

Overview of Community Resources - Rhode Island

This introduction to community resources in Rhode Island can help you begin to understand options and to explore if you may be eligible.

Rhode Island Community Action Agencies

Community Action Agencies can help to locate resources in your area. Programs can include food assistance, housing programs, and access to other community resources.

- Locate your local agency at: ricommunityaction.org/find-your-community-action-agency/

My Options RI

My Options RI works to connect adults 55 and older, adults with disabilities, and caregivers to appropriate resources and programs.

For more information, visit: myoptions.ri.gov or call 401-462-4444

Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS)

Find your local DHS office: dhs.ri.gov/about-us/dhs-offices or call: 1-855-697-4347.

Apply online at: healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWeb13/DisplayHomePage

At DHS you may apply for:

- **General Public Assistance (GPA)**
dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/general-public-assistance
Cash assistance for adults 18 and over who are awaiting an SSI decision.
- **Rhode Island Works (RIW)**
dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/ri-works-program
A cash assistance program for families who have a low-income, or no income, and also have children high school age or younger. Eligible families receive financial and employment assistance.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap
Previously known as Food Stamps, SNAP funds may be used to buy food. Individuals and families with low income may qualify.

Additional Cash Assistance

- **Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI)** provides benefit payments to eligible Rhode Island workers that are unable to work due to a non-work-related illness or injury. Job protection would be provided, if eligible, under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
 - For more information about eligibility and to apply visit:
dltweb.dlt.ri.gov/TDIReserve/

- **Temporary Caregivers Insurance (TCI)** a program for individuals caring for a seriously ill family member or to bond with newborn child, adopted child, or foster-care child (during the first 12 months of parenting). Job protection would be provided, if eligible, under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
 - For more information about eligibility and to apply visit: dltweb.dlt.ri.gov/TDIReserve/
- **The Social Security Administration (SSA)** has two programs for people with serious disabilities. **Find your local SSA office:** secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp or call 800-772-1213. We recommend you apply in person or on the phone if possible.
 - **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI):** for those who have recently worked and paid Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes for a certain period of time before becoming disabled.
 - **Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** for those who are disabled, blind, or age 65+. Needs-based program with income and asset limits.

Food Assistance

- **SNAP** See DHS above for information about SNAP (formerly food stamps).
- **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** People with low-income may qualify if they are pregnant, breastfeeding, non-breastfeeding postpartum, or a child up to their 5th birthday. **No immigration requirements.** To find and apply at your local WIC office go to: health.ri.gov/find/services/detail.php?id=44
- **Rhode Island Community Food Bank**
rifofoodbank.org/find-food/
401-942-6325
 - **Food Assistance List:**
rifofoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/FAL-JAN-2024-QR-code.pdf

Housing Assistance

- **RI Housing**
rihousing.com/
Provides information about subsidized housing options in Rhode Island.
- **Rhode Island Legal Services Subsidized and Public Housing Handout**
rils.org/documents/housing_application.pdf
Explains eligibility details and how to apply for public and subsidized housing.
- **Coordinated Entry System (CES)**
rihomeless.org/ces
401-277-4316
CES is a centralized shelter placement help line for Rhode Island residents in need of shelter.

Fuel Assistance

- RI Community Action Agencies can assist eligible households with heating costs.
 - **Locate your local Community Action Agency at:**
ricommunityaction.org/agency-services/

Emergency Financial Assistance Funds

- **Rhode Island 2-1-1**
uwri.org/2-1-1/
Explains and refers to financial assistance and other help in the community.
 - Dial 211 (anywhere in Rhode Island) or call 401-444-0600.