has worked extensively with the fishing community to improve economic opportunities while ensuring sustainable marine fish populations. Rhode Island improved its management and stakeholder engagement for fisheries, now providing several regulations cycles a year in which to solicit input and feedback from the industry. Further, Rhode Island has constructed programs to improve flexibility for fisheries that are challenged to become more diverse under a changing ecosystem.

Farm Energy Grants: The administration launched the Rhode Island Farm Energy Program (RIFEP) in 2018, providing more than



$660,000 in grants to help farmers "green" their operations and save energy and money. The awards have supported 36 solar and energy efficiency projects at farms from Smithfield and Foster to Little Compton.

Farm Fresh Food Hub: The Raimondo administration supported the construction and opening of Farm Fresh Rhode Island's new food hub, located in a once blighted, fire-damaged site in the Olneyville section of Providence. State supports included a $480,000 brownfields site remediation grant and a $2.2 million tax credit. Opened in late 2020, the food hub is allowing local vendors to expand their business, including New Harvest Coffee Roasters, Tallulah's Tacos, and Providence Brewing Co.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Direct Sale for Fisherman: During the COVID-19 crisis, food supply chains were paralyzed. Food prices spiked as supplies became hard to secure. Meanwhile, the closure of restaurants and export channels threatened the wholesale market for Rhode Island's local producers. The administration supported food security by working closely with suppliers and stakeholders in the food/agricultural sector and providing COVID-19 guidance for farms, farmers' markets, nurseries, and other businesses. Also, the administration fostered the continued viability of the Rhode Island commercial seafood industry by enacting a new, no-cost Direct Sale Dealer License that allows commercial fishermen to sell certain species of finfish, and to sell and transport for sale live lobsters and crabs, directly to consumers and licensed seafood retailers from the vessel on which they were harvested. To make it easier for consumers to search for fresh, local seafood, the state developed the FISHLINE App, strengthening the direct connection between fishermen and consumers. The new direct-sale opportunity supports the development of new, local supply chains for Rhode Island seafood and helps address the economic hardships facing the RI commercial fishing and seafood industry.

$2.5 BILLION

RHODE ISLAND'S AGRICULTURE AND PLANT-BASED INDUSTRIES ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN **15,000 JOBS** AND CONTRIBUTE **$2.5 BILLION** TO THE ECONOMY EACH YEAR, ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND.[36]

PLANT BASED

THERE ARE MORE THAN **1,000 FARMS** ACROSS THE STATE. RHODE ISLAND RANKS HIGH NATIONALLY IN DIRECT-TO-THE-PUBLIC FARM SALES, GROWTH IN NEW AND BEGINNING FARMERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF FARMERS THAT ARE WOMEN.[37]

THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY SUPPORTS MORE THAN **10,000 JOBS** AND CONTRIBUTES APPROXIMATELY **$340 MILLION** TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY EACH YEAR, WITH RHODE ISLAND KNOWN FOR ITS HIGH QUALITY SEAFOOD. THE STATE LANDS MORE SQUID THAN ALL THE OTHER STATES ON THE ATLANTIC COAST COMBINED.[38]

$340 MILLION

$42M (2012) → **$68M** (2019)

THE VALUE OF SEAFOOD LANDINGS AT THE PORT OF GALILEE HAS INCREASED FROM **$42.2 MILLION** IN 2012 TO **$68 MILLION** IN 2019. OVERALL, EX-VESSEL LANDINGS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING TOTAL **$100 MILLION** ACROSS RHODE ISLAND

$6M

RHODE ISLAND'S AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IS GROWING RAPIDLY, WITH THE NUMBER OF OYSTER FARMS INCREASING RAPIDLY EACH YEAR, WITH TOTAL LANDINGS CLOSE TO **$6 MILLION**.[39]

5

BUILDING A SAFER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE BEAUTIFUL HOME



Governor Raimondo prioritized policies and initiatives to make Rhode Island a healthy, safe and beautiful place to visit, live and raise a family. The administration fought to ensure all Rhode Islanders could access high-quality and affordable health care, including supports for behavioral health and substance use disorders. Under the Governor's leadership, the State has invested in our unique natural resources, parks and beaches. Further, the administration has prioritized the safety of children, passing gun safety legislation and reducing child maltreatment.

INCREASING ACCESS TO PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Defending and Building on the ACA

Governor Raimondo came into office fully committed to protecting and building on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Rhode Island. In her first budget, the Governor codified Rhode Island's health insurance exchange, HealthSource RI (HSRI), and its governance in state statute. Previously, the exchange was established through executive order. In 2019, the Administration successfully passed a legislative package to stabilize the individual health insurance market and keep plans affordable. The State implemented an individual mandate after the Trump administration zeroed out the federal mandate, and Rhode Island used the revenue to fund a reinsurance program where the State shares the costs of some of the insurers highest-cost claims. Further, the package expanded on the Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner's authority to regulate non-ACA compliant plans.

These actions helped Rhode Island increase access to affordable healthcare and reduce the rate of uninsured Rhode Islanders. Under the Raimondo administration, Rhode Island's adult uninsured rate dropped from 14% in 2014 to 4% in 2020.[40] Implementation of the ACA has brought Rhode Islanders $650 million in federal funds for healthcare affordability since 2014 and provides the overwhelming majority of HSRI consumers with financial assistance. Rhode Island's exchange also offers one of the most effective small business programs in the country, supporting approximately 12% of businesses in the small group market. Rhode Island's benchmark plans are consistently among the lowest priced in the country.

Under the Raimondo administration, Rhode Island's adult uninsured rate dropped from 14% in 2014 to 4% in 2020.[40] Implementation of the ACA has brought Rhode Islanders $650 million in federal funds for healthcare affordability since 2014.

Alternative Payments: During Governor Raimondo's tenure, Rhode Island has accelerated the adoption of alternative payment methodologies such as primary care capitation and accountable entities that allow for stability, innovation and investment in population health measures and social needs.

Stable Health Coverage: Both before and throughout the pandemic, Governor Raimondo ensured continued provider network adequacy and access to care through operational changes, policy changes, and emergency relief to providers.

Medicaid Cost-Savings: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, Rhode Island's Medicaid system achieved $100 million in cost savings by focusing on paying for value-based care and finding efficiencies in the system. All savings were achieved without decreasing the population eligible for benefits or cutting services to enrollees.

Behavioral Health Parity: Governor Raimondo's administration has encouraged parity between medical and behavioral health in the insurance market, focusing on limiting mental health benefit exclusions and ensuring the state's major carriers comply with the laws related to coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

BH Link: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, the Behavioral Health Link Triage & Call Center (BH Link) has received more than 6,500 calls and performed almost 1,700 crisis assessments since its opening in 2018. BH Link provides immediate assistance to individuals in crisis by providing innovative crisis intervention services and connecting people to ongoing treatment.



1ST

RI is first-in-the nation for adult flu vaccinations

2ND

RI is second in-the nation for flu vaccinations for children under 17.[41]

Premiums on Rhode Island's health insurance exchange are among the lowest in the country.[42]



America's Health Rankings ranked Rhode Island the **healthiest state** for women and children in 2019.[43]



Rhode Island was one of the "most improved" states in the nation on overall health systems performance from 2013-2017, **reducing** the percentage of children who went with unmet mental health needs **from 16% to 4%**, and **reducing** the percentage of adults with unmet mental health needs **from 27 to 17%**.[44]

DECREASING OPIOID OVERDOSES AND DEATHS

Overdose Prevention and Intervention: Governor Raimondo established the Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force, which developed an action plan focused on implementing strategies in four key areas: prevention, rescue, treatment and recovery.

HOPE: The HOPE (Heroin – Opioid Prevention Effort) Initiative, launched under Governor Raimondo's leadership, is a first-in-the-nation statewide collaboration that partners substance use professionals and members of law enforcement, with the mission of reaching out to those who are at risk of overdosing to encourage them to be assessed and treated.

Recovery Coaching: The administration successfully secured a Medicaid waiver to fund recovery coaching services for people fighting opioid and other substance use disorders.

Medication-Assisted Treatment: Rhode Island launched the nation's first comprehensive program that screens all inmates for opioid use disorder and provides access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to inmates at the Adult Correctional Institute (ACI) in need of treatment. **A study by researchers from Brown University and UNC-Chapel Hill found that this program was linked to a 61% drop in post-incarceration overdose deaths.**[45]

Recovery Friendly Workplace: Governor Raimondo led the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative, empowering workplaces to support employees in recovery and all those impacted by substance use disorders. She also led by example, creating a Senior Staff position in the Governor's Office focused on addressing the overdose epidemic.

Recovery Housing: The State devoted resources to provide housing to low-income Rhode Islanders who are in early recovery from addiction to help them find stability and access employment opportunities.

PASSING GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

Red Flag Legislation: Throughout her tenure, Governor Raimondo signed significant gun safety legislation to prevent gun violence and save lives. In 2018, after becoming the first governor in America to sign a "Red Flag" executive order following the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, Governor Raimondo signed "Red Flag" legislation into law to make it easier to remove firearms from violence-prone individuals at risk of harm to themselves or others.

Bump Stock Ban: Governor Raimondo also signed legislation banning bump stocks and rapid-fire devices that turn semi-automatic weapons into fully automatic weapons.

Domestic Violence Protections: Governor Raimondo signed legislation prohibiting gun possession by domestic abusers convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes and those subject to court-issued final protective orders.

Ghost Gun Bill: In 2020, Governor Raimondo signed a 'Ghost Gun' bill into law, prohibiting the manufacturing, possession, or transfer of any undetectable firearm, including 3D printed firearms.

Gun Safety Working Group: Governor Raimondo convened the Gun Safety Working Group comprised of members representing public health, behavioral health, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and defense attorneys, educators and school administrators, veterans, academics students, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and members of the community. The Working Group was tasked with studying gun violence reduction strategies and making recommendations to protect Rhode Islanders from senseless gun violence.

Banning Concealed Weapons at Schools: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education issued a Field Memo prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons in K-12 schools. Governor Raimondo has introduced legislation codifying this prohibition into state law.

A study by researchers from Brown University and UNC-Chapel Hill found that Rhode Island's Medication-Assisted Treatment program was linked to a 61% drop in post-incarceration overdose deaths.[45]





PRESERVING OUR BEACHES AND PARKS

Green Economy Bond: Governor Raimondo supported and helped successfully pass $82.3 million in Green Economy Bonds to support investments in water quality, land cleanup, farmland, recreational facilities and open space.

Beach, Clean Water & Green Bond: The Governor proposed an additional $74 million Beach, Clean Water & Green Bond that will go to voters for approval in March 2021. The proposed bond invests in our state beaches and parks, outdoor recreation, farmland and forested land, water quality and community resilience.

Parks Initiative: The Raimondo Administration implemented the first phase of the Rhode Island Parks Initiative, which secured additional staffing and resources for maintenance and improvement projects. The state made major investments in capital projects at state parks, beaches and campgrounds, including:

Completed an overhaul of the beach facility at Lincoln Woods State Park to include three new state-of-the-art sustainable buildings and an award-winning design;

Completed upgrades at Rocky Point State Park, including a new fishing pier, trails, restrooms and picnic tables;

Directed state funding, matched with private donor funding, to construct a new education, recreation and event support center at Fort Adams State Park in partnership with Sail Newport.

Outdoor Recreational Council: Governor Raimondo established a Rhode Island Outdoor Recreation Council to assess the state's outdoor recreation opportunities and provide recommendations to promote and grow the local outdoor recreation industry.





ADDRESSING CHILD MALTREATMENT

Stabilized Families: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, the Department of Children, Youth and Families has worked to ensure children are placed in the best possible settings for their individual needs, health and safety. This means, first and foremost, stabilizing families to prevent them from having involvement, or further involvement, with the State's child welfare system. **Investment in Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCPs) have helped ensure 95% of families with open cases remain intact, in the community.**

Increased Licensed Foster Homes: The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has focused on shifting children from congregate settings to licensed foster homes. **DCYF has increased its capacity and utilization of licensed foster homes, including an increase in the number of licensed kinship families, from 280 in October of 2019 to 576 in June of 2020. As of December 2020, 83% of all children placed in out-of-home care are placed in a foster home.** Since 2015, the Department's intensive reforms have resulted in a 43% reduction in the number of youth placed in congregate care and a 39% reduction in the number of youth placed in out-of-state congregate care. At the same time, the Department has increased the number of children placed in licensed foster family homes.

Timely Family Reunification: All of our families and youth deserve service plans that are built with family voice and choice at the core, with goals and actions that strengthen each family over time. To ensure timely family reunification, DCYF has sped up the completion of family service plans for both its child welfare and juvenile probation divisions. **Since March 2020, the Family Services Unit has decreased the number of untimely service plans from over 500 to just 25.**

95%

OF FAMILIES WITH OPEN CASES REMAIN INTACT

INVESTMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY CARE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (FCCPS), PREVENTATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES HAVE **HELPED ENSURE 95%** OF FAMILIES WITH OPEN CASES REMAIN INTACT IN THE COMMUNITY





AS OF DECEMBER 2020

83%

OF ALL CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE ARE PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME

95%

DECREASE

SINCE MARCH 2020, THE FAMILY SERVICES UNIT HAS DECREASED THE NUMBER OF UNTIMELY SERVICE PLANS FROM OVER 500 TO JUST 25

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Expanding Telehealth: Governor Raimondo expanded access to telemedicine services, an essential pillar of Rhode Island's response to COVID-19. Her leadership allowed patients to receive telemedicine services at any location, mandated that all clinically appropriate, medically necessary telemedicine services delivered by in-network providers be reimbursed at rates not lower than services delivered through in-person methods, and ordered that insurance carriers establish reasonable requirements for the coverage of such telemedicine services.

First-in-the-nation testing: The Raimondo administration focused on building the nation's most robust and accessible testing system. **As of January 2021, Rhode Island had conducted the most per capita tests in the country, performing 223,503 tests for every 100,000 residents.**[46] The state focused on seamless operations and clinical partnerships with CVS and private labs. Rhode Island's leading testing system brings tests to where people are: focusing on accessibility in our hardest-hit communities; facilitating testing conducted by employers and schools; and cyclically testing the Rhode Islanders at highest risk (e.g., in congregate care). The Rhode Island testing system includes a separate, state-run K-12 testing system that supported K-12 reopening in September, with same-day appointments and same-day resulting for anyone associated with K-12. These efforts have helped the administration to grow daily testing averages from just 300 tests a day at the end of March to over 16,000 tests at day by January. As of late January, anyone in the state can get a same-day appointment with either a rapid test or a PCR test, with that is results in an average of less than 48 hours.

Rhode Island has conducted the most per capita tests in the country.

6

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE RHODE ISLAND



Building a strong economy and a healthy community requires that residents of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders and sexual orientations can thrive. Throughout her tenure, Governor Raimondo has fought for dignity and opportunity for all Rhode Islanders. She appointed diverse leaders to the courts, to lead public schools, and to lead state agencies, because promoting equity and inclusion means building a government representative of the communities it serves. The Governor sought to dismantle structures of racism and discrimination in our state, including by reforming the criminal justice system. And Governor Raimondo updated outdated laws to ensure LGBTQIA+ individuals received protections as parents, as students, and as Rhode Island residents.

INCREASING REPRESENTATION AMONG STATE LEADERS

RI Supreme Court: Governor Raimondo appointed and confirmed the first person of color to the Supreme Court, Superior Court Justice Melissa Long. The appointment of Justices Long and Erin Lynch Prata in December 2020 resulted in the Rhode Island Supreme Court becoming majority-female for the first time in the state's history.

RI Superior Court: Governor Raimondo appointed the first Asian-American to the Rhode Island Superior Court, Justice Linda Rekas Sloan.

RI Family Court: Governor Raimondo appointed the first Latina to the Rhode Island Family Court, Judge Elizabeth Ortiz.

State Government: Governor Raimondo made history with her appointments to a number of important state government leadership positions, including the first Black woman as Secretary of Health and Human Services; the first Black woman as Director of the Department of Health; the first Black man as Director of Veterans Affairs; the first Latina as Education Commissioner; the first openly gay Director of Administration; and the first female Colonel of the Rhode Island State Police.

College Presidents: In 2016, Governor Raimondo appointed the fifth president, – and first female president – of the Community College of Rhode Island, Meghan Hughes. That same year, she also appointed the first Latino college president in Rhode Island with Rhode Island College President Frank Sanchez.



GOVERNOR FOR A DAY





As Rhode Island's first female governor, Governor Raimondo launched the "Governor for Day" contest. The annual essay contest encouraged young girls in grades 5-8 to write an essay about what they would do if they were governor for a day. Thousands of girls from across Rhode Island submitted essays over the years, sharing ways that they would enhance our communities, and winners had the opportunity to join Governor Raimondo for a day tailor-made to their policy interests.



L-R: Anna LaCroix (2018), Cadence Solon (2019), Governor Raimondo, Khatima Bulmer (2015), Sophia Miranda (2016), and Mianna Gonsalves (2017))





REFORMING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Justice Reinvestment
In 2015, Rhode Island had one of the highest community supervision rates in the nation, with 1 in 20 adult men and 1 in 6 adult Black men on probation. That year, Governor Raimondo convened a bipartisan, interbranch Justice Reinvestment Working Group to review data analyses of the state's criminal justice system and develop evidence-based policy recommendations. In 2017, Governor Raimondo championed and signed historic Justice Reinvestment (JRI) legislation into law, which included a package of reforms to create a more fair and rehabilitative justice system while reducing costs.

The JRI package modernized probation and parole policies by instituting the use of risk and needs screening assessments and behavioral health assessments to inform probation and parole decisions including intensity of supervision, case management, and treatment objectives, focusing on individuals with the highest risk for reoffending. In addition, this legislation provided greater discretion for the courts, allowing judges to consider whether time served is an appropriate sanction for a probation violation and updating the deferred sentencing statute. It also amended the medical parole statute to expand eligibility. Further, Rhode Island created the Superior Court Diversion Program and expanded pre-sentence diversion by police officers to include those with serious mental illness, so that individuals living with mental illness and substance use can receive the treatment they need, rather than become entrapped in cycles of incarceration.

In 2019, Governor Raimondo convened the Juvenile & Criminal Justice Working Group to continue the momentum of the 2015 Justice Reinvestment Initiative, and building off of this group's work, in 2020 she pursued another sweeping set of criminal justice reforms, aimed at investing in preventive care, closing modules of the ACI, expanding medical parole and implementing geriatric parole, and improving access to post-release employment through an apprenticeship and employment connection partnership between RIDOC and the Department of Labor and Training.

Juvenile Justice Reform: Following national best practices and trends, the Department of Children, Youth and Families has led efforts to focus on prevention, diversion and strengthening re-entry supports within the juvenile justice system to help youth receive the right interventions at the right time. Between December 2015 and December 2020, the total number of youth in the Rhode Island Training School has fallen by 72%. Juvenile probation has also fallen, seeing a 59% decrease in the number of youth on probation during this time.

Reduced Incarceration: **Between 2015 and 2019, Rhode Island's total incarcerated population decreased by over 16%.**

Data and Transparency: In August 2019, the administration approved the creation of a public-facing Justice Reinvestment Data Dashboard, which houses information regarding justice reinvestment grant-funded projects and a centralized location for each justice-related state agency, increasing transparency and access to information for the state's criminal justice system.

Continuing Education: In 2020, the Rhode Island Department of Corrections secured a grant to develop a plan to bring education and career pathways to higher paid employment sectors and meaningful educational experiences, bolstered by comprehensive support systems, behind the walls and continuing after release.

59%
DECREASE
THE NUMBER OF YOUTH ON PROBATION BETWEEN DEC. 2015 & DEC. 2020



ADDRESSING RACIAL INJUSTICE

Removal of "Providence Plantations"
There has long been discussion over the Ocean State's name. Since the state's founding, the smallest state with the biggest name was known as "The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations." Although this title was referring to colonial settlements, the modern connotation of the word "plantations" evokes strong and painful memories of the legacy of slavery in Rhode Island and beyond. Hearing the call from the community that the time had come to acknowledge these painful memories of racial oppression and slavery triggered by the word "plantations," Governor Raimondo took an important step forward and signed Executive Order 20-48 in June 2020, removing the phrase "Providence Plantations" from all official correspondence and websites of the Office of the Governor and executive agencies. Governor Raimondo further advocated for a ballot initiative to officially remove "and Providence Plantations" from the state name, which passed by referendum on November 3, 2020. These steps were just the beginning of her "RIse Together" agenda, which also included the following:

Implicit Bias Training: Governor Raimondo directed the Department of Administration to institute mandatory Implicit Bias Training for all core Executive Branch employees by December 2020 and further to direct the department to continue to build out an equity curriculum for state employees going forward. Acknowledging biases is the first step to doing the work to undo systemic harms.

State Police Reforms: The Rhode Island State Police established a Diversity and Community Outreach Unit to strengthen dialogue between law enforcement and minority communities in order to better serve all Rhode Islanders. Governor Raimondo also tasked the State Police with developing a proposal for a body camera program.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Equity Council: In April 2020, Governor Raimondo established the Latino Advisory Group in response to the high impact of COVID-19 on Rhode Island's Latino community. The Group soon expanded into the COVID-19 Equity Council, comprised of representatives from communities of color including elected officials, religious leaders, educators, and medical professionals. This group facilitated several successful initiatives focused on improving culturally competent communications, addressing community health and safety needs, and elevating community concerns including handing out over one million masks, providing free hot meals and transportation to COVID-19 testing facilities, translating key documents into 12 languages, and fundraising over $3 million for the weR1 cash relief fund for undocumented Rhode Islanders.



The Boston Globe

ELECTIONS

Rhode Island is now simply 'Rhode Island'

Question 1 passes and the Ocean State will drop 'Providence Plantations" from its official state name

By Edward Fitzpatrick Globe Staff, Updated November 4, 2020, 1:46 a.m.



PROMOTING LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS

Rhode Island Parentage Act
Governor Raimondo championed and signed the historic Uniform Parentage Act into law in July 2020. This piece of legislation updated existing Rhode Island parentage laws, which had created burdensome barriers for LGBTQIA+ parents and families. This Act repealed the previous parentage law, untouched in 40 years, and replaced it with a simplified path to legal parental rights for all parents, including LGBTQIA+ parents, unmarried parents, and parents who use surrogacy, adoption, or assisted reproduction. The legislation also helped to improve access, efficiency and consistency in the courts by creating clear standards and protections for families regardless of their origin.

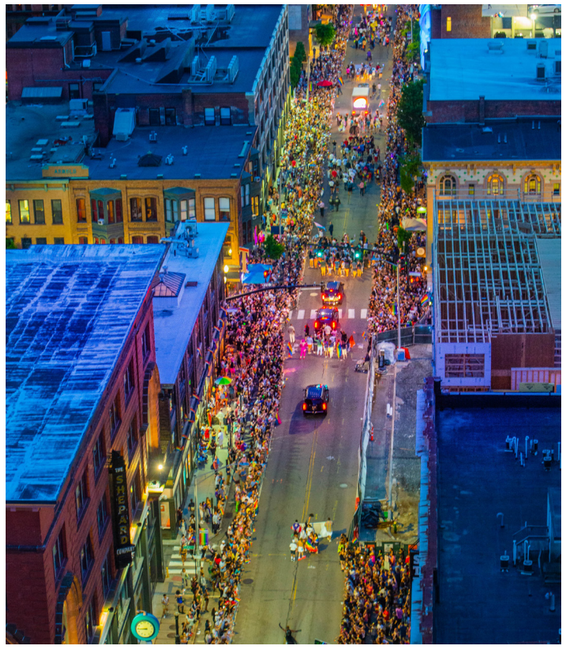
Children's Rights: Governor Raimondo signed a 2015 amendment to the Children's Bill of Rights, protecting all children under the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability.

Banned Conversion Therapy: In 2017, Governor Raimondo signed legislation banning conversion therapy for minors, making Rhode Island the tenth state to take this step to protect LGBTQIA+ youth from this horrific practice.

Gender Identity on Death Certificates: In 2018, Governor Raimondo signed legislation repealing gay and transgender panic defense and the "Respect in Death" bill, becoming the third jurisdiction to adopt a law ensuring transgender people's identities are recorded correctly on death certificates.

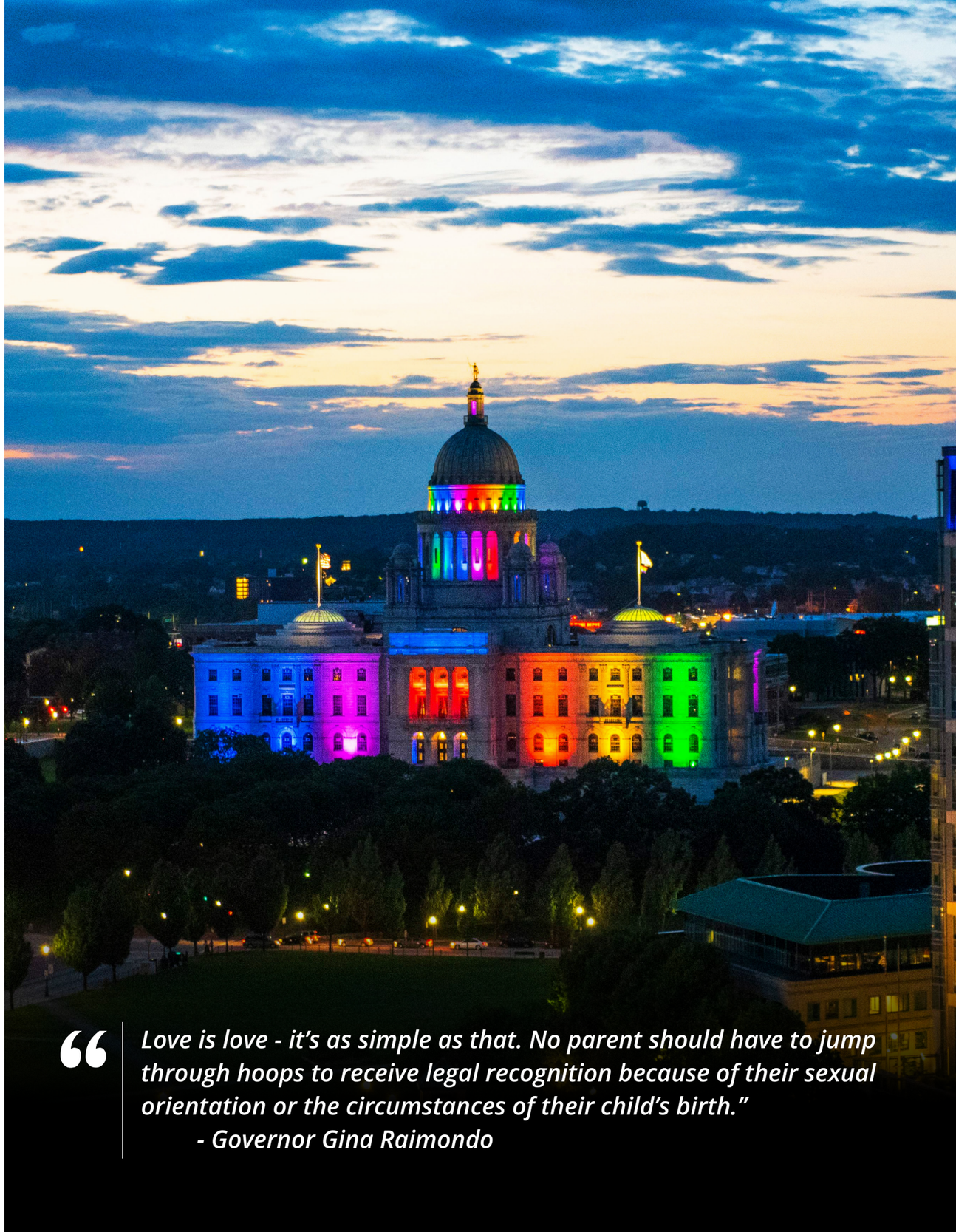
Gender Identity on Driver's Licenses and Birth Certificates: Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Health added a third gender option "X" on driver's licenses and birth certificates, finally creating an option for non-binary Rhode Islanders to be represented and recognized by their government.

Protections for LGBTQIA+ Veterans: In November 2019, Governor Raimondo signed legislation to provide a streamlined process for LGBTQIA+ veterans dishonorably discharged under Don't Ask, Don't Tell to have their discharge changed and permit them to receive the benefits they were wrongly denied.









"Love is love - it's as simple as that. No parent should have to jump through hoops to receive legal recognition because of their sexual orientation or the circumstances of their child's birth."
- Governor Gina Raimondo



CONCLUSION

Under Governor Raimondo's leadership, Rhode Island has laid the foundation for a stronger and more equitable future.

Over the last six years, we made investments in Rhode Islanders – in skills and education, job creation, infrastructure, healthcare, equity and sustainability. With this strong foundation, Rhode Island is well-positioned to build back better and to make sure no one is left behind. It takes all of us to rebuild the economy, and that means everyone needs to reap the rewards.

Years from now, we will look back at the things we've accomplished together. We will remember the strength, determination and fortitude that carried us from the darkest of days into a brighter, more prosperous future – one that will endure for generations to come.

REFERENCES

1 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

2 Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.

3 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

4 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings.

5 "Rhode Island Innovates: A Competitive Strategy for the Ocean State." Battelle Technology Partnership Practice in association with the Metropolitan Policy Project. 2016. http://www.rifuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-Brookings-RI.pdf

6 Morgan, Thomas J. "Rhode Island Roads Get Killer Review." Providence Journal. July 2, 2013, www.providencejournal.com/article/20130702/News/307029896.

7 "Rhode Island Innovates: A Competitive Strategy for the Ocean State."

8 "Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies in Rhode Island." KIDS Count Data Center. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2021. https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/2873-children-receiving-child-care-subsidies#detailed/2/any/false/870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35,18/any/5950,

9 Miller, G. Wayne. "Care in Crisis for R.I.'s Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled." Providence Journal. May 20, 2016. www.providencejournal.com/article/20160520/NEWS/160529880. https://www.providencejournal.com/article/20160520/NEWS/160529880

10 "Rhode Island Higher Education Facts, 2012." Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education. http://www.ribghe.org/factslist.pdf.

11 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

12 "Rhode Island Innovates 2.0." New Localism Associates, City Facilitators, and Qvartz. 2020.

13 "Rhode Island Innovates 2.0."

14 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Gross Domestic Product by State, 2nd Quarter 2020; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

15 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

16 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings.

17 "A New Regulatory System for Rhode Island." Office of Regulatory Reform. February 2020. http://www.omb.ri.gov/documents/reform/APA/ORR_Final_APA_Report.pdf

18 "Why does RI need occupational licensing reform?" DARE. 2019. https://www.fairchancelicensingri.com/licensing-reform.

19 "MBE compared to WBE projected contract dollars awarded and utilization." Office of Diversity Equity and Opportunity. Rhode Island Department of Administration. 2020. http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/reports/

20 US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment.

21 "MBE compared to WBE projected contract dollars awarded and utilization," and "Number of Certified MBE firms from 2014-2019." Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity. Rhode Island Department of Administration. 2020. http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/reports/

22 "Incomes Have Crashed. How Much Has Unemployment Insurance Helped?" The Hamilton Project: Brookings Institute. May 13, 2020. https://www.hamiltonproject.org/blog/incomes_have_crashed_how_much_has_unemployment_insurance_helped.

23 Rinz, Kevin. "Understanding Unemployment Insurance Claims and Other Labor Market Data During the COVID-19 Pandemic." May 25, 2020. https://kevinrinz.github.io/covid19_labordata.pdf

24 Henderson, Tim. "Unemployment Payments Weeks Late in Nearly Every State." Pew Trust. December 2, 2020. https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/12/02/unemployment-payments-weeks-late-in-nearly-every-state

25 This rating is based on RI having the highest Measurable Skill Gain (gaining a level on standardized test, completing HSE, or entering PSE after leaving Adult Education), in New England. RI has had the highest MSG rate among NE states since 2011 (also higher than the national average MSG rate).

26 "PrepareRI Annual Report". 2020. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59a81489579fb39e3ef2232f/t/5f217f43f8e6f3150fa7f934/1596030811873/PrepareRI+2020+Annual+Report.pdf

27 Wagner, Ken. "Rhode Island's PARCC Results for Students in Grades 3 through 8 and High School." Rhode Island Department of Education. 2015. https://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Instruction-and-Assessment-World-Class-Standards/Assessment/PARCC/2015%20PARCC%20Rhode%20Island%20Teaching%20and%20Learning%20Results%20Report.pdf; Rhode Island Department of Education Assessment Portal. https://www3.ride.ri.gov/ADP (Note: There was a change to the statewide test in 2018.)

28 "Education: High-Quality Early Leaning Programs." 2020 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook. http://www.rikidscount.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Factbook%202020/Individual%20Indicators/high-quality-early-learning-programs-2020fb.pdf?ver=2020-04-03-103700-653

29 Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.

30 "Rhode Island Department of Transportation Quarterly Report." RIDOT. October 30, 2020. http://www.dot.ri.gov/accountability/docs/RWQR_Full_Report_10-30-20.pdf

31 Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

32 Tebaldi, Edinaldo "The Quonset Economic Impact." Bryant University. September 2019. http://www.quonset.com/_resources/common/userfiles/file/Bryant%20University%20Economic%20Impact%20Report_9.12.19_FINAL.pdf

33 "Estimating the Regional Environmental, Health, and Economic Benefits and Costs of the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program." Transportation and Climate Initiative. 2020. https://www.transportationandclimate.org/sites/default/files/TCI-P_modeling-summary_12-21-2020.pdf

34 "2020 Rhode Island Clean Energy Industry Report." BW Research Partnership. 2020. http://www.energy.ri.gov/cleanjobs/2020/RICEIR%202020%20Report.pdf

35 "State of Rhode Island Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council 2020 Annual Report." Rhode Island Energy Efficiency & Research Management Council. 2020. eermc-2020-annual-report-final-5-21-20.pdf (ri.gov)

36 Sproul, Thomas W. The Economic Impact of Rhode Island Plant-Based Industries and Agriculture. University of Rhode Island. 2015.

37 National Agriculture Statistics Service. 2017 Census of Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2019. www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

38 "Fisheries Economics of the United States 2016." National Marine Fisheries Service. U.S. Dept. of Commerce. 2018. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/fisheries-economics-united-states-report-2016

39 Beutel, David. "Aquaculture in Rhode Island." Coastal Management Resources Council. 2019. http://www.crmc.ri.gov/aquaculture/aquareport19.pdf

40 2020 Health Insurance Survey Interactive Tool. HealthSource RI. 2020. https://healthsourceri.com/health-insurance-survey-interactive-reports/

41 "Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, 2018–19 Influenza Season." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sept. 20, 2019, www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvaxview/coverage-1819estimates.htm.

42 "Marketplace Average Benchmark Premiums." Kaiser Family Foundation. 2021. https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/marketplace-average-benchmark-premiums/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedDistributions=2020&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%222020%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D.

43 "America's Health Rankings composite measure – 2019." United Health Foundation. https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Overall/state/ALL?edition-year=2019.

44 "2019 Score Card on State Health Systems Performance." Commonwealth Fund. 2019. https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/Radley_State_Scorecard_2019.pdf

45 Green, Traci C, Jennifer Clarke, Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein L, et al. "Postincarceration Fatal Overdoses After Implementing Medications for Addiction Treatment in a Statewide Correctional System." JAMA Psychiatry. 2018;75(4):405–407. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2671411

46 "All State Comparison of Testing Efforts." Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine. 2021. https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/states-comparison/testing-state-totals-bypop.


BILTMORE