



RHODE ISLAND

**BUSINESS INCENTIVES
& FINANCIAL RESOURCES**



Rhode Island has an array of tools to help companies expand, locate and innovate in the Ocean State.

These tools include tax incentives for construction and job growth, workforce training designed for today's workplace, grants for research and development, and more.

GROWTH INCENTIVES

Qualified Jobs Incentive Tax Credit

Companies expanding their workforce in Rhode Island or relocating jobs from out of state can receive annual, redeemable tax credits for up to 10 years with the Qualified Jobs Incentive program. Credits can equal up to \$7,500 per job per year, depending on the wage level and other criteria. The minimum number of new jobs needed to qualify varies by industry and company size, but can be as few as 20, or even 10 jobs. The first 500 jobs approved under the program will receive the maximum credit available.

Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit

If a real estate project cannot raise sufficient funding or is at risk of locating in another state, Rebuild Rhode Island can fill the financing gap with redeemable tax credits covering up to 20 percent—and, in some cases, 30 percent—of project costs. Commercial office, industrial, residential, mixed use development, ground-up-construction and historic rehab can qualify. A minimum project cost of \$5 million and certain square footage/project size minimums may apply. Approved projects can also be exempted from sales tax on construction materials, furnishings and equipment.

Anchor Institution Tax Credit

Rhode Island companies can reduce costs, increase efficiency and spur collaboration by bringing their important suppliers or customers close to home. With the Anchor Institution Tax Credit, it makes even more sense to do so. If a Rhode Island company plays a substantial role in the decision of a key supplier, service provider or customer company to locate at least 10 new jobs in state, it can qualify for this unique new incentive.

I-195 Redevelopment Fund

Adjacent to Providence's vibrant downtown, world-renowned universities and cutting-edge medical centers, the I-195 Redevelopment District offers an unparalleled development opportunity. The \$25-million I-195 Redevelopment Fund has been created to finance projects that have the potential to catalyze development in the district.

INNOVATION INCENTIVES

Innovation Voucher Program

The Innovation Voucher Program lets businesses unlock R&D capacity here in Rhode Island. Rhode Island enterprises with fewer than 500 employees can receive grants of up to \$50,000 to fund R&D assistance from a Rhode Island university, research center or medical center.

Industry Cluster Grants

Industry Cluster Grants encourage companies in an industry sector to work together to solve problems, exchange ideas and develop talent. Grants of \$75,000 to \$250,000 are available to fund planning and organization building for the cluster; and grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 are available to implement programs that strengthen the cluster in areas like R&D, tech transfer, workforce development or marketing.

Innovation Network Matching Grants

Innovation Network Matching Grants provide grants to intermediary organizations for projects that offer technical assistance, space on flexible terms, and/or access to capital to Rhode Island small businesses in key industries (e.g. life sciences, health care, food and agriculture, clean technology, energy efficiency, cybersecurity and others as designated).

Innovate Rhode Island Small Business Fund

The Innovate Rhode Island Small Business Fund provides grants of up to \$3,000 to companies developing innovative products – offsetting the costs associated with preparing competitive Phase I federal SBIR/STTR applications – and matching grants of up to \$45,000 to encourage recipients of SBIR/STTR Phase I awards to pursue more substantial Phase II awards.

FINANCING

Tax Increment Financing

Tax Increment Financing provides capital for eligible projects by rebating the new state tax revenue generated by the project. An eligible project must demonstrate need through a “financing gap.” The tax revenue rebate may not exceed 30 percent of the total project costs (exemption for public infrastructure/utilities) or 75 percent of incremental revenue generated.

Small Business Assistance Program

The Small Business Assistance Program assists viable entrepreneurs and small businesses that encounter difficulty obtaining adequate credit from traditional lending organizations. The Commerce Corporation’s partnership with several organizations provides direct loans to businesses generally ranging from \$2,000 to \$500,000.

Rhode Island Capital Access Program

In partnership with BDC Capital Corporation, Rhode Island now offers the Rhode Island Capital Access Program. Businesses can borrow as little as \$1,000 or up to \$500,000. The program encourages banks and credit unions to make slightly riskier loans by providing matching funds from the state to create cash collateral accounts.

Additional Financial Resources

The Commerce Corporation has a number of options to help your business get the financing it needs. Several direct-lending products, including a revolving loan fund, a mortgage insurance product and tax-exempt and taxable bonds are available resources.

TALENT

Real Jobs Rhode Island

Real Jobs Rhode Island marks a fundamental shift in the way our state trains workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The program give grants to employers and other stakeholders within a sector that team up to plan and implement training tailored to their sector’s needs. The result is demand-driven workforce development that is collaborative, flexible and business-led.

Wavemaker Fellowship

Too often, well-educated and highly-motivated graduates of Rhode Island colleges and universities leave our state for career opportunities elsewhere. The Wavemaker Fellowship provides a financial incentive for them to stay by defraying student loan payments for up to four years for graduates pursuing careers or starting businesses in technology, engineering, design and other key sectors. Although targeted for grads of our great institutions, anyone working or going to work in a qualifying field in Rhode Island is eligible.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Rhode Island offers additional incentives, financing mechanisms and other tools to help grow your business. Here are just a few:

R&D Tax Credit

Rhode Island offers a 22.5% tax credit to qualifying companies for increases in qualified research expenses.

Bond Financing

The Rhode Island Industrial Facilities Corporation offers cost-effective bond financing for manufacturing and commercial enterprises.

Mortgage Insurance

The Rhode Island Industrial Recreational Building Authority can provide mortgage insurance to ease the down payment burden for companies investing in real estate, machinery, equipment or tourist-travel recreation projects.

Renewable Energy Fund

The Renewable Energy Fund provides funding to companies for renewable energy installations and for pre-development feasibility studies of renewable energy technologies.





“We needed a place that had a strong tech talent pipeline, top-tier university partnership opportunities and great quality of life.”

—Chris Drumgoole
Vice President and CTO, GE Digital



**RHODE ISLAND
COMMERCE CORPORATION**

315 IRON HORSE WAY, SUITE 101, PROVIDENCE, RI 02908
401.278.9100 | 401.273.8270 fax

COMMERCERI.COM

**RHODE
ISLAND**

