



DESPITE WORKING FULL TIME, A GROWING NUMBER OF RHODE ISLANDERS HAVE TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET. ALL OUR NEIGHBORS DESERVE A WARM PLACE TO LIVE, FOOD ON THE TABLE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE.

ONE RHODE ISLAND FY 2008 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

**A RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT FOR
SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES AND A STRONG ECONOMY**

FEBRUARY 2007

BASIC NEEDS ISSUES IN RHODE ISLAND**ONE RHODE ISLAND PROPOSAL AND HOW IT HELPS****ESTIMATED COST****Adequate Income and The Family Independence Program.**

Families relying on cash assistance because the parent(s) is unable to work, preparing for work, or earning very low wages fall short of meeting monthly expenses by more than \$900 a month. FIP cash benefits haven't been raised in almost twenty years, leaving a family of three with income 60% below the Federal Poverty Level.

Education and training helps a parent gain a job that pays a family sustaining wage. Parents on FIP have a range of needs to be able to enter the work force.

Adequate Income. The federal Earned Income Tax Credit has been called the most effective anti-poverty program in the nation. A state EITC supplements the federal credit and is most valuable to families earning income below the federal poverty level.

Food Security. Approximately 1 in 8 Rhode Island households is food insecure, meaning that they are unable to afford adequate and nutritious food for themselves and their families. Food insecurity in children has been linked to a range of negative health, behavioral, academic, and psycho-social outcomes resulting in significant costs to the individual and the community. The Food Stamp Program benefits families by increasing the amount of money they have to spend on food and leads to improved access to better nutrition. Approximately 60,000 Rhode Islanders are eligible for, but not participating in, the federal Food Stamp Program.

Increase the amount of earnings that parents are allowed to keep before their cash benefit is reduced and increase the child support pass-through that children on FIP receive from non-custodial parents from \$50 a month to \$100 a month.

Allow parents access to education and training at any time during their 60 month time limit on FIP and increase the flexibility in setting the parent's employment plan activities.

Increase the state's refundable EITC. Increase the refundable state EITC to 5% of the federal EITC. This would supplement the wages of the lowest-paid workers in the state.

Continue to provide state funding for a food stamp outreach effort. This investment leverages federal matching funds. The USDA estimates that every dollar spent in Food Stamps has a multiplier effect of 1.84. If Rhode Island experiences just a 10% increase in food stamp participation, close to \$8 million in federal food stamp dollars would flow to RI generating \$14 million in economic activity.

\$2,000,000Goodwin (S811)
Dennigan**\$1,000,000**Metts (S169)
Slater (H5456)**\$150,000**Naughton (S493)
Miller (S320)

BASIC NEEDS ISSUES IN RHODE ISLAND	ONE RHODE ISLAND PROPOSAL AND HOW IT HELPS	COST
---	---	-------------

Access to Education and Training

Each year children of immigrants who were brought to R.I. by their parents and have worked hard in school have dreams of going to college only to discover that the cost of going to college is beyond their reach. If they are admitted to state institutions of higher education, they are charged out-of-state/international tuition, which is several times the in-state tuition rate. They are not eligible for federal financial aid.

Allow undocumented high school graduates who meet certain criteria to pay in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education. Several states have allowed undocumented high school graduates to pay in-state tuition if they meet certain criteria, affording them the same opportunities as their classmates.

Pichardo (S425)
Diaz (H5308)

Affordable, quality child care. Studies document that quality child care lays the foundation for cognitive development, self-confidence, and school success. Care for a pre-schooler can cost \$8,190/year—more than the cost of public college tuition in Rhode Island.

Fulfill the promise of the Starting Right Child Care Assistance Program: Increase the income eligibility from 225% to 250% of the FPL. Families that see a rise in earnings due to cost of living increase or job promotion and who lose eligibility for child care assistance, see child care costs go from 15% to 40% of gross earnings. Increase the eligibility standard to 250% FPL so that more families have access to high quality child care.

\$1,100,000
Dennigan (6052)

Working families who need child care so they can attend school or training to increase their earnings are not eligible for child care subsidies during the time spent in education.

Expand access to child care for hours in education. Allow parents who are working at least 25 hours a week to receive subsidized child care during the time spent in education or training activities.

\$600,000
Naughton (H5379)
Levesque (S582)

Affordable health care.

Pain caused by dental disease can significantly restrict a child's ability to perform in school and receive adequate nutrition. About 80% of tooth decay occurs in only 25% of children who are primarily from low-income families. Fewer than half (44%) of children who were enrolled in RItte Care, RItte Share, or Medicaid fee-for-service on September 30, 2005, received a dental service during federal fiscal year 2005.

Dental Bill . Provide eligibility for the RItte Smiles program for children over age 6. This successful dental benefits manager program has increased the number of participating dentists and the number of children receiving primary and preventive dental care.

\$360,000
Ruggiero (S662)
Corvese (H5112)

ONE RHODE ISLAND FY 2006 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

BASIC NEEDS ISSUES IN RHODE ISLAND	ONE RHODE ISLAND PROPOSAL AND HOW IT HELPS	COST
<p>Affordable health. The number of uninsured children in Rhode Island rose significantly in 2006 due in part to the continued erosion of employer-based insurance. Last year, children who do not qualify for federal Medicaid funding were made ineligible for RItE Care beginning in 2007. Legal Permanent Resident parents who are not eligible for federal-state Medicaid for 5 years were also made ineligible for coverage.</p>	<p>All kids health insurance program. Amend the RItE Care program to increase the qualifying family income levels from 250% to 300% of the federal poverty level and allow.</p>	<p>\$1,200,000 Paiva-Weed (S902) Corderre (H6210)</p>
<p>Affordable housing. Shelter use in Rhode Island continues to climb, especially among low-wage working families. Rent for a two-bedroom apartment grew by more than 40% between 2003 and 2006. In fact, by 2006 there were only three communities in RI where the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment was affordable to someone earning less than \$20 an hour.</p>	<p>Immigrant coverage bill. Restore RItE Care eligibility for children regardless of immigration status so that all RI children have access to primary and preventive care. Restore RItE Care eligibility for legal permanent resident parents who will become eligible for federal-state Medicaid after the mandatory waiting period.</p>	<p>\$3,000,000 Pichardo (S415) Diaz (H5412)</p>
	<p>One RI supports the continued investments in the Neighborhood Opportunities Program included in Governor Carcieri's FY 2008 budget and current funding for the supportive services program.</p>	

Estimated Cost of One Rhode Island Proposals:

\$8,210,000

One Rhode Island promotes economic security for all Rhode Islanders. The One Rhode Island Coalition advocates for public policies, resources and programs that insure Rhode Islanders can meet their basic needs.



ONE RI DO NO HARM PLATFORM

CUTS TO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

TOTAL PROPOSED CUTS: \$29,100,000

Article 15 and Article 20

	State cut	Federal cut
Roll back eligibility for child care assistance to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.	\$15,200,000	\$4,200,000
Delay a scheduled rate increase for providers.	\$5,800,000	
Restructure rates for before and after school care.	\$3,900,000	

Child care assistance is fundamental to economic development. It allows low-wage working parents to work, children to receive early childhood education, and provides thousands of jobs to women entering the workforce. The proposed cuts would deny affordable child care to 3,800 children and freeze the reimbursement rate that has not changed in five years while the cost of business has continued to rise. Both of these cuts could severely weaken the child care infrastructure that has been carefully constructed over the past ten years.

REDUCE CHILD SUPPORT PASS-THROUGH

TOTAL PROPOSED CUT \$500,000

Article 16

This cut will hurt 3,100 very poor households relying on cash assistance by reducing the child support payment they receive from a non-custodial parent from \$50 to \$25/month. These families already fall short of meeting basic monthly expenses by \$900. This cut flies in the face of the federal government's recent initiatives to encourage states to pass-through more child support to these already impossibly poor families.

ROLL BACK ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

TOTAL PROPOSED CUT \$24,300,000

Article 22 and Article 23

This proposed cut would deny approximately 500 children in state care between the ages of 18 and 21 access to housing, health care, case management services, and other basic needs. These include children who have been in foster care or independent living situations.

PRESCRIPTION CO-PAYS - ELDERS and PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

TOTAL PROPOSED CUT \$1,615,125

Article 17

Require 14,000 extremely poor Rhode Islanders to pay \$1/\$3 for medications

State Cut	Federal Cut
\$749,157	\$865,986

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: NON-CITIZENS

Article 18

Limits Medical Assistance coverage for immigrant elders and people with disabilities to those who meet federal requirements. Eliminates RIte Care eligibility for legal permanent resident (LPR) children and parents who receive FIP until they have been LPRs for 5 years. Specifies that a non-citizen child is eligible for RIte Care only if s/he received RIte Care/Medical Assistance in Rhode Island prior to January 1, 2007.

