<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Content</th>
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</table>
| 03 | OUR MISSION  
Working to support Rhode Island small businesses. |
| 04 | YEAR IN REVIEW: RHODY RESILIENT  
Executing the Northeast region’s fastest economic recovery. |
| 16 | GROWING OUR PRESENCE  
Supporting existing businesses, attracting new companies, and planting our flag at the epicenter of burgeoning sectors. |
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Showcasing our strengths. |
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Our Mission

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation works with public, private and nonprofit partners to create the conditions for businesses in all sectors to thrive and to improve the quality of life for our residents by promoting the state’s long-term economic health and prosperity. We offer business assistance, access to funding and red tape reduction for companies of all sizes.

As a quasi-public agency, we are the official full-service, economic development organization for the state of Rhode Island. We serve as a government and community resource to help businesses expand in, and relocate to, Rhode Island.

www.CommerceRI.com
Year in review: Rhody Resilient
Fiscal Year 2021 was marked by the severe, far-reaching, life-altering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again, Rhode Island rose to the challenge.

We came together as a state—39 cities and towns strong—and put our creativity, compassion, and resilience on full display. We found ways to keep crucial sectors of our economy running, and we delivered much-needed support to many small businesses that were hit the hardest. And when it was safe to do so, we swiftly and strategically executed a statewide reopening process to return to a new normal.

Indeed, Rhode Island’s recovery is well under way. Thanks to our state’s strong leadership and momentum is back, and we’re building on it continuing to collaborate and invest in economic development programs we know make a

more suitable, and more resilient economic future for Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Stefan Pryor
Commerce Secretary
State of Rhode Island
Rhode Island, like the rest of the country and much of the world, was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses were forced to close and adapt, and hard-working people were out of work. These were exceptionally difficult times, but it was our reality.

From offering one-on-one assistance to impacted businesses, to administering more than $100 million in federally funded relief grants, Rhode Island Commerce worked with the state’s business community to mitigate the damage of the pandemic, get Rhode Islanders back to work, and put our economy on the road to recovery.

**Assisted impacted businesses**

Since the onset of the pandemic, the State of Rhode Island worked quickly to distribute more than $100 million in federal funds through more than 9,000 individual grants.

**Crucial sectors remained open**

Throughout the entire pandemic, we worked hard to ensure Rhode Island’s manufacturing and construction industries longstanding bedrocks of our statewide economy could remain open. By the end of FY 21, these industries had already regained all the lost at the onset of the health crisis.

**Fastest recovery in the region**

Thanks to the state’s swift, strategic reopening process, our unemployment rate was cut in half between July marking the fastest and strongest economic recovery in the Northeast.
Year in review:

COVID Assistance
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act included economic stimulus funding provided to the State by the federal government to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

During FY 21, Rhode Island Commerce worked
portion of more than $87.6 million in federal funding to local businesses. Other programs were administered by the Rhode Island Division of Taxation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restore RI</td>
<td>$52,811,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>$2,223,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels, Arts &amp; Tourism (HArT)</td>
<td>$15,062,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief Grants</td>
<td>$18,490,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take it Outside</td>
<td>$7,444,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Adaptation Grants</td>
<td>$3,467,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Loan Fund</td>
<td>$3,565,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Work</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“As a small design and media agency, our revenues have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our ability to work from home was limited to communication and minimal design work via a 10-year-old laptop. We are so appreciative to have been the recipient of a grant, as administered by the RI Remote Work Grant Program through District Hall Providence.

We are already reaping the rewards of the investment in this grant, as it makes us more invent our business among the constantly-changing environment that is now our reality.”

Kristen O’Grady, Agency Principal, Inkwell Communications
The Rhode Island Small Business Relief Grant Program provided $5,000 grants for Rhode Island small businesses that suffered financially due to COVID-19.

The $6.1 million HArT Engagement, Service and Resiliency (ESR) Grant Program provided funding to nearly 80 hospitality, arts, culture and tourism organizations to help them implement programming and activities that were cost-prohibitive due to COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, the HArT program provided direct financial support to Rhode Island’s Arts & Culture ($4.25M), Hotels ($3.7M), and Tourism ($890K) sectors.

The Take it Outside Grant Program was designed to help businesses increase outdoor activity and capacity during a time in which reducing the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings was a top public health priority. More than 109 intermediary organizations were awarded grants to cover the cost of producing outdoor events and procuring items such as heat lamps, tents and tables.

Technical Assistance Grant Program included direct funding to help businesses access assistance from professionals such as CPAs and financial advisors, these funds assisted small businesses impacted by the pandemic with the process to secure federal funds and adapt to the new economic landscape.

The Restore RI Small Business Grant Program provided grants of up to $30,000 to help local small businesses cover reopening, adaptation and other fixed costs incurred as a result of the pandemic. The program awarded funding to more than 4,100 local organizations, including 900+ restaurants, 350+ arts, recreation and fitness businesses, 600+ personal service businesses, 460+ retail establishments, 200+ nonprofits, and 900+ sole proprietors.

The Business Adaptation Grant Program is targeted for companies that were dramatically constrained and significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The Remote Work Grant Program was awarded to 389 businesses representing 37 of Rhode Island’s 39 cities and towns, including 246 businesses owned by women, people of color, veterans, low-to-moderate income individuals or individuals with disabilities. These funds helped awardees procure more than 2,000 units of technology that allowed more than 2,300 employees to work either fully or partially remotely.
Year in review:

Supporting small business
It’s clear that the small business community is important to our statewide economy.

When small businesses were forced to navigate restrictions and overhaul their routines during the pandemic, Rhode Island Commerce strived to provide a helping hand.

We reorganized our team to significantly increase the capacity of our in-house “Business Helpline,” covering a wide range of topics, from how to apply for federal funding through the Paycheck Protection Program, to how to understand the

our reopening process.

In FY 21:

More than 7,200 businesses assisted with grants from COVID-impacted businesses
Rhode Island Commerce remained committed to helping members of our state’s small business community access innovative loan programs to help them grow and thrive during uncertainty.

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation issued two bonds in FY 21, totaling $20.4 million, to help facilitate projects at the Quonset Development Corporation and the Greater Providence YMCA.

Programs Rhode Island Commerce supported during FY 21 include:

- Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP)
  Originally capitalized with $5.45 million made available from debt restructuring, the SBAP is a first-in-memory, State-financed loan program that provides much-needed capital to Rhode Island’s small business community. The program is designed to support businesses with 200 employees or less that are experiencing difficulty obtaining financing from traditional lenders.

Total results for FY 21 include:

- $22,283,154 total loan amount leveraged through lending partners*
- 168 loans closed through FY 21
- 51.3% WBE/MBE

*Lending partners include BDCRI, BDC-RI Capital Access Program, CIC, SEED, SEG and RIBBA
When we started our business, we could not find sufficient funding through traditional sources… no commercial bank would lend to us with our lack of business ownership experience. We were rescued by Commerce RI and their referral to work with the Business Development Company (BDC). This lending allowed Shaidzon to exist and has since led us to greater financial success and freedom as we have been able to succeed and pay off our loans. We would recommend the Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) to anyone starting a small business and seeking funding.

— Shaidzon Beer Co.

The SBLF provides up to $500,000 in working capital to existing manufacturing, processing and selected SBLF is a proven ob-creator for small- and mid-sized businesses.

Program results through the end of FY 21 include:

funding through traditional sources no commercial bank would lend to us with our lack of business ownership experience. We were rescued by Commerce RI and their referral to work with the Business Development Company (BDC). This lending allowed success and freedom as we have been able to succeed and Assistance Program (SBAP) to anyone starting a small business and seeking funding.”

Shaidzon Beer Co.

RIIFC issues taxable and tax-exempt revenue bonds for companies exploring manufacturing proects as well as businesses that want to branch out into a commercial enterprise, including building tourist-travel facilities. RIIFC bonds can cover up to 100% of projects’ costs including land, new machinery, building costs, and other eligible expenditures.

Program results through the end of FY 21 include:

 RIIFC

Bond recipients included

Narragansett Brewery, Newport Craft Brewing and the National Sailing Hall of Fame

**All insured by the Rhode Island Industrial-Recreational Building Authority (RIIRBA)
Beyond lending programs, Rhode Island Commerce also works every day to help local small businesses forge connections and partnerships with organizations who need their products and services. Programs include:

SupplyRI

Boasting a database of more than 1,910 local suppliers (20% of which are certified MBE/WBE/VBE), SupplyRI helps connect businesses with opportunities to grow and expand, and acts as a conduit between these suppliers and 15 large Rhode Island Institutions (Anchors*) across a variety of sectors.

Program results through the end of FY 21 include:

*Anchor companies include: Amica, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Brown University, CVS Health, Care New England, Citizens Bank, Delta Dental of Rhode Island, General Dynamics Electric Boat, Gilbane, Infosys, Lifespan, Ørsted, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island School of Design, and Shawmut Design & Construction.
PTAC helps businesses navigate the complexities of contracting with federal agencies, state purchasing departments and local governments.

423 businesses supported during FY 21 (24% YoY increase)

$446.56 million in federal contracts (54% YoY increase) secured with our assistance

$15.3 million in state contracts secured with our assistance

“The on-going support we receive from PTAC is phenomenal, our advisor is incredibly knowledgeable and very proactive in assisting us. Having this resource is invaluable.”

Waterline Systems

“SupplyRI and their team work hard every day, alone and in collaboration with SCORE, to ensure that our business community has the information and resources they need. They strengthen business-to-business connections that have a direct, positive impact on Rhode Island’s economy.”

Rochelle Blease, Co-Chair, SCORE
Growing our presence:

Business Development
During this time of change and uncertainty, the Rhode Island Commerce team was focused on helping local, existing companies navigate the pandemic, while also remaining committed to attracting new businesses in growth sectors such as offshore wind, life sciences, warehouse distribution and manufacturing.
Rhode Island Commerce programs to help businesses set up shop, grow, and create jobs in Rhode Island. Program results in FY 21 include:

Rebuild Rhode Island: Long-Term Impact
Since its creation in 2015, the Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit Program has helped or is in the process of helping over 50 projects move forward. The impact of this program is estimated to be nearly $3.08 billion in construction projects and over 12,000 direct construction jobs. This program has a strong track record for putting hard-working Rhode Islanders to work across the state.

Qualified Jobs Incentive Program
The Qualified Jobs Incentive Tax Credit Program helps Rhode Island businesses land in Rhode Island or expand their workforces. In FY 21, Infosys doubled down on their commitment to Rhode Island thanks to the Qualified Jobs Tax Credit Program. They had previously committed to bringing 500 jobs to the state, and in FY 21, they increased that commitment to 1,000 jobs. Infosys is a global leader in consulting, technology, and next-generation services.

Through redeemable tax credits covering up to 20% - and, in some cases, 30% - of project costs, Rebuild Rhode Island can fill the financing gap for real estate projects that cannot raise sufficient funding.

13 projects approved
$572.5m total project costs
1,500+ direct construction jobs

$13+ construction activity leveraged from every $1 Rebuild RI investment approved

Since its creation in 2015, the Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit Program has helped or is in the process of helping over 50 projects move forward. The impact of this program is estimated to be nearly $3.08 billion in construction projects and over 12,000 direct construction jobs. This program has a strong track record for putting hard-working Rhode Islanders to work across the state.
Rhode Island is a place where great ideas come to life. Through a diverse suite of innovation incentive programs, Rhode Island Commerce works to help small businesses grow here in Rhode Island, while enhancing the state’s pool of workforce-ready talent.

Innovation Vouchers

Designed to help Rhode Island small businesses unlock research & development capacity, the Innovation Voucher Program offers funding of up to $50,000 for eligible companies with 500 employees or less.

Innovation Network Matching Grants

Innovation Network Matching Grants are provided to organizations to support existing efforts to offer technical assistance, space on flexible terms, and/or access to capital to Rhode Island small businesses in key industries. These grants require at least a 50% match from the applicant.

Collaborative Research Grants

The Collaborative Research Grant program provides funding to projects that focus on building research capacity across institutions and advancing the competitiveness of RI researchers to secure additional funding.

Wavemaker Fellowship

Administered by Rhode Island Commerce, the Wavemaker Fellowship program provides student loan debt relief to qualified candidates working in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and design fields in Rhode Island. The program offers qualifying individuals a refundable tax credit certificate equal to the value of their annual student loan burden for up to four years.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) & Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Matching Grants

Developed through the Rhode Island Science & Technology Advisory Council (STAC), these funding opportunities aim to help small businesses access the capital they need to expand in Rhode Island.

- **2021 Awards**
  - **Innovation Vouchers**: $249,972 total awarded, 5 vouchers awarded.
  - **Collaborative Research Grants**: 2 grants awarded, $393,875 total awarded, 160 fellows accepted, $1.2m in student loan debt relief.
  - **Wavemaker Fellowship**: 11 Phase 0 grants awarded (Proposal Incentive Grants), $33,000 awarded; 11 Phase I grants awarded, $410,951 awarded; 5 Phase II grants awarded, $388,700 awarded.
Headquartered in Bristol (previously East Greenwich), Flux Marine is advancing electric marine propulsion technology to deliver the world’s best boating experiences. Flux Marine used its $50,000 Innovation Voucher to continue its collaborative research work with the IYRS School of Technology & Trades to evaluate advanced composite materials to displace metal components used in ship engine parts such as the propeller. A few months later, Flux Marine debuted its new electric outboard line at the Newport International Boat Show, where the company took home two separate best-in-class awards.

Today, as of this writing in mid-2022, Flux Marine has recently secured $15.5 million in private investment funding, and is moving on its plans to open a new manufacturing facility in Bristol and grow its local workforce to nearly 90 full-time professionals.
Tourism & Marketing: Marketing overview
While the focus of Rhode Island Commerce during FY 2021 was on the local small business community, our always-on commitment to showcasing the state on national and global levels never stopped.

Our prudent marketing investments and consistent push for earned media coverage helped keep Rhode Island on the map as a destination for business ventures and tourism process of rebuilding economic momentum.
Tourism & Marketing

Marketing efforts: by the numbers

Our FY 21 marketing efforts led to significant year-over-year increases in total media impressions and engagements, as well as an increase in unique visitors to our websites. A full breakdown of marketing efforts and results in FY 21 includes:

Investments summary

Advertising & Media $1.4M (total investment)
$2.7M (hotel revenue generated)
232,433 hotel searches
9,472 hotel bookings
57,908 flight searched
3,652 flights booked

Earned Media & Public Relations 163 total earned media placements
1.44B total impressions
$21.1M advertising value

Social Media 39.47M total impressions
1.34M total engagements (22% YoY increase)
394K link clicks

VisitRhodeIsland.com 2.3M page views (17.6% YoY increase)
Held from April 17-30, 2021, the 2nd Annual Rhode Island Hotel Week celebrated our state's vibrant tourism industry a sector that was severely impacted by the pandemic.

Through traditional media outreach, advertising highlighted the state's status as a year-round, world-class destination.


With a budget of roughly $154,000, strategically reached the right audiences from across the country and around the world.

We added a new, tourism-focused TikTok account to our existing lineup of social media channels, and amplified Hotel Week to a broad audience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>158m</th>
<th>$2.37m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>earned media impressions</td>
<td>earned advertising revenue</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14m+</th>
<th>20k+</th>
<th>1,754</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>impressions</td>
<td>clicks to the website</td>
<td>hotel bookings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10.1m</th>
<th>165k</th>
<th>87k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total social media impressions</td>
<td>total social media engagements</td>
<td>link clicks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel restrictions brought Rhode Island's group tour industry—a critical, $250 million piece of the state's overarching tourism sector—to a halt during the first half of FY 21. During this pause period, Rhode Island Commerce continued to engage with tour operators so that when it was safe to do, we would be ready to jumpstart this industry and rebuild momentum.

As the tourism industry continues to recover, the outlook for group tours is extremely positive.
While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented Rhode Island Commerce from attending international trade missions to showcase the state on a global stage did not stop.

As the world pivoted to virtual meetings, so did
The future of Rhode Island’s economy is bright blue. Boasting nearly 400 miles of coastline, Rhode Island is known as The Ocean State for a reason. Our strategic location, port infrastructure, skilled labor, and novel training programs supplying the workers of the future make Rhode Island an ideal location for growing Blue Economy shipbuilding, aquaculture & seafood, and more.

And we’ve leveraged those advantages to create one of the strongest, fastest-growing Blue Economy sectors in the nation.

- Between 2010-2019, Rhode Island's ocean-based industries grew 2X faster than the economy at large, marking the nation’s fastest-growing statewide Blue Economy.

- The Blue Economy currently supports nearly $5 billion in sectoral output.

Rhode Island Commerce’s Renewable Energy Fund (REF) exists to help expand the role of renewable energy throughout Rhode Island, so the state and its residents can reap the full benefits of cost-effective renewable energy from diverse sources.

FY 21 REF highlights include:

- 389 projects launched
- 294 projects completed
- 353 homes impacted
- 2.2 MW of solar capacity generated
- 18 interns placed
Film and television production bounced back from the COVID-19 pandemic in the last quarter of FY 21.

Rhode Island Commerce was excited to partner on several exciting projects.

Their series The Gilded Age at several Newport Mansions in partnership with the Newport Preservation Society.

The Gilded Age was written by Julian Fellowes

season ender marked a series high for The Gilded Age and brought in a 54% audience increase from the premiere back in January. At the time across the state. The original Hocus Pocus was released in 1993 and is considered a cult classic and Halloween favorite. The three stars of the locations in the greater Providence area and the

Locations in Newport include Eisenhower Park was constructed at Lincoln’s Chase Farm to

Kevin Bacon.

The estimated impressions and advertising value for these initiatives exceeded 134 million
Rhode Island Commerce’s marketing work was recognized as best in its class over the course of FY 21.

Rhody Resilient Campaign
Our Rhody Resilient campaign, which highlighted stories of real Rhode Islanders lending helping hands during the pandemic and encouraged residents to shop and dine local, earned a Bronze Award in the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International’s 2020 Adrian Awards.

Blue Economy Podcast
The Blue Economy Podcast, a monthly long-form interview show featuring global leaders in the ocean economy produced by Rhode Island Commerce, earned a best-in-class Gold Bell award at the New England Publicity Club’s 2021 Bell Ringers Awards.
Appendices
Legal, board of directors, and financial information
The Honorable Daniel J. McKee
First meeting as Governor was March 2021
Chair, Governor, State of RI

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Last meeting as Governor was February 2021
Chair, Governor, State of RI

Bernard V. Buonanno III
Managing Director, Nautic Partners

David M. Chenevert
(Appointed February 2021)
Executive Director of RIMA & Chairperson of WeMakeRI

Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier
Senior Advisor for the Education Strategy Group

Oscar T. “Tim” Hebert
(Last board meeting: February 2021)
CEO/Founder, Trilix Tech

Mary Jo Kaplan
Partner, The Ready; Founder/Principal at Kaplan Consulting

Jason E. Kelly
Executive Vice President, Moran Shipping Agencies

Michael F. McNally
former President & CEO, Skanska USA

George Nee
President, AFL-CIO of Rhode Island

Ronald P. O’Hanley, Vice-Chair
(Last board meeting: February 2021)
Chairman & CEO, State Street Corporation

Donna M. Sams
Owner/Partner, Centered Change; Partner/Sr. Consultant, Spencer Consulting Group

William C. Stone
(Appointed February 2021)
Managing Member, Outside G LLC; Patent GC LLC

Vanessa Toledo-Vickers
Vice President/Community Development Market Manager, Citizens Bank

Karl Wadensten, Treasurer
President, Vibco, Inc.
Governance

FY 2021 BOARD MEETINGS
July 16, 2020
July 27, 2020
September 30, 2020
October 26, 2020
November 9, 2020
December 8, 2020
December 21, 2020
January 29, 2021
February 5, 2021
February 19, 2021
March 22, 2021
May 12, 2021
June 14, 2021
June 28, 2021

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Governance

FY 2021 LEGAL MATTERS
During the relevant time-frame, there were no hearings, complaints, suspensions, or other legal matters related to the authority of the board or corporation.

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Governance

FY 2021 RULES & REGULATIONS
Commerce Corporation rules and regulations can be found at: https://sos.ri.gov/rules

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Governance

OPEN MEETINGS
All board meeting agendas, minutes, decisions rendered and actions considered are available at:
and
http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/?page=view-entity&id=742

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Governance

Financial Reports
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation submitted board-approved, audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2021, to the Governor, Senate president, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of State before May 31, 2022, as required by Title 42 Section 64-28, State Affairs and Government. These statements can be found at:

COMMERCERI.COM

Governance

Financial Reports
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation submitted an Annual Incentives Report for the year ending June 30, 2021 to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House on September 30, 2021, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-64-36(a) and (b).

COMMERCERI.COM

Governance

No additional reporting under R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 45-33.4 applied because no expenditures have occurred. However, as referenced in the board meeting minutes, two projects were authorized for the use of base revenue through R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 45-33.4.