

#### Who is HousingWorks RI?

HousingWorks RI is a coalition of close to 140 organizations working to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have a quality, affordable home—an essential component of our state's economy. Our members include banks, builders, chambers of commerce, colleges, community-based agencies and advocates, faith groups, manufacturers, preservationists, realtors, municipal officials and unions...and that's just a small sample. (See the back inside cover for a list of current members.)

Our collective aim is to improve housing rental and ownership opportunities in Rhode Island, especially for the state's workforce, thus strengthening the state's economy.

#### How do we do this?

We identify best practices, conduct research, and analyze data to support policy recommendations, public education strategies, and communications initiatives. We educate stakeholders, advocate, and work to build consensus around the connection between housing and economic development.

HousingWorks RI, through its members, activities, and website:

- Advocates for solutions that will promote the growth of housing opportunities and the state's economy.
- > Provides a one-stop, authoritative source of information about workforce housing in Rhode Island.
- Hunts down new ideas and best practices from across the nation.
- > Celebrates housing progress in our communities.

#### What do we want to accomplish?

We want to ensure that housing is part of a sustainable economic development strategy at the statewide and local levels. We want to cultivate leaders who will advocate for affordable workforce housing in Rhode Island. We envision a Rhode Island in which communities embrace a variety of housing choices so that residents, regardless of income, can live in quality affordable homes in vibrant and thriving neighborhoods.

#### About HousingWorks RI: Its Origins and Funders

Rhode Island Housing started HousingWorks as a campaign to educate the public and the business community about a rapidly emerging economic development problem: the lack of affordable housing options for the state's workforce. At roughly the same time, The Rhode Island Foundation and the United Way of Rhode Island noticed that affordable housing had become a large and increasingly urgent issue for many of their grant recipients. The two funding agencies convened a coalition of stakeholders to search for solutions. The Rhode Island Housing initiative and the interests of The Rhode Island Foundation and the United Way of Rhode Island converged and HousingWorks RI, in its current form, was born.

In 2006, HousingWorks RI led the campaign to pass Question 9, the \$50 million affordable housing bond. On Election Day, Question 9 was approved by more than 66 percent of Rhode Island voters.

The bond received the support of the majority of voters in every city and town in the state. Support cut across urban, suburban, and rural boundaries—from 82 percent support in Providence, to 65 percent in Barrington and 59 percent in Burrillville.

The bond funds continue to be distributed through the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission's Building Homes Rhode Island (BHRI) program. \$37.5 million of the bond issue disbursed to date are helping to create 828 homes in 28 Rhode Island communities. BHRI is set to expire in FY 2011.

#### Dear Reader:

Welcome to the HousingWorks RI 2010 Fact Book. With the start of a new decade, we thought it appropriate to focus this publication on the future of affordable homes in Rhode Island. In particular, how the development and rehabilitation of affordable homes in the Ocean State is helping to grow a stronger and greener economy.

Whether it is the installation of geothermal systems to heat a rehabilitated mill, or energy-efficient appliances and water-saving fixtures in a single-family home, affordable housing developers in Rhode Island are working hard to incorporate sustainable design into the homes they are creating. The thoughtful integration of even the simplest, low-cost green elements into affordable housing development is not only environmentally responsible, but also has a significant impact on the resident's household budget. In addition, by incorporating sustainable design into affordable home development, we can continue to create a demand for green technologies and support job growth in the emerging green sector in Rhode Island.

But we can't look forward without acknowledging where we've been. Both the unprecedented runup in housing prices in the first half of the decade and the foreclosure crisis in the second half have made finding a quality, affordable home difficult for many Rhode Islanders. Homes in Rhode Island appear on the surface to be more affordable, but the reality for many Rhode Islanders is that a tighter credit market and stricter down-payment requirements make owning a home unattainable. The rental market is also squeezing the monthly budget of many residents. Rents significantly increased during housing-bubble years, but they have not decreased now that housing prices have come down.

As we look to the future, and reflect on the last decade, one thing is clear: the current housing market gives Rhode Island the unique opportunity to put long-term solutions in place that will ensure access to a full continuum of affordable homes for our state's residents. At HousingWorks RI we look forward to continuing to identify those solutions, and to working with you to advocate for their implementation.

Barbara J. Silvis

Board Chair, HousingWorks RI

Nellie M. Gorbea

Executive Director, HousingWorks RI

#### INSIDE THE HOUSINGWORKS RI 2010 FACT BOOK

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As this Fact Book goes to press, Rhode Island experiences a 35 percent budget gap, the fourth highest unemployment rate in the nation, and a continued severe shortage of affordable homes.<sup>1</sup> Housing is considered affordable if a family or person pays less than 30 percent of their income on housing-related costs. In Rhode Island, according to the latest data, 47 percent of Rhode Island renters are paying 30 percent or more of their income on these expenses, and 42 percent of mortgaged households paid 30 percent or more.<sup>2</sup>

The consequences of housing that's not affordable to our residents can be disastrous for our economy. Recent research by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston suggests that Rhode Island may be losing qualified labor due to housing unaffordability, and that unaffordable housing slows growth in local employment.<sup>3</sup> If Rhode Island is to build a strong and diversified economy, state and local policymakers must invest in strategies that will ensure a long-term supply of homes that are affordable to our state's workforce.

What's more, in Rhode Island we have evidence of how the development of affordable homes has provided a critical stimulus during the economic recession. A recent HousingWorks RI study has shown a total economic impact of \$15.80 per \$1 invested through the Building Homes Rhode Island (BHRI) program. Also, construction activity supported by BHRI has represented 48 percent of the total estimated cost of residential construction permitted in Rhode Island from 2007 to 2009. Indeed, affordable home development in Rhode Island makes strong economic sense. (To see HousingWorks RI's economic impact study, please visit www.HousingWorksRI.org)

Despite the recession, Rhode Island's green economy has continued to grow and the state has begun to establish itself as a hub of green economic activity.

The recent development of portions of Providence's Olneyville neighborhood into what has been named the Promenade Green Corridor has drawn the attention of national companies as well as that of elected officials. For example, Umicore, a global materials technology firm, has a facility in Providence producing component parts for solar panels. CTG Energetics, a global technical consulting firm that focuses on energy efficiency and sustainability solutions, and Alteris Renewables, Inc., the largest renewable energy systems installer in the Northeast, have also opened offices in the Corridor. Together, the companies in the Olneyville green corridor already employ about 200 people.<sup>5</sup>

2010 FACT BOOK OVERVIEW



In addition, legislation has been enacted in the Ocean State to advance the use of energy-efficient measures in building design and construction and to promote a new "green" economy for our state. The 2010 legislative session saw the creation of the Green Economy Roundtable. The Roundtable will design a statewide action plan to optimize the growth of the green economy in our state.

In the affordable housing arena, developers in Rhode Island are already making great strides toward investments in sustainability and energy efficiency; these investments are an active contributor to the economic growth of the green sector. In April 2010, US Senator Jack Reed and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan jointly announced an award of \$1.4 million in Recovery Act funds to Shalom Apartments, a senior living community in Warwick, RI. The Green Retrofit Program for Multifamily Housing Award will be used to make major energy efficiency upgrades to the affordable senior housing complex including the installation of a wind turbine, which will generate most of the complex's common area electricity. The program is expected to reduce utility costs by as much as 50 percent, cut water consumption, improve indoor air quality for residents and—like many other affordable home developments across Rhode Island—will provide opportunities for jobs in the green trades.

This Fact Book highlights other great examples of how the development of affordable homes is having a positive impact on growing a stronger, greener economy. Investments in green housing, sustainable communities, and energy efficiency will continue to boost Rhode Island's economy by attracting new, likeminded businesses that employ more Rhode Islanders and subsequently provide the state with new sources of tax revenue. With the proper alignment of federal, state, and private resources and smart investments, Rhode Island can simultaneously make affordable, sustainable housing options available to working families, create jobs, and grow the state's economy.

"Every step we take to reduce energy waste in our buildings and plan our communities in a sustainable way sends a strong message—that green, sustainable building isn't in conflict with our country's economic growth...It's essential to it."

**Shaun Donovan**, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (July 29, 2010)

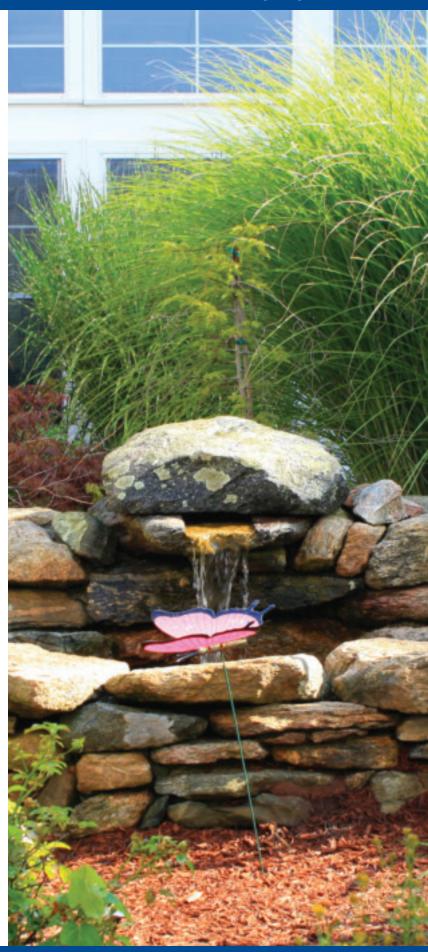
#### "GREENING" AFFORDABLE HOMES

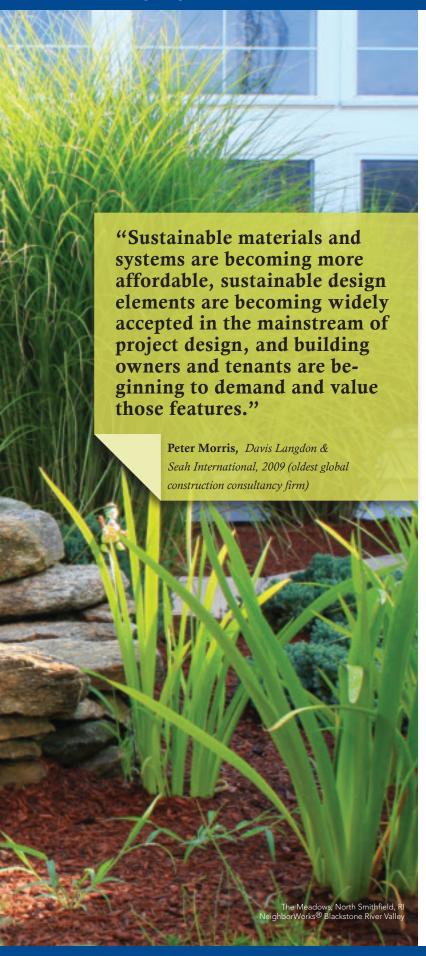
Even though the modern concept of sustainable homes (or "green" housing) has been in use for more than two decades, its value to local and household economies, and its connection to housing affordability, are still new notions for many.<sup>6</sup> Others see sustainable, energy-efficient features as incompatible with affordable home development due to the perceived upfront costs. However, there is growing evidence that sustainable affordable homes can be economical to build and maintain thanks to simple design adjustments and efficiencies (e.g., using the right shape, colors, orientation, and landscaping, and inexpensive efficient fittings) and the savings they provide over their lifetime.<sup>7</sup>

Numerous studies have revealed that the cost premium of including green technologies and design in affordable housing development could be as low as zero, and in many cases don't exceed three percent of the development's base cost.8 In many cases these costs are recouped through energy savings in less than five years. As a result, sustainable affordable homes are rapidly becoming standard practice, and non-profit and private developers as well as governments across the country are embracing these homes as an economically sound investment. Today, the future of affordable homes in Rhode Island is a "green" future and one that will have a significant role in positioning the Ocean State as a leader in the green economy. (For a list of literature sources on the costs and economic benefits of green affordable homes, turn to page 56.)

#### Core areas of sustainable housing:

- M SMART LAND USE
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- **M** RESOURCE-EFFICIENT MATERIALS
- **M** HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENT





# THE COSTS & ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE AFFORDABLE HOMES

The costs of incorporating sustainable features into affordable housing depend on an ample range of factors, including location, building type and structural conditions, and the familiarity that people involved in the design and construction process have with sustainable design.

A case study of 16 sustainable affordable home developments in northern-climate cities in the U.S. conducted in 2005 revealed an average "green" cost premium of 2.42% of the developments' total cost. Almost one third of units were in rehabilitated developments. Many of these developments were constructed when green features and fittings were less economical. In virtually all the buildings studied, energy, water, and operating cost savings alone more than paid for the green cost premium invested at the time of construction.<sup>9</sup>

Hypothetically, if we were to make all Rhode Island homes energy-efficient today, Rhode Islanders would be able to save \$1,719 every year on their energy bills until 2030—as well as help the Ocean State battle against environmental degradation by slashing home-related air pollution by a third of existing levels. Such a measure would save enough energy every year to power 859,893 homes, more than twice Rhode Island's current housing stock.<sup>10</sup>

In 2008, 22 percent of working households in Rhode Island paid more than 50 percent of their incomes on housing costs, which include basic utilities.<sup>11</sup> The average family in Rhode Island may be paying 20 percent or more of its income on utilities and transportation costs combined.<sup>12</sup>

Clearly, ignoring the costs associated with affordable homes that are not built to be sustainable and energy-efficient will have a negative impact on the budgets of our neediest residents and increase the operating costs of developers and property managers.

## "GREEN" & "AFFORDABLE": NATURAL PARTNERS

"Green affordable housing augments the core sustainability aspects of affordable housing while rounding out and expanding the environmental component."

> Walker Wells, AICP LEED AP, Global Green USA (2007)

It is easy to overlook that affordable housing by itself is intrinsically sustainable. In fact, even before the integration of green and energy-efficient features, affordable homes, by their very nature, promote economic and social development as well as provide environmental benefits to communities.

For example in Rhode Island, many affordable home developments involve the adaptive reuse of old structures, or the rehabilitation of blighted lots, foreclosed properties and dilapidated buildings. Also, many affordable homes are the result of urban in-fill developments close to basic services. Moreover, affordable workforce homes require proximity to transit and walking or biking corridors by their own definition. The Sweetbriar development in Barrington, for example, is situated near the East Bay Bike Path, giving residents the healthier and more cost-effective option of biking to work each day. The environmental benefits accrued from reduced air pollution when workforce homes are built adjacent to jobs and schools represent a clear alternative to sprawl.

"The housing market of course does not operate in a vacuum, and how it interfaces with transportation and energy systems has important consequences for a range of actors, from households to communities and entire regions with respect to both household economics and public finances and the environment."

Scott Bernstein et al., Growing More Affordably:

Connecting the Dots on Housing, Energy and

Transportation Costs (2007)



#### THE EVOLUTION TO SUSTAINABILITY

## Economic Development

## Affordable homes:

Stimulate state & local economic growth

Support jobs

Offer neighborhood stability

Help families & children move up the economic ladder

Channel federal & private monies into local economies

Contribute to fiscal stability

Tend to increase value of surrounding properties

#### Social Equity/ Stability

#### Prevent homelessness

Provide a quality living environment

Contribute to family cohesion and security

Promote physical & mental health

Provide communitybased support

Support job & school performance & stability

Incorporate mixedincome housing

Support social & cultural diversity

#### Urban Enhancement

### Reflect higher design & construction standards

Help improve communities

Often include smart growth principles (homes near to transit, jobs, & services)

Promote a geographic diversity of housing

## Environmental Conservation

Help reduce pollution by being located near amenities, services, transit, and jobs

Reduce maintenance & waste by adhering to quality design & construction standards

Use land efficiently through urban infill & brownfield redevelopment



#### Sustainable affordable homes:

Contribute to the transition to a strong state green economy

Reduce families' utility costs (freeing household resources for education, health care, and quality of life)

Help create "green" jobs

Maximize investments

Help decrease fiscal costs to local governments

Improve durability

Support higher energy independence & economic stability

Provide a healthier indoor environment for families, seniors, & children

Contribute to a sense of environmental responsibility for children & residents

Promote physical activity through walking & bicycling

Help protect the health of construction & manufacturing workers

Promote less noise pollution (thanks to pedestrian friendly designs & reducing the use of cars)

Include smart growth principles (homes near to transit, jobs, & services)

Use passive energy & integrated infrastructure to reduce need for natural resources

Specify efficient systems & appliances that save water & energy & help mitigate environmental degradation<sup>13</sup>

Encourage the reuse & rehabilitation of neglected or energywasting buildings



## GREEN BUILDING PRACTICES IN RHODE ISLAND

A sustainable home is designed and built to use fewer resources, create a healthier living environment, and integrate better with the community where it is built. The popular green building practices highlighted here, and the many affordable home developers featured, are just a sample of what is happening in the Rhode Island affordable housing sector today.

"The future of sustainable affordable housing will revolve less around the application of the newest sustainable technologies and more around the consistent and intelligent application of the 'basics' of sustainable design."

Douglas Kallfelz, AIA, LEED AP,

Principal, Donald Powers Architects (2010)

#### **CONVENTIONAL VS. "GREEN" COSTS**



- Conventional Home in Rhode Island
- After Inclusion of "Green" Features<sup>14</sup>
- \* These are conservative averages. Actual energy and water savings may vary between 15% (in the case of very modest "green" additions) and 73%, depending on the particular development. In the case of "zero energy" homes the savings may be as much as 100% since they can be operated autonomously from the energy grid supply.

- 1 LOCATE CLOSE TO TRANSIT AND SERVICES
  Southside Gateway (500 Broad Street), Providence SWAP
- PREDUCE PARKING AND SITUATE CLOSE TO BIKE PATHS

Sweetbriar, Barrington – East Bay CDC

- ENERGY-EFFICIENT (HVAC) SIZING
   Capitol Square at Smith Hill, Providence Smith Hill Community
   Development Corporation
- 4 GEOTHERMAL
  Stillwater Mill, Burrillville NeighborWorks® Blackstone River Valley
- 5 SUSTAINABLY HARVESTED WOOD FLOORING
  Callaghan Gardens, Pawtucket Pawtucket Citizens
  Development Corporation
- 6 LOW-WATER-USE PLANTS (XERISCAPING)
  Kingstown Crossings, North Kingstown Crossroads
- 7) FIBER-CEMENT SIDING
  Constitution Hill, Woonsocket NeighborWorks
  Blackstone River Valley
- 8 LIGHT-COLORED ROOF
  Northeast Street Mill, Woonsocket NeighborWorks Blackstone
  River Vallev
- 9 ENERGY STAR® WINDOWS<sup>15</sup>
  Girard Avenue, Newport Church Community Housing Corporation
- 10 FORMALDEHYDE-FREE INSULATION 16 Sandywoods, Tiverton Church Community Housing Corporation
- ENERGY STAR OR LED LIGHTING<sup>17</sup>
  14 Parkis Ave., Providence Community Works Rhode Island
- 12 ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

  Deer Brook Estates, Exeter Deer Brook Development Corporation
- 13 LOW-WATER USE PLUMBING FIXTURES
  117 Daboll Street, Providence Community Works Rhode Island
- 14 RECYCLED-CONTENT, BUILDING MATERIALS
  19 Stanwood Street, Providence Community Works Rhode Island
- 15 LOW-VOC MATERIALS<sup>18</sup>
  Kane's Way, Bristol East Bay Community Development Corp
- (16) PHOTOVOLTAIC ROOFING<sup>19</sup>
  Westfield Commons, Providence West Elmwood Housing
  Development Corporation
- (17) COMPOSTING

  The Meadows, North Smithfield NeighborWorks Blackstone
  River Valley
- (18) WIND TURBINE
  Shalom Housing, Warwick Shalom Housing Inc.
- PASSIVE HEATING/COOLING (BIOCLIMATIC DESIGN)
  Sandywoods Farm, Tiverton Church Community Housing
- DESIGN FOR NATURAL LIGHT
  Newport Heights, Phase IV, Newport Valley Affordable
  Housing Corporation



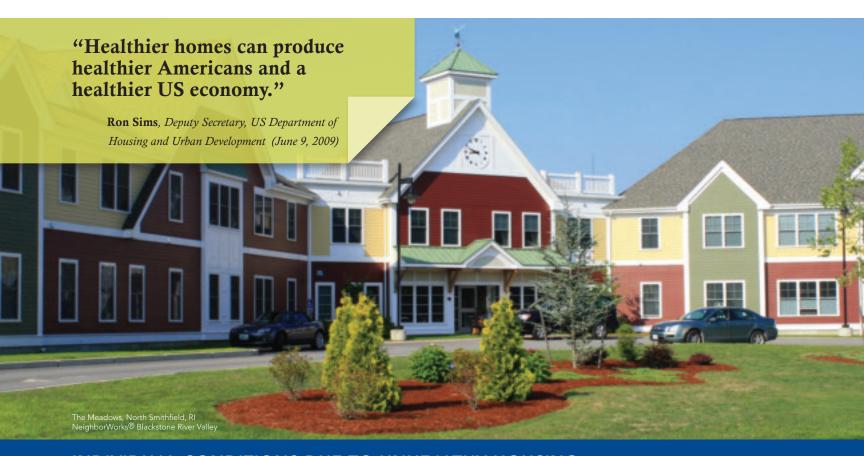
#### **GREEN + HEALTHY + SMART (GROWTH)**

A key element of productivity is healthy residents and workers. Today, the evidence that links the use of certain materials in homebuilding to the incidence of health conditions is overwhelming.<sup>20</sup> Poorly built and ill-maintained homes can contribute to common health problems such as asthma and lead poisoning and lead to productivity issues among working families.

Outgassing of some building materials, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and molds combined with inadequate ventilation can produce the so-called "sick building" syndrome. Several studies reveal that many of

the sustainable practices discussed in this Fact Book can improve productivity and reduce absenteeism due to health issues.<sup>21</sup>

In our state, the Rhode Island Department of Health recognizes that both homes and communities are "an important modifiable determinant of health and wellbeing in our communities." The Department believes that unhealthy housing can lead to poor health and economic outcomes for Rhode Islanders and our communities.



#### INDIVIDUAL CONDITIONS DUE TO UNHEALTHY HOUSING

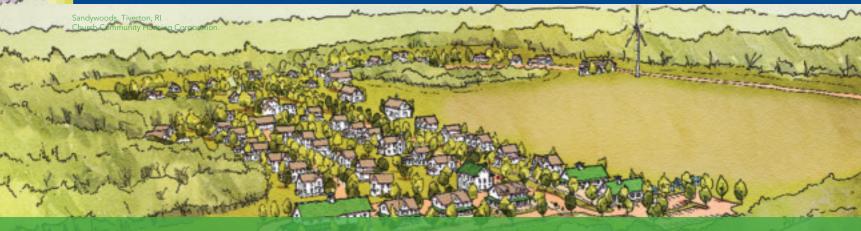
- Asthma and respiratory infections
- Lead poisoning, fewer economic opportunities, and increased dependency costs as a result of lead exposure
- Injuries and burns (falls, fires, poisonings, etc.)
- Physical reactions to extreme heat and cold
- Cancer (radon and neurotoxin exposures)
- Food insecurity
- Poor birth outcomes, such as prematurity and low birth weight<sup>23</sup>

#### Smart Growth & Sustainable Urbanism

In essence, *smart growth* promotes compact, transit-oriented, bicycle-friendly, and walkable land use, as well as access to housing choices close to schools and services. Smart growth principles also support the preservation of open space and the environment as a whole. According to Grow Smart Rhode Island, smart growth "promotes development that will lead to more transportation choices, housing choice and affordability, efficient use of infrastructure, protection of the environment, and the expansion of economic opportunity."<sup>23</sup>

Sustainable urbanism integrates smart growth values and green building practices with new urbanism, an urban design movement that promotes traditional, walkable neighborhoods containing a range of housing and job types. Sustainable urbanism recognizes that green affordable housing should go hand in hand with well-designed, sustainable surroundings and urban amenities. The contrary would be counterproductive to sustainable affordable home development.





#### SUSTAINABLE AFFORDABLE HOMES IN RHODE ISLAND

The affordable home sector in Rhode Island recognizes the impact developing sustainable and energy efficient homes can have on local economies and their residents' monthly budgets. Many of the community development corporations (CDCs) around the state are already implementing such features as Energy Star® rated appliances, LED lighting, white roofs, efficient water fixtures, passive solar energy, geothermal heating and cooling, low-VOC paint, and even composting. Here are just a few of the stories from around the Ocean State.

#### Sandywoods Farm, Tiverton, RI

14

Church Community Housing Corporation

Sandywoods Farm in Tiverton is a nationally recognized example of an affordable housing development that has incorporated sustainable design into every aspect of this mixed-use project. Sandywoods combines farming activities with 50 affordable rental homes and 20 market-rate, single-family homes for working artists and their families. The development includes a wind turbine that will provide for anywhere between 75 percent and 90 percent of the electrical needs of the tenants and solar water heating, which will reduce living costs for residents. But the architects behind the design felt it most important to foster a sense of community among the residents at Sandywoods Farm and therefore incorporated community facilities to sell farm goods and host art exhibitions.

"We feel very strongly that the sustainability discussion is really not complete without a discussion about lovability. If people really cherish the communities and homes they live in, they will care for and maintain those places over time," said Douglas Kallfelz, AIA, LEED AP, a principal architect at Donald Powers Architects and designer of Sandywoods Farm. "Ultimately, creating enduring places is perhaps the most sustainable thing we can do," Kallfelz added. "In no place is this more important than in the design of affordable housing."

#### Stillwater Mill, Burrillville, RI

NeighborWorks® Blackstone River Valley (NWBRV)

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, a community development corporation working in northern Rhode Island, has worked hard to incorporate sustainable design in the rehabilitation of Stillwater Mill in Burrill-ville, RI. Features include Energy Star® appliances, LED light fixtures, low-flow toilets, high efficiency bath and kitchen fixtures, and a geothermal system to heat the entire 74,000 square foot facility.

"The installation costs were fairly high at this site due to the amount of geothermal wells needed by the system to support the expected energy load of this historic brick building," said Terri Barbosa, Real Estate Development Manager at NWBRV. "However, energy costs are expected to rise 20 percent per year for the next 10 years and will have a direct impact on the sustainability of our developments. We researched various methods for reducing energy and heating consumption and concluded that geothermal systems would be the most applicable product for the variety of properties we develop."

It's expected that the geothermal system at Stillwater will save roughly \$38,000 a year in utility costs for the commercial space, 36 affordable homes, and 11 market-rate residences.



The Meadows, North Smithfield, RI
NeighborWorks® Blackstone River Valley (NWBRV)

The Meadows in North Smithfield provides 80 affordable rental homes to approximately 92 low-income seniors. The construction, completed in 2008, incorporated five geothermal wells to heat and cool all 80 homes and community rooms. Long-term operating costs were reduced for NWBRV. To date, the geothermal system at the Meadows is saving an average of \$23,000 a year in operating costs—over what was budgeted—and an average of \$78,000 a year over what the utility costs would have been without geothermal and Energy Star® components.

Most recently, students from the Woonsocket Vocational Technical School built a garden shed to mirror the design of The Meadows and assist residents as they embark on a composting and gardening program.

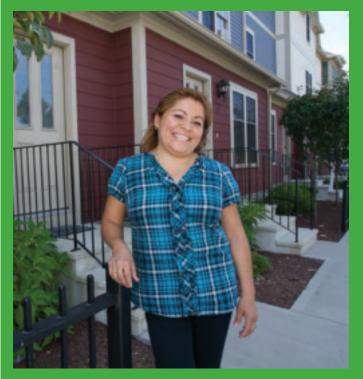
Composting at The Meadows helps reduce the amount of food waste going to the local landfill while enriching the soil in the gardens. "We were approached by the recycling coordinator for the Town of North Smithfield to see if we'd be interested in piloting a composting program along with our gardens," said Margaux Morisseau, Director of Community Building for NWBRV. "The residents were already recycling, so the idea of incorporating composting was a no-brainer."

#### Callaghan Gardens, Pawtucket, RI

Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation (PCDC)

Callaghan Gardens is a development of affordable townhomes in the heart of Pawtucket and a prime example of how an underutilized urban location can be redeveloped using sustainable design. Each of the 14 homes feature bamboo hardwood floors, efficient heating systems, Energy Star rated lighting fixtures and refrigerators, extra insulation, and low-VOC materials.

"For a number of years, PCDC had been making sure that all of our buildings were lead safe and met Energy Star standards; however, we wanted to go beyond that and incorporate sustainable design," said Nancy Whit, Executive Director for the organization. "The longterm benefit is financial to the owners."



Brenda Sajche (above), a resident at Callaghan Gardens, has already seen the difference in her monthly budget. "I needed to work three jobs to afford my old apartment. One winter, my heating costs for November, December, and January were \$1,000. Now I pay only \$40 a month," she said. "Also, I can walk everywhere from my home. I don't use my car nearly as much as I had to before."

## "GREEN" AFFORDABLE HOMES: AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR RHODE ISLAND

"The benefits of these investments are clear. First, greening America's [affordable] housing stock is helping to create jobs that can't be sent

**OVETSEAS.** As I saw for myself at Shalom Housing in Warwick, Rhode Island, which is installing a wind turbine expected to generate enough power to provide for 80 percent of the buildings' electricity, these funds are helping prepare a new generation of professionals we need to design, install, and maintain the next wave of green technologies."

**Shaun Donovan**, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (July 29, 2010)

Despite an unprecedented economic downturn, Rhode Island's "green" economy is showing signs of growth. The Green Pathways Out of Poverty Partnership is a \$3.1-million green jobs-training program for low-income, unemployed Providence residents that will provide approximately 190 adults with up to five industry-recognized certifications in energy-efficient weatherization, deconstruction and green renovation, and renewable energy.

In addition, The U.S. Department of Labor has begun investing \$100 million in green jobs training grants to help dislocated workers find jobs in expanding green industries. In Rhode Island, The Providence Plan's Building Futures partner program received \$3.72 million of this funding to launch an Energy Training Partnership to prepare approximately 1,600 Rhode Islanders for careers in energy-efficient construction and renewable-power industries over the next two years. With record high unemployment in Rhode Island, creating a sustainable market for these workers through the development and retrofitting of affordable homes is a recipe for job growth and economic stability.

Investments in green housing, sustainable communities and energy efficiency can boost Rhode Island's economy and provide the state with new sources of tax revenue. The construction and rehabilitation of affordable homes create a stable market for small businesses developing sustainable products in Rhode Island. For example, construction activity supported by BHRI has accounted for 48 percent of the total estimated cost of residential construction permitted in Rhode Island from 2007 to 2009. By sourcing green building materials from businesses within the Ocean State, the public investment in affordable homes can have an even higher ripple effect throughout the state's economy.

By embracing the connection between affordable home development and sustainable design, Rhode Island becomes more attractive to outside investment from both the private and public sectors. Already, federal initiatives to promote sustainable communities have resulted in millions of dollars flowing to communities around the country to encourage and promote sustainable neighborhoods and smart growth. (See page 57 of this Fact Book for a list of federal programs.) Marketing Rhode Island as a leader in sustainable, affordable home development could attract these investments in the future.



#### RHODE ISLAND GREEN PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

#### **Community Development Corporations**

Since the 1970s, community development corporations have played a critical role in creating environmentally sensitive, mixed-use developments near public transit and other services. In Rhode Island, the economic downturn has not deterred local CDCs from pursuing sustainable affordable homebuilding. In 2009, Global Green USA gave Rhode Island a "B" grade for its use of smart growth, energy efficiency, resource conservation and healthy practices in the development of affordable homes.<sup>26</sup>

#### KeepSpace

KeepSpace is an unprecedented broad-based partnership initiative aimed at changing the way Rhode Islanders think about, build, and approach "community." Launched in 2007, KeepSpace is not only a vital plan for solving our state's development crisis, it has become a critically needed solution for the short-, mid-, and long-term economic, environmental, and housing needs of our state.

KeepSpace partner organizations include Grow Smart Rhode Island, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, Rhode Island Housing, Rhode Island Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), State of Rhode Island's Statewide Planning Program and many others. Their vision is to create a new paradigm of cooperation and new pathways to build a more healthy and prosperous future for Rhode Island's communities. (For more information about KeepSpace, visit www.keepspace.org)

#### **Green & Healthy Homes Initiative**

In October 2009, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced initial funding for the creation of the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). Today, GHHI has pilot programs in 12 U.S. cities and two Tribal Nations. As one of the pilot cities, the City of Providence will work with The Rhode Island Foundation, the National Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, and the federal government to implement a cost-effective and integrated approach to housing interventions by combining investments in weatherization, energy efficiency, health, and safety. It is the goal of HUD, and other partnering federal agencies, that GHHI will replace stand-alone programs with a comprehensive and seamless process that creates safer and more stable homes, improves the health of families and children, and

produces higher-quality green jobs. GHHI is thus setting a new standard for policies and practices to create more sustainable, affordable, and healthier homes. (For more information about the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, visit www.greenand-healthyhomes.org)

#### **Rhode Island Local Initiatives Support Corporation**

The success of Rhode Island LISC's Building Sustainable Communities program, called "Our Neighborhoods," is today a visible part of Rhode Island neighborhoods' revitalization. Communities once characterized by blight now reflect widespread physical improvements, safer streets, increased property values, and more engaged residents.

As of 2009, LISC and affiliates have invested nearly \$230 million in Rhode Island's communities, creating more than 6,900 affordable homes and apartments, and leveraging \$877 million for the revitalization of Rhode Island's needlest neighborhoods.

#### U.S. Green Building Council, Rhode Island Chapter

The Rhode Island Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (RIGBC) works to transform the way buildings are designed, built, and operated in Rhode Island. RIGBC promotes environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, aesthetically pleasing and durable communities that protect the state's cultural heritage and natural environment and improve the quality of life of Rhode Islanders. RIGBC is also committed to training the current and future workforce for jobs in the new green economy, including workers in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

#### Sustainable Rhode Island

Sustainable RI is a multifaceted initiative to transform Rhode Island into the nation's first sustainable state. The Apeiron Institute launched Sustainable RI as the Rhode Island Sustainability Coalition in 2001 to put "sustainable" thinking at the heart of how we grow and develop our state. In 2008, Sustainable RI began a targeted membership program to create "sustainability practitioners" in three areas: households, schools, and businesses. Its goal is to create a critical mass or tipping point of people and institutions making their homes, organizations and communities sustainable such that they become beacons of change that ripple outward to ever growing numbers of Rhode Islanders.

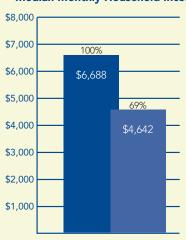
### Cost of Living in Rhode Island

#### The Household Budget

#### **Cost of Living in Rhode Island**

Owning Median-priced Single-family Home

#### **Median Monthly Household Income**

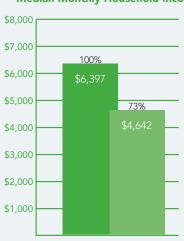


#### **Owning**

Food	\$	797
Transportation	\$	559
Childcare	\$	1,494
Health Insurance	\$	281
Utilities	\$	381
Mortgage, Property Tax & Insurance	\$	1,440
Federal and State Taxes	\$	1,128
Other Expenses	\$	608
Total Expenses	\$	6,688*
Median Monthly Household Income	<b>.</b>	4 / 40
in Rhode Island	\$	4,642

Renting an Average-priced 2-bedroom Apartment

#### **Median Monthly Household Income**



#### Renting

Food	\$ 797
Transportation	\$ 559
Childcare	\$ 1,494
Health Insurance	\$ 281
Utilities	\$ 381
Average-priced 2-Bedroom Apartment	\$ 1,170
Federal and State Taxes	\$ 1,128
Other Expenses	\$ 587
Total Expenses	\$ 6,397 <sup>*</sup>
Median Monthly Household Income	
in Rhode Island	\$ 4,642

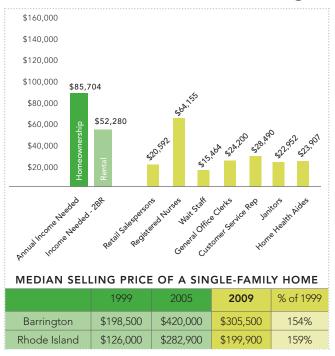
<sup>\*</sup>For data sources and methodology, turn to page 54.

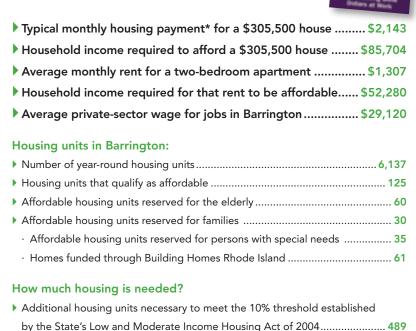


#### **BARRINGTON**

20

How much does it cost to live in Barrington?

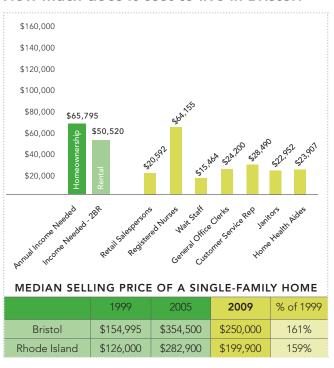




BUILDING 💇 HOMES:

#### **BRISTOL**

How much does it cost to live in Bristol?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$250,000 house \$1,645
▶ Household income required to afford a \$250,000 house \$65,795
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,263
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$50,520
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Bristol\$33,384
Housing units in Bristol:

#### 

#### How much housing is needed?

Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004.......331



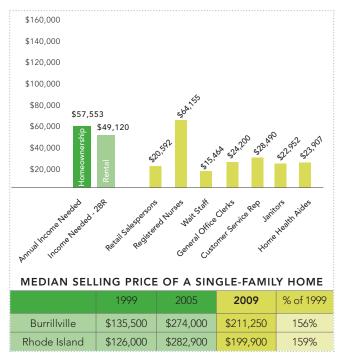
- · To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm
- This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRI.org. Look for your city/town.

<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.



#### BURRILLVILLE

How much does it cost to live in Burrillville?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$211,250 house \$1,439
▶ Household income required to afford a \$211,250 house \$57,553
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,228
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$49,120
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Burrillville\$29,640
Housing units in Burrillville:
▶ Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly242
· Affordable housing units reserved for families224
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs34
▶ Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
▶ Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 200469

#### **CENTRAL FALLS**

How much does it cost to live in Central Falls?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$90,000 house
Household income required to afford a \$90,000 house \$25,345
P Household income required to afford a \$70,000 flouse \$23,343
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$902
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$36,080
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Central Falls
Housing units in Central Falls:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs63
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island5
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 20040



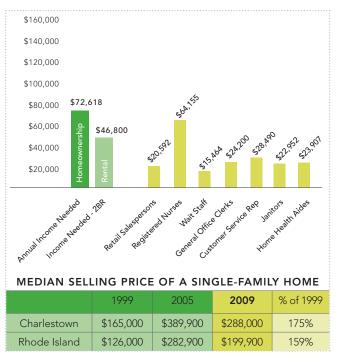
- · To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm
- This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRI.org. Look for your city/town.

<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

#### **CHARLESTOWN**

22

How much does it cost to live in Charlestown?



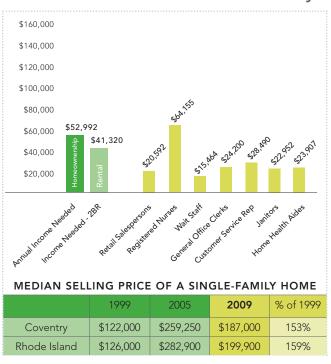
The second secon
▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$288,000 house \$1,815
▶ Household income required to afford a \$288,000 house \$72,618
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Charlestown
Housing units in Charlestown:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly0
Affordable housing units reserved for families9
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs $40$
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island1
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004283

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#### **COVENTRY**

How much does it cost to live in Coventry?



	Deliars at Mark
Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$187,000 house	\$1,325
Household income required to afford a \$197,000 house	¢52 002

#### 

#### How much housing is needed?

Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004.......601



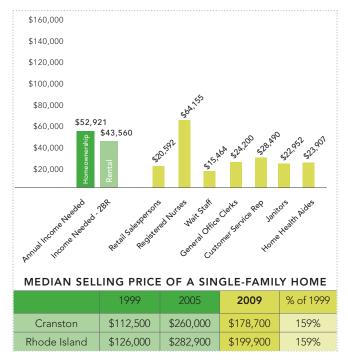
- $\cdot \text{To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm}$
- This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRl.org. Look for your city/town.
- \* Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.



#### **CRANSTON**

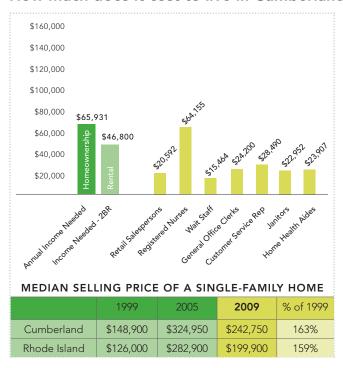
#### How much does it cost to live in Cranston?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$178,700 house \$1,323
▶ Household income required to afford a \$178,700 house \$52,921
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,089
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$43,560
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Cranston\$36,452
Housing units in Cranston:
Number of year-round housing units31,968
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs $$
▶ Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 20041,402

#### **CUMBERLAND**

#### How much does it cost to live in Cumberland?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$242,750 house \$1,648
▶ Household income required to afford a \$242,750 house \$65,931
$\blacktriangleright$ Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 $^{\dagger}$
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Cumberland\$39,260
Housing units in Cumberland:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
▶ Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004 508



- · To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm
- ·This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRI.org. Look for your city/town.

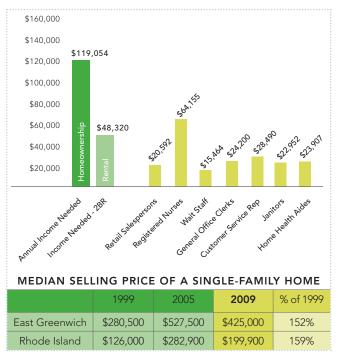
<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.

#### **EAST GREENWICH**

24

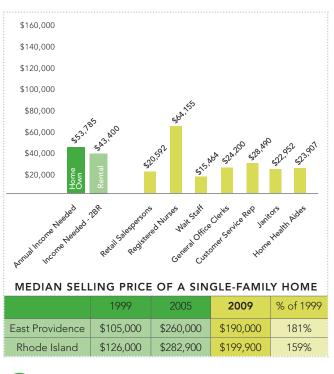
How much does it cost to live in East Greenwich?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$425,000 house \$2,976
▶ Household income required to afford a \$425,000 house \$119,054
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,208
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$48,320
Average private-sector wage for jobs in East Greenwich \$38,740
Housing units in East Greenwich:
▶ Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable221
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly141
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs $34$
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
▶ Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004297

#### **EAST PROVIDENCE**

How much does it cost to live in East Providence?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$190,000 house \$1,345
▶ Household income required to afford a \$190,000 house \$53,785
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,085
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$43,400
Average private-sector wage for jobs in East Providence \$38,012
Housing units in East Providence:
Number of year-round housing units21,236
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable2,321
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004



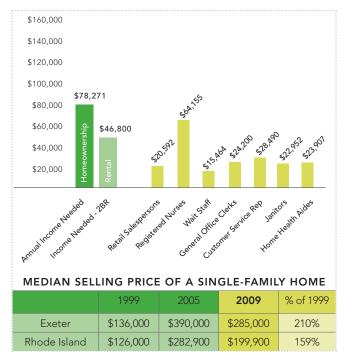
- · To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm
- $\cdot \hbox{This fact sheet is also accessible at www.} Housing Works RI.org. \ Look for your city/town.$

<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

BUILDING 🖄 HOMES A

#### **EXETER**

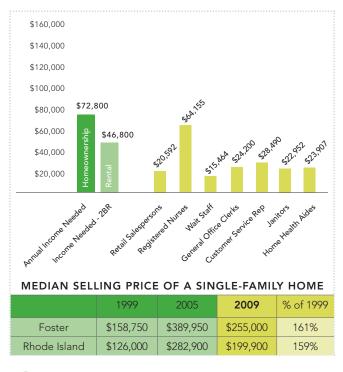
#### How much does it cost to live in Exeter?





#### **FOSTER**

#### How much does it cost to live in Foster?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$255,000 house \$1,820
▶ Household income required to afford a \$255,000 house \$72,800
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Foster\$29,120
Housing units in Foster:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable41
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families0
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs11
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004 116



- $\cdot \text{To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm}$
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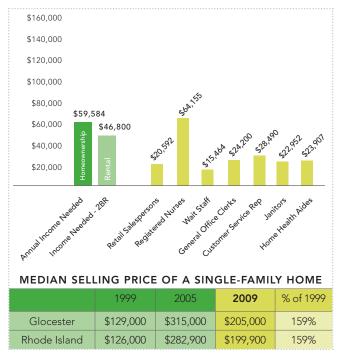
<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.

#### **GLOCESTER**

26

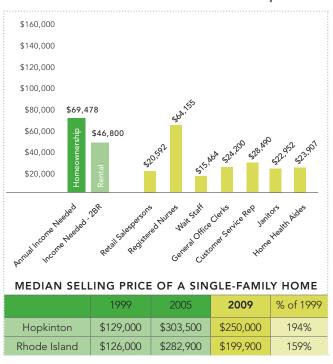
How much does it cost to live in Glocester?



Typical monthly housing paym	ent* for a \$205,000 house \$1,490
Household income required to	o afford a \$205,000 house \$59,584
Average monthly rent for a tw	vo-bedroom apartment\$1,170†
Household income required for	or that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage	for jobs in Glocester\$29,848
Housing units in Glocester:	
Number of year-round housing un	its3,644
Housing units that qualify as afford	lable85
▶ Affordable housing units reserved	for the elderly62
▶ Affordable housing units reserved	for families5
· Affordable housing units reserve	d for persons with special needs18
· Homes funded through Building	Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?	
<ul><li>Additional housing units necessary</li></ul>	to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate I	ncome Housing Act of 2004 279

#### **HOPKINTON**

How much does it cost to live in Hopkinton?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$250,000 house \$1,737
▶ Household income required to afford a \$250,000 house \$69,478
$\blacktriangleright$ Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 $^{\dagger}$
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Hopkinton\$34,476
Housing units in Hopkinton:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable219
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs26
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island20
How much housing is needed?  • Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004

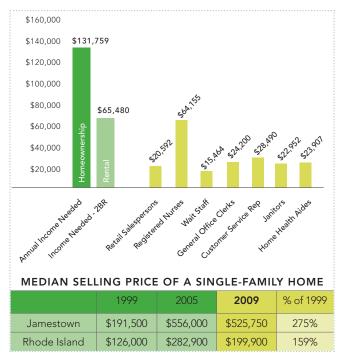


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#### **JAMESTOWN**

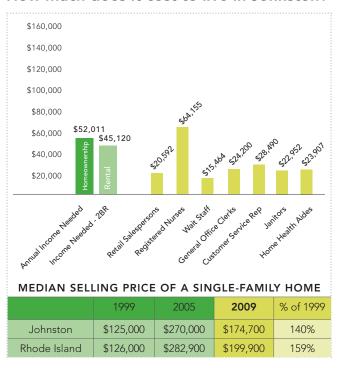
How much does it cost to live in Jamestown?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$525,750 house \$3,294
Household income required to afford a \$525,750 house \$131,759
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,637
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable\$65,480
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Jamestown\$34,320
Housing units in Jamestown:
Number of year-round housing units2,428
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable103
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs11
▶ Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004140

#### **JOHNSTON**

How much does it cost to live in Johnston?



	BUILDING ST HOMES RI
	Store Received Board Ondoes at Work
cal monthly housing payment* for a \$174,700 house	e \$1,300

Vilypical monthly housing payment* for a \$174,700 house \$1,30	U
▶ Household income required to afford a \$174,700 house \$52,01	1
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,12	8
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$45,12	0
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Johnston\$37,85	6
Housing units in Johnston:	
Number of year-round housing units11,52	6
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable1,00	5
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly	7
· Affordable housing units reserved for families	4
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs $11$	4
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island	3

#### How much housing is needed?

▶ Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004.......148



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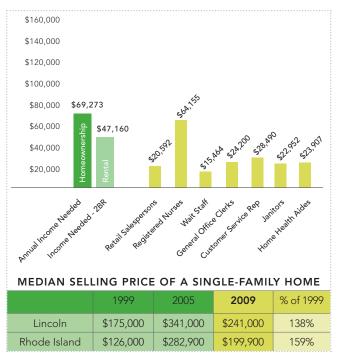
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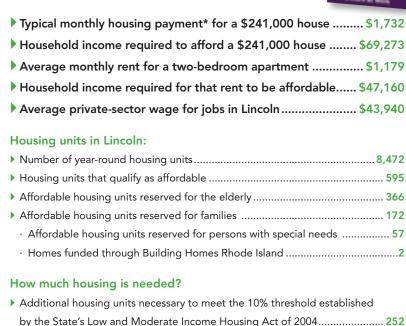
Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.

#### LINCOLN

28

How much does it cost to live in Lincoln?

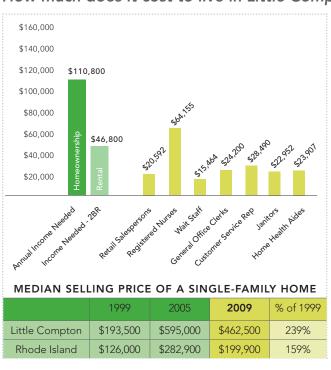




BUILDING 💇 HOMES:

#### LITTLE COMPTON

How much does it cost to live in Little Compton?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$462,500 house \$2,770
▶ Household income required to afford a \$462,500 house \$110,800
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Little Compton \$27,196
Housing units in Little Compton:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable2
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly0
Affordable housing units reserved for families2
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs $0$
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004150

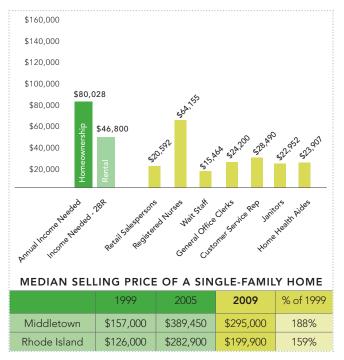


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- This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRl.org. Look for your city/town.
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Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data

#### **MIDDLETOWN**

How much does it cost to live in Middletown?



<ul> <li>▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$295,000 house \$2,001</li> <li>▶ Household income required to afford a \$295,000 house \$80,028</li> <li>▶ Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment</li></ul>
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Middletown
Housing units in Middletown:
Number of year-round housing units6,152
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
▶ Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004

#### **NARRAGANSETT**

How much does it cost to live in Narragansett?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$337,000 house \$2,146 Household income required to afford a \$337,000 house \$85,845 Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment
Housing units in Narragansett:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs20
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island2
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004469



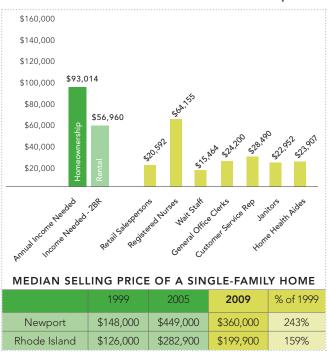
- · To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm
- ·This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRI.org. Look for your city/town.
- \* Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

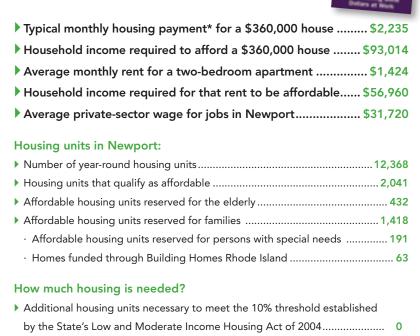
Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.

#### **NEWPORT**

30

How much does it cost to live in Newport?

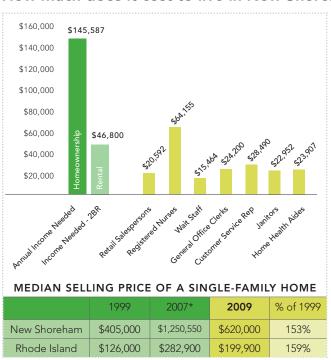




BUILDING 💇 HOMES:

#### **NEW SHOREHAM**

How much does it cost to live in New Shoreham?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$620,000 house \$3,640
Household income required to afford a \$620,000 house \$145,587
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in New Shoreham \$30,212
Housing units in New Shoreham:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly0
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs0
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island11
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004

\*2007 median price numbers are the most recent available (before 2008) for New Shoreham



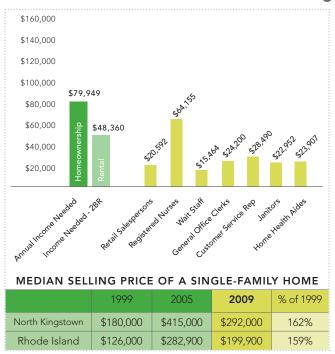
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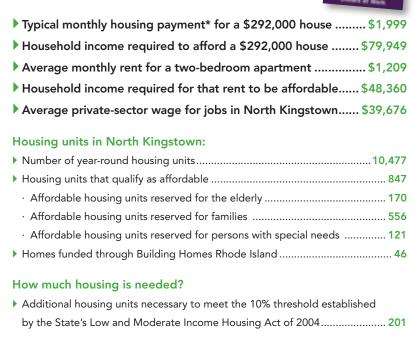
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BUILDING 🥏 HOMES R

#### NORTH KINGSTOWN

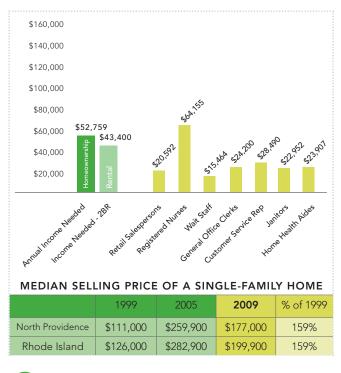
How much does it cost to live in North Kingstown?





#### NORTH PROVIDENCE

How much does it cost to live in North Providence?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$177,000 house \$1,319
▶ Household income required to afford a \$177,000 house \$52,759
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment \$1,085
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable\$43,400
Average private-sector wage for jobs in North Providence \$32,240
Housing units in North Providence:
Number of year-round housing units14,793
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004413



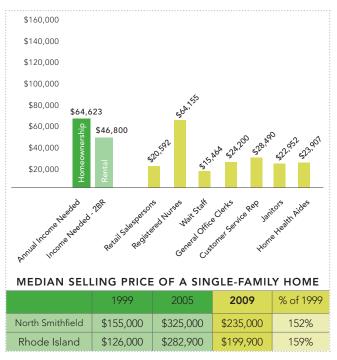
- ·To review each town's approved affordable housing plan, visit www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm
- ·This fact sheet is also accessible at www.HousingWorksRI.org. Look for your city/town.
- \* Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.

#### **NORTH SMITHFIELD**

32

How much does it cost to live in North Smithfield?

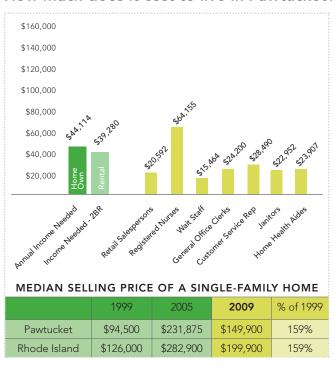


The state of the s
▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$235,000 house \$1,616
▶ Household income required to afford a \$235,000 house \$64,623
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in North Smithfield \$32,344
Housing units in North Smithfield:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly295
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs50
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 200425

BUILDING 💇 HONES I

#### **PAWTUCKET**

How much does it cost to live in Pawtucket?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$149,900 house \$1,103
▶ Household income required to afford a \$149,900 house \$44,114
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$982
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$39,280
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Pawtucket\$37,700
Housing units in Pawtucket:
Number of year-round housing units31,748
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable2,722
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly1,351
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for families1,154
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs217
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004453

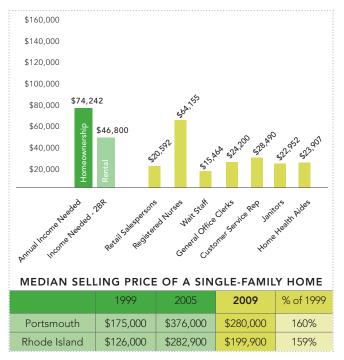


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#### **PORTSMOUTH**

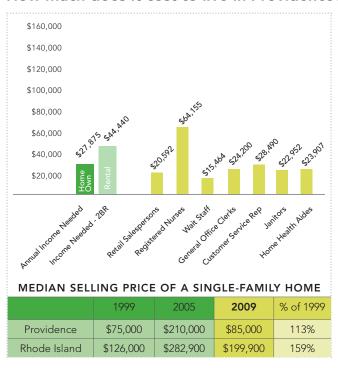
How much does it cost to live in Portsmouth?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$280,000 house \$1,856
▶ Household income required to afford a \$280,000 house \$74,242
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Portsmouth\$48,880
Housing units in Portsmouth:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs $30$
▶ Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004492

### PROVIDENCE (Not including East Side)

How much does it cost to live in Providence?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$85,000 house \$697
▶ Household income required to afford a \$85,000 house \$27,875
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,111
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$44,440
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Providence\$44,668
Housing units in Providence:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable10,079
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly4,352
· Affordable housing units reserved for families4,802
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs925
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004(3,322)



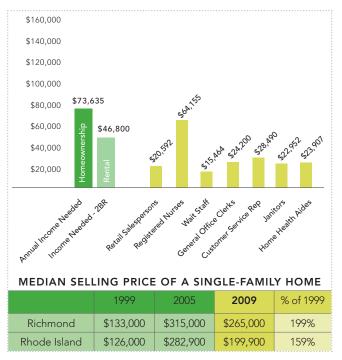
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#### **RICHMOND**

34

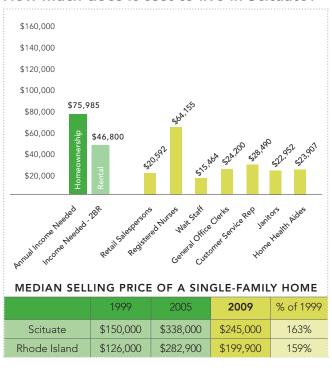
#### How much does it cost to live in Richmond?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$265,000 house \$1,841
▶ Household income required to afford a \$265,000 house \$73,635
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Richmond\$26,832
Housing units in Richmond:
Number of year-round housing units2,592
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004200

#### **SCITUATE**

#### How much does it cost to live in Scituate?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$245,000 house \$1,900
▶ Household income required to afford a \$245,000 house \$75,985
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Scituate\$28,236
Housing units in Scituate:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly24
Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004349



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- \* Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

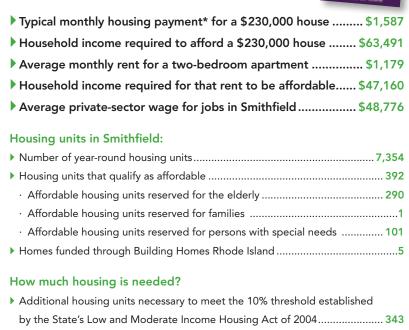
Based on the statewide average, as there are insufficient local data.

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#### **SMITHFIELD**

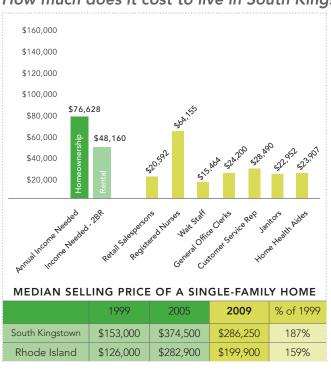
How much does it cost to live in Smithfield?





#### **SOUTH KINGSTOWN**

How much does it cost to live in South Kingstown?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$286,250 house \$1,916 Household income required to afford a \$286,250 house \$76,628
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,204
Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$48,160
Average private-sector wage for jobs in South Kingstown \$33,332
Housing units in South Kingstown:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families145
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs106
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004393



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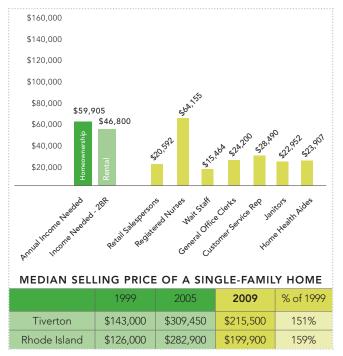
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CITY & TOWN FACT SHEETS 2010

#### **TIVERTON**

36

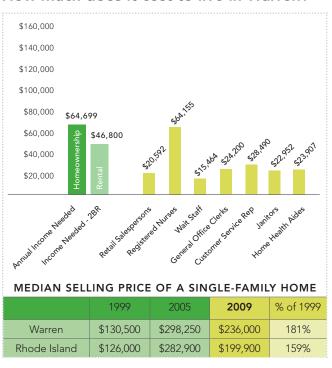
How much does it cost to live in Tiverton?



Colleges at Works
▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$215,500 house \$1,498
▶ Household income required to afford a \$215,500 house \$59,905
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Tiverton\$31,512
Housing units in Tiverton:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly120
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island111
How much housing is needed?
▶ Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established

#### **WARREN**

How much does it cost to live in Warren?



	BUILDING OF HOMES RI
	Prior Receiving Bland Ordines at Micro
▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$236,000 house	\$1,617

by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004...... 321

▶ Household income required to afford a \$236,000 house \$64,699
$\blacktriangleright$ Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 $^{\dagger}$
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Warren\$31,772
Housing units in Warren:
Number of year-round housing units
<ul> <li>Number of year-round housing units</li></ul>
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
<ul> <li>▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable</li></ul>
<ul> <li>Housing units that qualify as affordable</li></ul>

#### How much housing is needed?

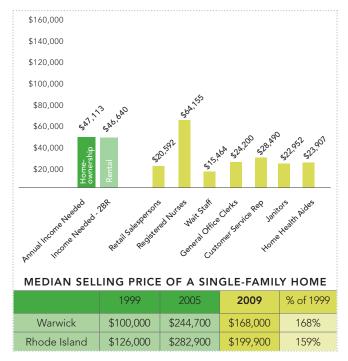


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#### **WARWICK**

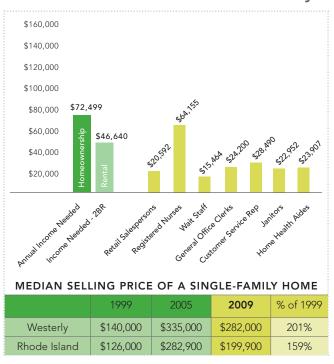
How much does it cost to live in Warwick?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$168,000 house \$1,178
▶ Household income required to afford a \$168,000 house \$47,113
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,166
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable\$46,640
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Warwick\$36,244
Housing units in Warwick:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
▶ Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established

### **WESTERLY**

How much does it cost to live in Westerly?





▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$282,000 house \$1,812
▶ Household income required to afford a \$282,000 house \$72,499
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,166
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable\$46,640
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Westerly\$31,304
Housing units in Westerly:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
· Affordable housing units reserved for families
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs72
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island10
How much housing is needed?

Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established

by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004......433



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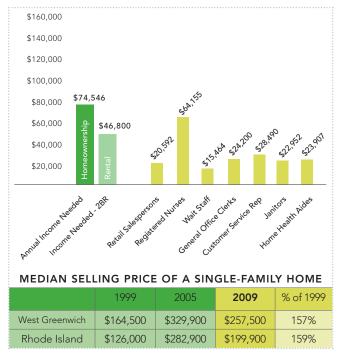
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CITY & TOWN FACT SHEETS 2010

#### **WEST GREENWICH**

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How much does it cost to live in West Greenwich?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$257,500 house \$1,864
▶ Household income required to afford a \$257,500 house \$74,546
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170 <sup>†</sup>
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in West Greenwich \$56,004
Housing units in West Greenwich:
Number of year-round housing units
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly0
▶ Affordable housing units reserved for families19
· Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs15
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island0
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004145

#### **WEST WARWICK**

How much does it cost to live in West Warwick?



▶ Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$155,000 house \$1,126
▶ Household income required to afford a \$155,000 house \$45,037
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,022
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$40,880
Average private-sector wage for jobs in West Warwick \$38,168
Housing units in West Warwick:
Number of year-round housing units13,115
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable1,111
Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly
Affordable housing units reserved for families
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island4
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established
by the State's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 2004201



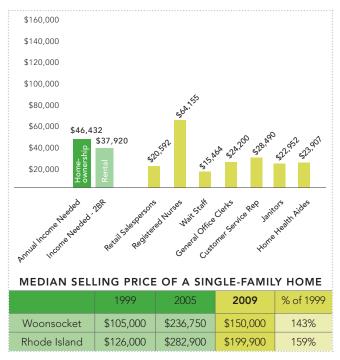
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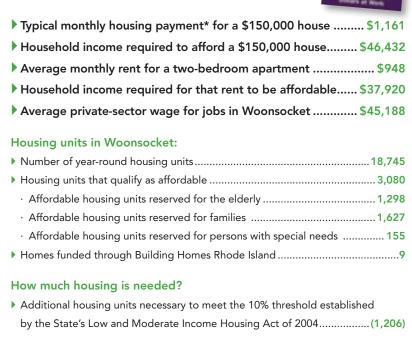
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#### WOONSOCKET

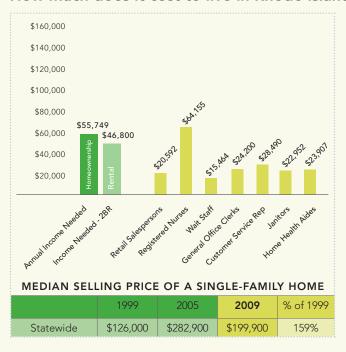
How much does it cost to live in Woonsocket?





#### **RHODE ISLAND**

How much does it cost to live in Rhode Island?



Typical monthly housing payment* for a \$199,900 house \$1,394
▶ Household income required to afford a \$199,900 house \$55,749
Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment\$1,170
▶ Household income required for that rent to be affordable \$46,800
Average private-sector wage for jobs in Rhode Island\$39,416
Housing units in Rhode Island:
Number of year-round housing units425,610
▶ Housing units that qualify as affordable
· Affordable housing units reserved for the elderly19,425
· Affordable housing units reserved for families13,371
$\cdot$ Affordable housing units reserved for persons with special needs3,682
· Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island794
How much housing is needed?
Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10% threshold established



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# PROGRESS BEING MADE Building Homes Rhode Island Update

It's been four years since HousingWorks RI successfully spearheaded the campaign that resulted in the approval of the Building Homes Rhode Island (BHRI) program, our state's \$50 million affordable housing bond. BHRI is the first bond ever approved for affordable housing development in Rhode Island. Support cut across urban, suburban, and rural boundaries—from 82 percent support in Providence to 65 percent in Barrington and 59 in Burrillville. Rhode Islanders said YES to funding the rehabilitation or development of quality affordable rental and ownership homes throughout the state.

The state's Housing Resources Commission (HRC) is the state agency charged with the distribution of the bond funds. BHRI is administered by the HRC through a competitive application process under an administrative agreement with Rhode Island Housing. BHRI's \$50 million is being distributed over four years with \$12.5 million awarded every fiscal year. To date, \$37.5 million has been awarded for the rehabilitation and construction of 828 affordable homes in 28 of our 39 cities and towns. Many of these homes were once neglected properties or foreclosed homes that blighted our neighborhoods and communities. At the current pace, the \$50 million of BHRI is expected to fund the creation of more than 1,000 affordable homes in Rhode Island.

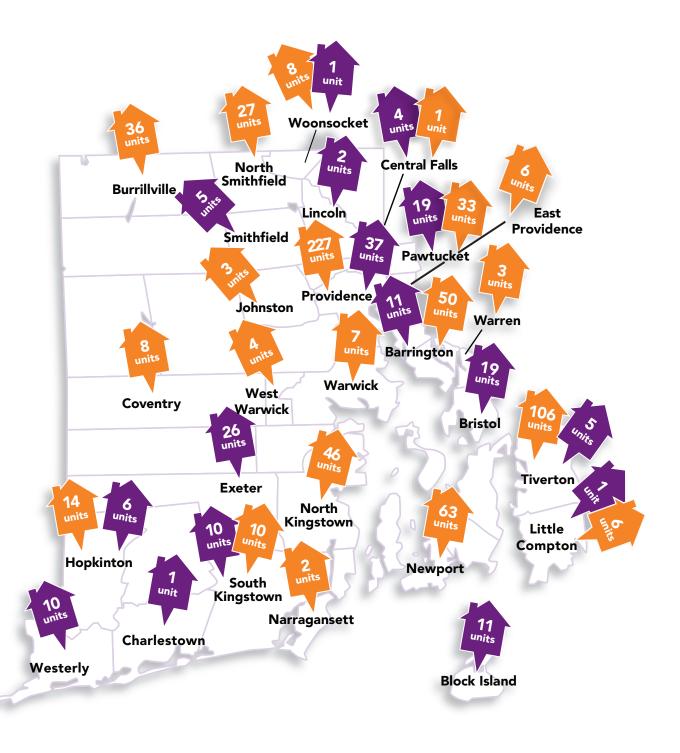
BHRI is a well-designed program that has yielded significant economic benefits for our families and local economies. Non-profit and for-profit developers apply under a highly competitive process to receive BHRI funds. The Housing Resources Commission's BHRI Distribution Committee reviews applicants that comply with specific criteria including financial feasibility, capacity to complete the development, a documented plan to proceed with construction within six months of funding, consistency with all relevant local and state regulations and plans (including the Strategic Housing Plan and Local Affordable Housing Plans) and documentation that any plans for properties of historical significance have been reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

In addition, BHRI regulations give priority to developments that:

- Make the most efficient use of funding
- Generate the most housing for the lowest-income families for the fewest public dollars
- Demonstrate sound project location, siting, and design plans
- Leverage additional financing
- Maximize long-term affordability (minimum of 30 years)
- Address documented critical housing needs
- Incorporate mixed-income housing
- Locate in areas that promote smart growth rather than sprawl
- Promote a geographic diversity of housing
- Assist communities in meeting their housing goals
- Are collaborative efforts

BHRI is set to expire in FY2011. Four years after the bond campaign, a telephone survey of 500 likely voters commissioned by HousingWorks RI and conducted by Hart Research Associates, showed that 69 percent of Rhode Islanders across demographic lines support continued public investment in affordable homes. With one year left in the BHRI program and no other state dollars available for the production of affordable homes in Rhode Island, it is essential for policymakers to develop a permanent funding solution for this economic driver.







663 rental homes funded165 ownership homes funded

828 homes in 28 communities

## The Positive Economic Impact of BHRI

Traditionally, affordable home development has been celebrated for the social and community benefits it provides; but we now know that affordable homes are also an effective stimulus to state and local economies.

In order to quantify BHRI's "ripple" effect, in early 2010, HousingWorks RI embarked on the first-ever econometric analysis of the impacts of affordable home development in Rhode Island through the BHRI program; the results are notable. (For a full description of BHRI, turn to previous page.)

# How affordable housing investments ripple through our economy

Building homes (output) brings inputs from other economic sectors

Sectors purchase labor as additional input

Workers purchase goods & services from other sectors

Businesses & workers keep generating induced revenue & activity

## Why is Housing so Important to Economies?

A growing body of literature has recognized that housing contributes greatly to local and state economies. Within economies, the construction and homebuilding sectors commonly rival or outrank the transportation industry and many segments of manufacturing that have traditionally been seen as priorities for investment. Since homebuilding is one of the most labor-intensive segments of the construction sector, it alone employs a larger workforce than many critical industries. With its immediate impact to household budgets and ties to the larger financial system, the housing sector plays a crucial role in any economy at every level. The recent housing market crash made it clear that the stability of the housing sector has a marked effect on economic development and community wellbeing.<sup>27</sup>

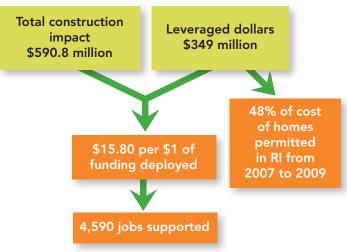
To date, \$37.5 million of BHRI investments in Rhode Island has generated about \$600 million in total economic activity, multiplying 15.8 times throughout our state's economy. These investments have also leveraged almost \$350 million from federal and private supplementary sources, money that is directly invested in our neighborhoods and communities.

Further, construction activity supported by BHRI has accounted for 48 percent of the total estimated cost of residential construction permitted in Rhode Island from 2007 to 2009.

In addition to offering a return of \$15.80 per \$1 invested, BHRI has also supported a significant number of jobs in the Ocean State. BHRI's investment to date has supported nearly 4,600 jobs in Rhode Island, generating \$224 million in wages—money that workers use to purchase local goods and services and contribute to municipal and state economies.\*

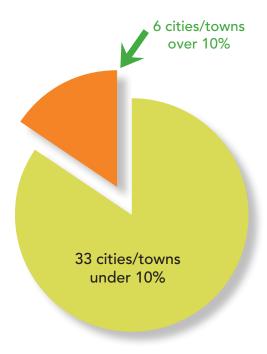
In Rhode Island, construction and real estate industries have consistently accounted for about one fifth of our gross state product, and one in every 10 jobs in our state belongs to one of these two industries. It is evident BHRI and affordable home development are key to our state's economic future.

## \$37.5 million



<sup>\*</sup> For methodology and more information about BHRI's impact on Rhode Island's economy, please see Special Report: Measuring the Economic Impact of Affordable Housing in Rhode Island, available at www.HousingWorksRl.org

# Towns that have reached 10% threshold of affordable homes built



Only six of Rhode Island's 39 communities meet the state's standard that 10 percent of their housing stock be long-term affordable.\* These are Central Falls, East Providence, Newport, New Shoreham, Providence, and Woonsocket.

As required under state law, 29 communities have detailed their plans to meet the 10 percent standard. Those plans are available at www.planning.ri.gov/housing/plans.htm.

<sup>\*</sup> RI General Law 42-128-8.1(d)(1) defines affordable as "Residential housing that has a sales price or rental amount that is within the means of a household that is of moderate income or less. For dwelling units for sale...housing in which principal, interest, taxes, and insurance constitute no more than 30% of gross annual household income for a household with less than 120% of area median income, adjusted for family size. For rental units, housing for which the rent, heat, and utilities (other than telephone) constitute no more than 30% of gross annual income for a household with 80% of area median income adjusted for family size." In addition, affordable homes are required to remain affordable through a land lease or/and deed restriction for no less than 30 years from initial occupancy.

City/Town	Percentage of housing stock that is affordable*	
Barrington	2.04%	
Bristol	6.15%	
Burrillville	8.78%	
Central Falls	11.87%	
Charlestown	1.48%	
Coventry	5.33%	
Cranston	5.61%	
Cumberland	5.95%	
East Greenwich	4.26%	
East Providence	10.93%	
Exeter	2.36%	
Foster	2.61%	
Glocester	2.33%	
Hopkinton	7.20%	
Jamestown	4.24%	
Johnston	8.72%	
Lincoln	7.02%	
Little Compton	0.13%	
Middletown	9.22%	
Narragansett	3.41%	
Newport	16.50%	
New Shoreham	11.27%	
North Kingstown	8.08%	
North Providence	7.21%	
North Smithfield	9.39%	
Pawtucket	8.57%	
Portsmouth	2.98%	
Providence	14.92%	
Richmond	2.28%	
Scituate	1.00%	
Smithfield	5.33%	
South Kingstown	5.90%	
Tiverton	4.89%	
Warren	4.62%	
Warwick	5.38%	
Westerly	5.62%	
West Greenwich	1.90%	
West Warwick	8.47%	
Woonsocket	16.43%	
STATEWIDE	8.57%	

#### FORECLOSURES IN RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island's deep economic recession has exacerbated the state's foreclosure crisis in a self-reinforcing cycle. Lost jobs, wage cuts, and high expenses have all resulted in an increase in prime mortgage foreclosures in the Ocean State. This "third wave" of the crisis (after the subprime melt down and wave of job losses) is affecting not only urban areas, but also communities throughout Rhode Island.

Prime mortgage foreclosures and serious delinquencies started ascending at an alarming rate in Rhode Island during the third quarter of 2008. More than 8,000 prime mortgage holders were either in foreclosure or on the verge of foreclosure during the first quarter of 2010, an increase of 41 percent from a year before.

Rhode Island continues to rank as the state with the highest rate of foreclosures in New England, with over 14,000 mortgages either in the foreclosure process or more than 90 days delinquent during the first quarter of 2010. At the current rate, one in every 10 mortgaged Rhode Islanders could face foreclosure. Between 2009 and 2012, another 31,192 foreclosures are expected in Rhode Island. The costs of these disproportionate numbers to Rhode Island's families are shocking, with around \$5.6 billion in lost home equity.<sup>28</sup>

#### IMPACT ON RENTAL MARKET

Unlike in other areas of the United States, the foreclosure crisis has had a negative impact on the availability of apartments in Rhode Island. The housing stock in many of Rhode Island's cities includes large numbers of multifamily dwellings. These multifamily homes have been significantly impacted by foreclosures. For example, roughly half of the properties foreclosed upon in Providence have been multifamily residences. For every homeowner who loses his or her home to foreclosure, an average of four to five families living in multifamily homes will also find themselves without shelter.

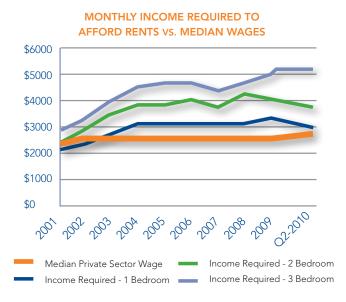
Prior to the foreclosure crisis, Rhode Island was already experiencing a tight rental market. The State of Rhode

Island Division of Planning's Five Year Strategic Housing Plan 2006-2010 estimated the need for new rental households between 2000 and 2010 at nearly 9,000. Yet, approximately only 3,470 multifamily units were produced between January 2000 and June 2010.<sup>29</sup>

Research also shows that after homeownership is terminated, the average household will spend an estimated 10 years renting before they are able to achieve homeownership again.<sup>30</sup> At a time when Rhode Island should be increasing the number of affordable rental units, the increased demand coupled with the decreased supply due to shuttered foreclosed buildings is having a significant impact on many Rhode Island families.

Rents significantly increased during housing-bubble years, but they did not decrease after the housing market crash. Today, the average cost of rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island is \$1,120, an increase of \$350 from 2001 rent prices (or 45%).<sup>31</sup>

Rental affordability has become a major concern for policymakers and advocates at the national level. Thankfully at the state level, programs such as Building Homes Rhode Island have favored the production of affordable rental homes, mandating a distribution of 80 percent rental homes to be funded against 20 percent ownership homes.



Source: HousingWorks RI's analysis of Rhode Island Housing's rental data

#### STABILIZING NEIGHBORHOODS, PROVIDING HOUSING HELP

#### HARDEST HIT FUND

In spring and summer of 2010, the U.S. Treasury announced that Rhode Island will receive nearly \$57 million in federal funding to help Rhode Islanders who at risk of losing their homes. Initially, the Treasury approved \$43 million through Hardest-Hit Funding, which was followed by an additional \$13.57 million to help unemployed Rhode Islanders pay their mortgage while they seek work. U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, along with U.S. Congressmen Patrick Kennedy and Jim Langevin, played a pivotal role in advocating for our state's overwhelming needs.

The Hardest Hit Fund Rhode Island (HHFRI) will focus on preventing avoidable foreclosures by targeting Rhode Island homeowners who are not able to make their mortgage payments due to a hardship such as job loss or underemployment. Through HHFRI, the \$43 million in Hardest-Hit Funding will be rolled out in stages to concentrate on the most heavily impacted communities in Rhode Island, starting with Providence, which statistically has been hardest hit by the foreclosure and unemployment crises. More than 24 percent of all foreclosures in Rhode Island in 2009 were in Providence, as well as 24 percent of unemployment claims. The program will then open up to 11 additional municipalities with the next highest foreclosure percentages and roll-out statewide within two months of the launch of HHFRI.32

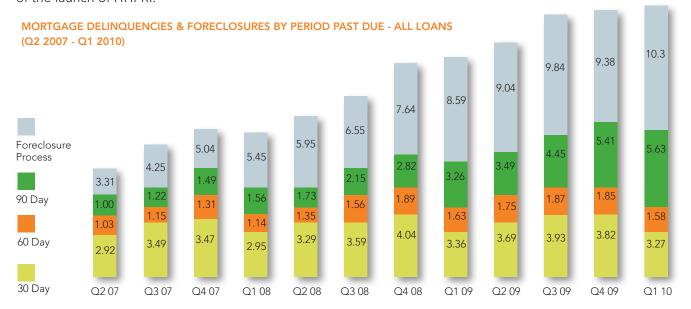
The additional \$13.57 million in funding is in the planning process as of the publication of this Fact Book. The Treasury awarded the funds to states experiencing high, sustained unemployment, with rates at or above the national average. As of June 2010, Rhode Island had the fourth highest rate of unemployment in the nation at 12 percent.

Together, the programs are expected to help approximately 6,000 families over the next 24 months.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM**

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program is a federal program that has been instrumental in assisting states and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties. Rhode Island received \$19.6 million in the first round of NSP funding to target 11 communities hardest hit by foreclosures.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act signed into law by President Obama this July included \$1 billion for a third round of NSP funding. In NSP3, all states, including Rhode Island, are ensured a small state minimum of funding, although final figures are still forthcoming.

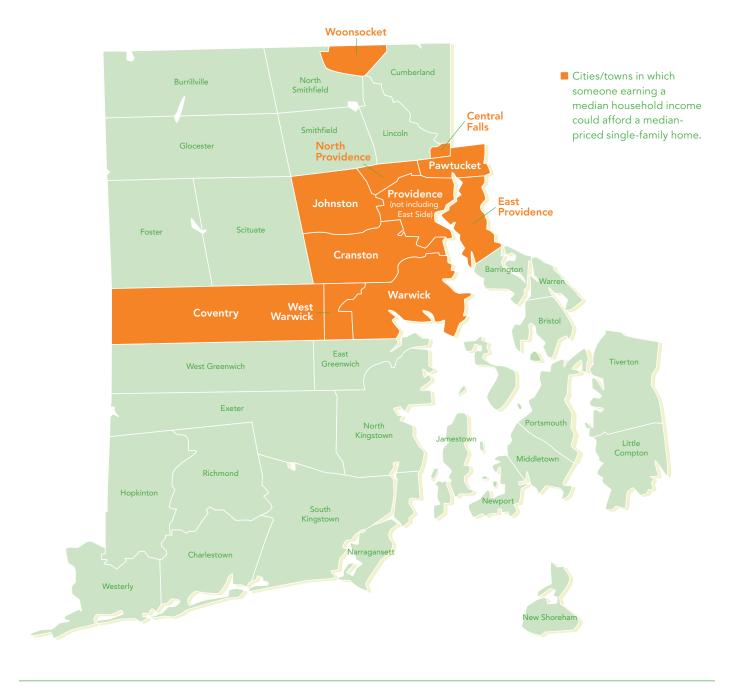


Sources: HousingWorks RI's analysis of National Delinquency Survey data

#### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN RHODE ISLAND

In 2009, a household earning the state's median household income of \$55,701 would only be able to afford a median-priced single-family home in 11 of R.I.'s 39 cities and towns.\*

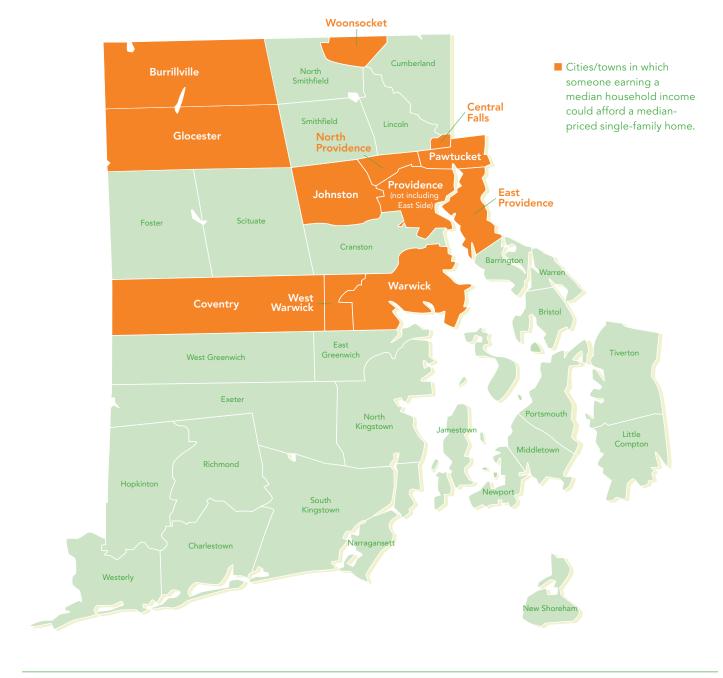
Rhode Island Percentage of Distressed Properties Sold Affecting Median Price (Year-End 2009) = 34%



<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

In the second quarter of 2010, a household earning the state's median household income of \$55,701 would only be able to afford a median-priced single-family home in 12 of R.I.'s 39 cities and towns.\*

Rhode Island Percentage of Distressed Properties Sold Affecting Median Price (2nd Quarter 2010) = 27%



<sup>\*</sup> Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.5%/month). This methodology differs from that of the 2009 Fact Book due to changes to federal standards by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The median Rhode Islander will need a down payment of \$11,495 to qualify for a home. This down payment is subtracted from the initial price, making homes seem more affordable than they are.

2009 RENTAL DATA **2010** 

## **2009 RENTAL DATA**

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City/Town	2009 Average Rent: 2-Bedroom Apartment	Income Needed per Year	Income Needed per Hour (37.5-hour work week)
Barrington	\$1,307	\$52,280	\$26.81
Bristol	\$1,263	\$50,520	\$25.91
Burrillville	\$1.228	\$49,120	\$25.19
Central Falls	\$902	\$36,080	\$18.50
Charlestown	*	*	*
Coventry	\$1,033	\$41,320	\$21.19
Cranston	\$1,089	\$43,560	\$22.34
Cumberland	\$1,170	\$46,800	\$24.00
East Greenwich	\$1,208	\$48,320	\$24.78
East Providence	\$1,085	\$43,400	\$22.26
Exeter	*	*	*
Foster	*	*	*
Glocester	*	*	*
Hopkinton	*	*	*
Jamestown	\$1,637	\$65,480	\$33.58
Johnston	\$1,128	\$45,120	\$23.14
Lincoln	\$1,179	\$47,160	\$24.18
Little Compton	*	*	*
Middletown	*	*	*
Narragansett	\$1,358	\$54,320	\$27.86
Newport	\$1,424	\$56,960	\$29.21
New Shoreham	*	*	*
North Kingstown	\$1,209	\$48,360	\$24.80
North Providence	\$1,085	\$43,400	\$22.26
North Smithfield	*	*	*
Pawtucket	\$982	\$39,280	\$20.14
Portsmouth	*	*	*
Providence (without East Side)	\$1,111	\$44,440	\$22.79
Richmond	*	*	*
Scituate	*	*	*
Smithfield	\$1,179	\$47,160	\$24.18
South Kingstown	\$1,204	\$48,160	\$24.70
Tiverton	*	*	*
Warren	*	*	*
Warwick	\$1,166	\$46,640	\$23.92
Westerly	\$1,166	\$46,640	\$23.92
West Greenwich	\$1,170	\$46,800	\$24.00
West Warwick	\$1,022	\$40,880	\$20.96
Woonsocket	\$948	\$37,920	\$19.45

<sup>\*</sup>Data not available

## 2010 SECOND QUARTER RENTAL DATA

City/Town	2nd Quarter 2010 Average Rent: 2-Bedroom Apartment	Income Needed per Year	Income Needed per Hour (37.5-hour work week)
Barrington	\$1,178	\$47,120	\$24.16
Bristol	\$1,195	\$47,800	\$24.51
Burrillville	\$1,313	\$52,520	\$26.93
Central Falls	\$884	\$35,360	\$18.13
Charlestown	*	*	*
Coventry	\$1,005	\$40,200	\$20.62
Cranston	\$1,206	\$48,240	\$24.74
Cumberland	\$1,022	\$40,880	\$20.96
East Greenwich	\$1,150	\$46,000	\$23.59
East Providence	\$1,049	\$41,960	\$21.52
Exeter	*	*	*
Foster	*	*	*
Glocester	*	*	*
Hopkinton	*	*	*
Jamestown	\$1,276	\$51,040	\$26.17
Johnston	\$1,104	\$44,160	\$22.65
Lincoln	\$1,186	\$47,440	\$24.33
Little Compton	*	*	*
Middletown	\$1,191	*	*
Narragansett	\$1,283	\$51,320	\$26.32
Newport	\$1,290	\$51,600	\$26.46
New Shoreham	*	*	*
North Kingstown	\$1,235	\$49,400	\$25.33
North Providence	\$1,112	\$44,480	\$22.81
North Smithfield	*	*	*
Pawtucket	\$1,001	\$40,040	\$20.53
Portsmouth	*	*	*
Providence (citywide)	\$1,072	\$42,880	\$21.99
Richmond	*	*	*
Scituate	*	*	*
Smithfield	\$1,250	\$50,000	\$25.64
South Kingstown	\$1,182	\$47,280	\$24.25
Tiverton	*	*	*
Warren	\$1,008	\$40,320	\$20.68
Warwick	\$1,125	\$45,000	\$23.08
Westerly	\$1,124	\$44,960	\$23.06
West Greenwich	*	*	*
West Warwick	\$1,075	\$43,000	\$22.05
Woonsocket	\$886	\$35,440	\$18.17

<sup>\*</sup>Data not available

2009 HOMES SALES DATA 2010

## **2009 SALES DATA**

52

City/Town	Median Price: Single-Family Home (2nd Quarter 2010)	Monthly Housing Payment	Income Needed per Year	Income Needed per Hour (37.5 hour work week)	Percentage of Distressed Properties		
Affecting Rhode Island Percentage of Distressed Properties Sold Affecting Median Price (Year-End 2009) = <b>34%</b> Median Price							
Barrington	\$305,500	\$2,143	\$85,704	\$43.95	11%		
Bristol	\$250,000	\$1,645	\$65,795	\$33.74	21%		
Burrillville	\$211,250	\$1,439	\$57,553	\$29.51	33%		
Central Falls	\$90,000	\$634	\$25,345	\$13.00	64%		
Charlestown	\$288,000	\$1,815	\$72,618	\$37.24	21%		
Coventry	\$187,000	\$1,325	\$52,992	\$27.18	32%		
Cranston	\$178,700	\$1,323	\$52,921	\$27.14	35%		
Cumberland	\$242,750	\$1,648	\$65,931	\$33.81	26%		
East Greenwich	\$425,000	\$2,976	\$119,054	\$61.05	15%		
East Providence	\$190,000	\$1,345	\$53,785	\$27.58	30%		
Exeter	\$285,000	\$1,957	\$78,271	\$40.14	22%		
Foster	\$255,000	\$1,820	\$72,800	\$37.33	31%		
Glocester	\$205,000	\$1,490	\$59,584	\$30.56	38%		
Hopkinton	\$250,000	\$1,737	\$69,478	\$35.63	33%		
Jamestown	\$525,750	\$3,294	\$131,759	\$67.57	13%		
Johnston	\$174,700	\$1,300	\$52,011	\$26.67	46%		
Lincoln	\$241,000	\$1,732	\$69,273	\$35.52	27%		
Little Compton	\$462,500	\$2,770	\$110,800	\$56.82	18%		
Middletown	\$295,000	\$2,001	\$80,028	\$41.04	23%		
Narragansett	\$337,000	\$2,146	\$85,845	\$44.02	10%		
Newport	\$360,000	\$2,235	\$93,014	\$47.70	18%		
New Shoreham	\$620,000	\$3,640	\$145,587	\$74.66	*		
North Kingstown	\$292,000	\$1,999	\$79,949	\$41.00	23%		
North Providence	\$177,000	\$1,319	\$52,759	\$27.06	38%		
North Smithfield	\$235,000	\$1,616	\$64,623	\$33.14	30%		
Pawtucket	\$149,900	\$1,103	\$44,114	\$22.62	41%		
Portsmouth	\$280,000	\$1,856	\$74,242	\$38.07	19%		
Providence (without East Side)	\$85,000	\$697	\$27,875	\$14.30	65%		
Richmond	\$265,000	\$1,841	\$73,635	\$37.76	26%		
Scituate	\$245,000	\$1,900	\$75,985	\$38.97	31%		
Smithfield	\$230,000	\$1,587	\$63,491	\$32.56	23%		
South Kingstown	\$286,250	\$1,916	\$76,628	\$39.30	16%		
Tiverton	\$215,500	\$1,498	\$59,905	\$30.72	30%		
Warren	\$236,000	\$1,617	\$64,699	\$33.18	28%		
Warwick	\$168,000	\$1,178	\$47,113	\$24.16	41%		
Westerly	\$282,000	\$1,812	\$72,499	\$37.18	17%		
West Greenwich	\$257,500	\$1,864	\$74,546	\$38.23	40%		
West Warwick	\$155,000	\$1,126	\$45,037	\$23.10	47%		
Woonsocket	\$150,000	\$1,161	\$46,432	\$23.81	55%		

<sup>\*</sup>Data not available

## 2010 SECOND QUARTER SALES DATA

City/Town	Median Price: Single-Family Home (2nd Quarter 2010)	Monthly Housing Payment	Income Needed per Year	Income Needed per Hour (37.5 hour work week)			
Rhode Island Percentage of Distressed Properties Sold Affecting Median Price (2nd Qtr. 2010) = <b>27%</b>							
Barrington	\$354,500	\$2,477	\$99,065	\$50.80			
Bristol	\$295,000	\$1,930	\$77,206	\$39.59			
Burrillville	\$194,500	\$1,329	\$53,180	\$27.27			
Central Falls	\$77,000	\$551	\$22,031	\$11.30			
Charlestown	\$302,000	\$1,901	\$76,031	\$38.99			
Coventry	\$182,500	\$1,294	\$51,775	\$26.55			
Cranston	\$190,000	\$1,403	\$56,115	\$28.78			
Cumberland	\$256,000	\$1,735	\$69,398	\$35.59			
East Greenwich	\$450,000	\$3,148	\$125,916	\$64.57			
East Providence	\$188,000	\$1,331	\$53,244	\$27.30			
Exeter	\$295,000	\$2,023	\$80,933	\$41.50			
Foster	\$258,000	\$1,841	\$73,628	\$37.76			
Glocester	\$185,500	\$1,354	\$54,144	\$27.77			
Hopkinton	\$226,000	\$1,576	\$63,039	\$32.33			
Jamestown	\$472,500	\$2,966	\$118,657	\$60.85			
Johnston	\$165,000	\$1,231	\$49,257	\$25.26			
Lincoln	\$258,450	\$1,853	\$74,115	\$38.01			
Little Compton	\$408,500	\$2,454	\$98,144	\$50.33			
Middletown	\$315,000	\$2,132	\$85,291	\$43.74			
Narragansett	\$330,000	\$2,103	\$84,112	\$43.13			
Newport	\$365,000	\$2,357	\$94,272	\$48.34			
New Shoreham	\$1,000,000*	\$5,834	\$233,346	\$119.66			
North Kingstown	\$301,450	\$2,061	\$82,459	\$42.29			
North Providence	\$180,000	\$1,340	\$53,612	\$27.49			
North Smithfield	\$250,000	\$1,715	\$68,595	\$35.18			
Pawtucket	\$151,250	\$1,112	\$44,490	\$22.82			
Portsmouth	\$275,000	\$1,824	\$72,959	\$37.42			
Providence (without East Side)	\$124,500	\$993	\$39,714	\$20.37			
Richmond	\$225,000	\$1,572	\$62,883	\$32.25			
Scituate	\$244,000	\$1,892	\$75,684	\$38.81			
Smithfield	\$217,500	\$1,504	\$60,171	\$30.86			
South Kingstown	\$292,000	\$1,953	\$78,119	\$40.06			
Tiverton	\$202,475	\$1,411	\$56,430	\$28.94			
Warren	\$206,900	\$1,425	\$57,017	\$29.24			
Warwick	\$169,300	\$1,186	\$47,459	\$24.34			
Westerly	\$250,000	\$1,614	\$64,545	\$33.10			
West Greenwich	\$214,000	\$1,559	\$62,358	\$31.98			
West Warwick	\$175,000	\$1,263	\$50,539	\$25.92			
Woonsocket	\$136,500	\$1,062	\$42,469	\$21.78			

\*First Quarter

# WHERE DID THE NUMBERS AND RESEARCH INFORMATION IN THIS BOOK COME FROM?

The data and research presented in this book were obtained from the latest official, industry, and other expert sources as well as from academic research databases, professional journals, and other peer-reviewed research sources. For links to these sources and more information on housing in Rhode Island, visit www.HousingWorksRl.org.

#### **HOUSING - General & Local Data**

#### Median sales price of single-family homes

Source: Second Quarter 2010, Year-End 2009 and 1999 Single-Family Home Sales Statistics, from www.riliving.com, web site of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors and Statewide Multiple Listing Service.

#### Typical monthly housing payment

Methodology: Calculated using a 30-year mortgage at 5.04 percent (Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey conventional, conforming 30-year fixed rate mortgages series annual average, 2009—www.freddiemac.com) with a 5.75 percent down payment and including property taxes for each town, hazard insurance (\$60/month), and private mortgage insurance (0.6% per month).

#### Average monthly rent

Source: 2010 Second Quarter Rent Survey and 2009 Year-End Rent Survey, Rhode Island Housing (www.rhodeislandhousing.org).

## Household income required to afford the median-priced home and average rent

Methodology: Based on the generally accepted federal standard that a household should spend no more than 30 percent of its monthly income on monthly housing payments (including rent or mortgage, utilities, taxes, and insurance).

## Number of year-round housing units and housing units that qualify as affordable

Source: 2009 Low and Moderate Income Housing Chart, Rhode Island Housing (www.rhodeislandhousing.org).

Homes funded through Building Homes Rhode Island Source: RI Housing Resources Commission, Rhode Island Housing (www.rhodeislandhousing.org).

# Average wage for a private sector job in each city/town Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages – Private Sector, RI City and Town – 4th Quarter 2009, Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/town/qcew07.htm).

## Additional housing units necessary to meet the 10 percent threshold

Methodology: Calculated by subtracting the number of units that qualify as affordable from 10 percent of the city or town's number of year-round housing units. (The Low and Moderate Income Housing Act established a goal that 10 percent of each community's housing stock be affordable to people with low or moderate incomes. In order to count toward that threshold, a home must be subsidized by a federal, state, or municipal government subsidy under any program to assist the construction or rehabilitation of housing affordable to low or moderate income households and must remain affordable through a land lease and/or deed restriction for no less than 30 years from initial occupancy.)

#### **HOUSEHOLD BUDGET**

#### Food

Official USDA Food Plans, U.S. Average, June 2010 (family of 4: couple, 19-50 years and children 2-3 & 4-5 years)

#### **Transportation**

2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey (www.bls.gov/cex), using the average costs for a family of 4, which includes gas, motor oil, vehicle finance charges, maintenance and repairs, and vehicle insurance.

#### Childcare

Rhode Island Department of Human Services and Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training, 2006 Child Care Market Rate Survey (http://www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/famchild/childcare\_study\_07.pdf). Using the 75th percentile cost of all provider-based care for toddler and school-age child (before and after school time).

#### **Health Insurance**

Rhode Island Poverty Institute, The 2008 Rhode Island Standard of Need. The cost of meeting basic medical needs for a two-parent family with a toddler and school-aged child.

#### Utilities

2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey (www.bls.gov/cex/2008/Standard/cucomp.pdf), using annual average for a family of 4.

#### Mortgage, Property Tax & Insurance

Median priced single-family home in Rhode Island using year-end 2009 data, calculating a 30-year mortgage at 5.04% interest with a 5.75% down payment and including property taxes, hazard insurance (\$60/month) and private mortgage insurance (0.6%/month).

#### Median Household Income in Rhode Island

US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2009 (data released on August/October of every year for previous year surveyed).

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- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.
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- <sup>4</sup> HousingWorks RI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's Manufacturing, Mining, and Construction Statistics building permit data for Rhode Island.
- <sup>5</sup> Providence Journal, (November 20, 2009) In Providence, a crescent of green business sprouts.
- 6 Although sustainable techniques and design can be traced back centuries, the modern concepts of "green" and "healthy" development appeared on the global scene in 1962, the year in which biologist Rachel Carson published "Silent Spring" and the global community started to understand the critical connection between "green" and economic development. In 1983, the U.N. World Commission on Environment and Development raised global awareness on "the accelerating deterioration of the human environment and natural resources, and the consequences of that deterioration for economic and social development." The now popular concept of "sustainable development" and the connection between housing and sustainability were then introduced.
- New Ecology, Inc. (2005). The Costs and Benefits of Green Affordable Housing. Boston, MA.
- <sup>8</sup> Please see list of literature on "Costs of 'Green'" on page 56.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid. 7.
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- <sup>12</sup> HousingWorks RI's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey data and 2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey data (using the average costs for a family of four).
- <sup>13</sup> Global Green USA (2007). Blueprint for Green Affordable Housing.
- HousingWorks RI's analysis of Consumer Expenditure Survey data (see The Household Budget on page 18), and a sample of 21 green residential buildings in northern US cities.
- <sup>15</sup> Energy Star® is a program that was first developed in 1992 by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a method to identify and promote products that are energy efficient.
- <sup>16</sup> Formaldehyde is a noxious gas used to manufacture many building materials and household products.
- <sup>17</sup> LED (Light Emitting Diode) lighting uses at least 75% less energy, lasts 25 times longer than incandescent lighting and provides optimal light color.

- <sup>18</sup> Low VOC materials have reduced levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These materials are more environmentally friendly and healthier for residents.
- <sup>19</sup> Photovoltaic (PV) power converts solar radiation by use of solar panels.
- <sup>20</sup> Please see list of literature on "Sustainable Homes and Health" on page 56.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health (2007). Healthy Housing: Why Rhode Island Should Invest in the Vision.
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#### **ONLINE TOOLS AND WEB SITES**

Affordable Housing Design Advisor www.designadvisor.org The Affordable Housing Design Advisor is a CD-ROM based tool designed to help the developers, sponsors and users of affordable housing understand what constitutes quality design and how to achieve it.

#### Affordable Housing Institute

www.affordablehousinginstitute.org/index.php

This Web site provides a collection of documents and resources, U.S. and international affordable housing

weblogs and information about the services provided by AHI. AHI works with governments, NGO's and stakeholders to design, develop, pilot and improve housing finance policies and programs.

#### **Building Better Communities Network**

www.bettercommunities.org

This Web site offers information on managing community concerns, barriers to development, creating a positive climate for supportive housing as well as NIMBY reports, success stories, news, monthly analyses, links to experts and a discussion board.

#### Department of Housing and Urban Development

www.hud.gov/initiatives/affordablecom.cfm

This Web site offers information about HUD programs, grant opportunities and HUD's Affordable Communities Initiative, with resources on best practices and strategies to address regulatory barriers to the development of affordable housing.

#### Foreclosure-Response.org www.foreclosure-response.org

Foreclosure-Response.org is a Web site offering resources intended to help states and localities respond to the foreclosure crisis. This site is maintained by the Center for Housing Policy, KnowledgePlex, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Urban Institute.

#### GeoLytics http://www.geolytics.com

GeoLytics provides demographic data, census demographics, market research data, and geocoding for social researchers and business marketing. GeoLytics' easy-to-use software comes with built-in mapping capabilities that create thematic maps for instant spatial display of demographic information.

#### HousingPolicy.org http://forum.housingpolicy.org

HousingPolicy.org is an online guide to state and local housing policy developed and maintained by the Center for Housing Policy, the research affiliate of the National Housing Conference. The purpose of HousingPolicy.org is to collect and provide examples of proven solutions for expanding the availability of homes for working families and others in your community.

#### HousingWire http://www.housingwire.com

HousingWire.com and HousingWire Magazine are independent sources for news, commentary and analysis covering the entire mortgage banking and financial markets. HousingWire's online and print media platforms focus on connecting the primary and secondary mortgage markets.

## **HUD USER – HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research** www.huduser.org

HUD USER is a primary source for federal government reports and information on housing policy and programs, building technology, economic development, urban planning, and other housing-related topics.

#### Joint Center for Housing Studies www.jchs.harvard.edu

This Web site from the Joint Center for Housing Studies (Harvard University, the Kennedy School of Government and the Graduate School of Design) provides reports, working papers, conference proceedings and research notes from 1997 to the present in several broad housing categories.

#### Knowledgeplex www.knowledgeplex.org

"The affordable housing and community development resource for professionals." It offers a searchable publications database on the topics of affordable housing, economic revitalization, homelessness, land use and housing planning, organizational development and many other related topics. The Web site also features expert chats, podcasts, news, an RSS feed, and tools which can be embedded by Web site developers onto other organizations' Web sites.

National Low Income Housing Coalition www.nlihc.org
This Web site includes the NIMBY Report and many other articles on affordable housing, news, legislative and public policy reports and studies and an advocate's guide.

#### Planetizen www.planetizen.com

Planetizen is a public-interest information exchange for the urban planning, design, and development community. It is a onestop source for urban planning news, commentary, interviews, event coverage, book reviews, announcements, jobs, consultant listings, training, and more. Planetizen's content covers a wide number of planning, design, and development issues, from transportation to global warming, architecture to infrastructure, housing and community development to historic preservation.

#### **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

## The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Initiative

In June 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency formed the historical interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities to break down traditional silos. Together, the Partnership will work to provide working families with access to affordable housing, more transportation options, lower transportation costs, and more sustainable opportunities in housing and community development.

In June 2010, the partnership announced funding availability for \$75 million. The joint announcement included \$35 million in TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) II Planning Grants and \$40 million Sustainable Community Challenge Grants. The TIGER II funds will be used to plan, prepare, or design a variety of transportation infrastructure projects, while the Sustainable Community Challenge Grants will be used to help communities implement the necessary reforms to encourage and promote sustainable neighborhoods and smart growth.

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development's FY 2010 Budget included \$150 million for the Department's Sustainable Communities Initiative. The funding for the Sustainable Communities Initiative is intended to support the development of integrated land use, transportation, housing, and energy programs that promote smart growth and healthy, sustainable communities. (For detailed information about Sustainable Communities, visit www.hud.gov)

#### Enterprise Community Partners' Green Communities Created in 2004 in consultation with some of the nation's lea

Created in 2004 in consultation with some of the nation's leading environmental, public health, and green building experts, Enterprise Green Communities is the first national green build-

ing program developed for affordable housing. This ambitious program focuses on the use of environmentally sustainable materials, reduction of negative environmental impacts, and increased energy efficiency—with an emphasis on healthy and transit-oriented designs.

Enterprise set out to prove that it was possible to bring the health, economic, and environmental benefits of green building to low-income and working families nationwide. Through grants, loans, tax-credit equity, training, and technical assistance, Green Communities helps developers, investors, builders, and residents make the transition to a greener future for affordable housing.

In just five years, Green Communities has invested \$700 million to build and preserve nearly 16,000 green affordable homes while transforming local, state, and national policies. Green Communities homes are built according to the ground-breaking Green Communities Criteria, the first national framework for healthy, efficient, environmentally smart affordable homes. Enterprise Green Communities Criteria has demonstrated to be a cost-effective investment. Meeting the Enterprise Green Communities Criteria requires an upfront investment of only 2 percent above total conventional development costs of building affordable housing, and significantly reduces long-term operating costs.

The next generation of Enterprise Green Communities launched on October of 2009 with a national call to action and a \$4 billion commitment to green affordable housing. (For more information about Enterprise Green Communities and the Green Communities Criteria, visit www.greencommunitieson-line.org)

#### U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Program

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction to building owners and operators, offering a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

Since its inception in 1998, LEED has grown to encompass over 14,000 projects in 50 states and 30 countries. The hallmark of LEED is that it is an open and transparent process where the technical criteria proposed by the LEED committees are publicly reviewed for approval by the more than 10,000 membership organizations that currently constitute the USGBC. In short, LEED offers a third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

In April of 2009, USGBC launched LEED v3. The ability to be flexible allows LEED to evolve, taking advantage of new technologies and advancements in building science while prioritizing energy efficiency and CO2 emissions reductions. (For more information visit www.usgbc.org)

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT & THANKS**

The HousingWorks RI Fact Book is always a collective endeavor and would not have been possible without the dedication, input and energy of the following people: Terri Barbosa, Susan Bodington, Sheila Brush, Jessica Buhler, Stephanie Geller, Karen Jeffreys, Douglas Kallfelz, Mark Kravatz, Ian Lang, Arianne Lynch, Margaux Morisseau, Jennifer Pereira, Amy Rainone, Barbara Silvis, Lauren Slocum, Richard Staples, Nancy Whit, Peter Walsh and all our dedicated Board and Communications Committee members. We also appreciate Brenda Sajche for sharing her personal story. Finally, we also appreciate the investment of funds and other resources provided by our funders: The Rhode Island Foundation, Rhode Island Housing, and the United Way of Rhode Island.

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