

Rhode Islander's Housing Crisis

- Rent for a two-bedroom apartment grew by more than 40% between 2003 and 2006. With the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment close to \$1,150/month, a person would need to earn more than \$22/hour for this rent to be affordable.
- Homelessness and shelter use among children and families continues to rise. More than 1,700 shelter residents were children in 2004-2005, up 10% from the previous year. The percentage of families accessing shelters has risen 50% over the past five years.
- Income, housing costs, and domestic violence are the primary reasons people cited for seeking shelter, according to the RI Coalition for the Homeless.
- Since 2000, the median price of a single-family home has doubled. Today there is no community in Rhode Island in which a household earning \$50,000 per year can afford a single-family home; there are only three communities in which a household earning \$75,000 can afford a single-family home (HousingWorks).

One RI Proposal

Continue investing in the Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP).

Since its inception, the Neighborhood Opportunities Program has produced more than 500 units of affordable housing for low-income working families and persons with disabilities with very limited incomes. Investments in NOP allow RI to leverage millions in federal and private funds to develop affordable housing units.

Continue funding supportive housing services

Supportive housing has proven to achieve better outcomes than serving homeless individuals and families in shelters. Supportive services are attached to affordable subsidized housing units, thereby helping families and individuals have a stable base from which to work on other critical economic and psycho-social issues. This type of approach is cost-effective since it helps homeless persons avoid more costly emergency, safety, in-patient medical and psychiatric care by intervening before such services are needed.