



## Food Strategy Director

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### Statement of Duties

Incumbent, in collaboration with its state agency partners, will lead the state's implementation of Relish Rhody 2.0 and deliver on the State's food and beverage business attraction, expansion, and retention goals. Specifically, the Director of Food Strategy will be responsible for:

### Essential Functions

- Ensure maximum utilization of Commerce RI's business development and support services are brought to bear in support of the State's food-related goals.
- Define and build core strategies to enhance the climate for food and beverage businesses in Rhode Island; preserve and grow agriculture and fisheries industries in Rhode Island; and sustain and create markets for Rhode Island food and beverage products.
- Work across state agencies to develop policies, including state procurement strategies, that grow local food, agriculture and seafood businesses, improve the resiliency of the RI food system, and support the growth of quality food-related jobs.
- Liaise with local businesses in the food industries as well as local governments and community groups to coordinate programs, gain their assistance or assist them in initiating, developing, and implementing projects.
- Work with the Commerce RI marketing team to develop materials and collateral.
- Develop new and foster long-term relationships with food and beverage stakeholders to grow a pipeline of food and beverage business opportunities and overcome any pipeline barriers that are identified.
- Assess current and future industry needs and launch and manage strategic initiatives to build a food business ecosystem in Rhode Island, attract out-of-state businesses to RI and assist in-state companies with expansion
- Evaluate food market trends and develop plans to best capitalize on high-growth, high-impact food-based strategic efforts, expanding, modifying, or eliminating programs in view of changing needs and impact
- Identify and secure funding for the state's local food system through federal grants and private philanthropy. Interface with the Federal government on regulatory and federal legislative barriers and opportunities.
- Coordinate the Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council (IFNPAC). Develop and maintain working relationships with leadership and key staff in IFNPAC member agencies to ensure engagement of member agency stakeholders in the State's food policy agenda.

- Draft annual and as-needed progress reports to Relish Rhody 2.0 leadership committee, comprising of the RI Department of Health, RI Department of Environmental Management, Department of Administration, and Governor's Office, as well as RI Commerce.

### Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree required; MBA, MPH, or advanced degree in a food-related field preferred.
- Relevant professional experience or demonstrated high level of success related to business development, or a related area in government or private sector.
- Significant client/ stakeholder interaction and experience, particularly showing the ability to develop strong and influential relationships.
- Ability to manage multiple competing priorities in a fast-paced work environment.
- Self-motivated, creative, organized, and deeply committed to personal and organizational success.
- Ability to communicate clearly and accurately and to interact with professionals at all levels in all business units.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills with attention to detail.

*Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is an at-will employer; no employment contracts exist.*

*The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (the 'Corporation') is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, non-disqualifying physical or mental disability, national origin, veteran status or any other basis covered by applicable law. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business need. The Corporation will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on any of these characteristics.*

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To be considered for this position, please apply at:

<https://secure.yourpayrollhr.com/ta/co8056.careers?ShowJob=654865665>