

# ARPA 2nd Ordinance

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## City of Providence Investment Budget 2022

A stylized, light blue line-art graphic of a city skyline, featuring various building silhouettes, is positioned at the bottom of the slide, partially behind the text.

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# ARTS TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

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MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

## Mayor Elorza's American Rescue Plan Ordinance

*Stephanie P. Fortunato, Director*

*Lizzie Araujo-Haller, Deputy Director*

*Department of Art, Culture + Tourism*

*January 2022*



The City of Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism (ACT) ensures the continued development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life while showcasing Providence as an international cultural destination.

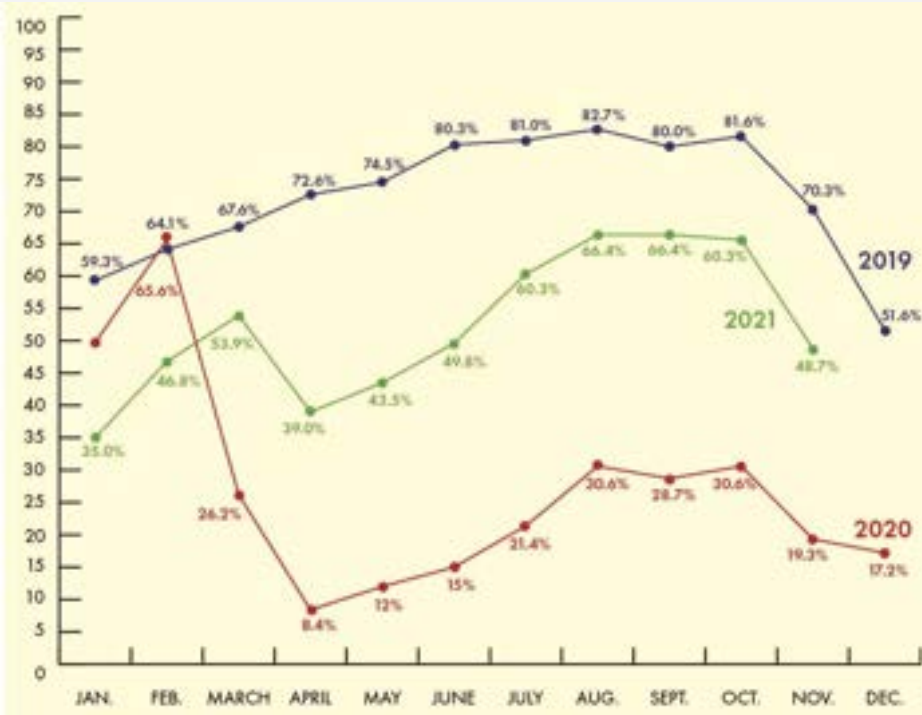


# PRE PANDEMIC STATE



- **NATIONAL** Prior to the pandemic, the nation's arts and culture sector (nonprofit, commercial, education) was a **\$919.7 billion industry** that supported **5.2 million jobs** and represented **4.3% of the nation's economy** in 2019. ([U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)).
- **STATE** The Arts and Culture share of the total gross product was 3.3% and provided 18,215 jobs. ([State Arts Council: Arts Account for Over \\$1 Billion in Compensation to Rhode Island Workers](#))
- **LOCAL** The City of Providence's nonprofit arts and culture industry **generates \$205,780,766 in annual economic activity** in Providence—supporting **5,115 full-time equivalent jobs** and generating \$20,934,000 in local and state government revenues. ([Americans for the Arts' Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 economic impact study](#)).

# IMPACT: HOTELS



- Providence hotels saw a **70.3% year-over-year decrease** in revenue in '20
- Dramatic declines in Providence hotel tax revenue and will continue to see losses.

# CURRENT STATE

## Theatre lovers, restaurant personnel voice grievances over Trinity Rep cancellations

by CAL DYMOWSKI, NBC 10 NEWS | Saturday, December 18th 2021



Trinity Rep, widely known for its "A Christmas Carol" shows this time of year, cancelled this weekend's performances due to a cast member showing symptoms of COVID-19. (WJAR)

<https://turnto10.com/news/local/theatre-lovers-restaurant-personnel-voice-grievances-over-trinity-rep-cancellations>

# INDUSTRY IMPACT



- **As of July 2021**, financial losses to the nation's nonprofit arts and culture organizations were an estimated **\$17.97 billion**.
- 99% of producing and presenting organizations cancelled events during the pandemic—a **loss of 557 million ticketed admissions** impacting both arts organizations and audiences'
- Additionally, local area businesses—restaurants, lodging, retail, and parking—were severely impacted by cancelled arts and culture events with a loss of \$17.6 billion in audience ancillary spending. Local government revenue losses were \$6.0 billion and 1.03 million jobs were negatively affected because of cancelled events.<sup>xi</sup>
- **As of July 2021: BIPOC organizations** were more 55% likely to report that they lack the financial resources needed to return to in-person programming than 38% of non-BIPOC organizations<sup>xii</sup>
- Individual creatives were among the most impacted occupations reporting an average \$21,000 in loss of income. ([Americans for the Arts](#))
- As of **December 2021**, arts jobs have rebounded to 2.24 million. Positive news, but still down (-11%) since pre-pandemic ([U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)).

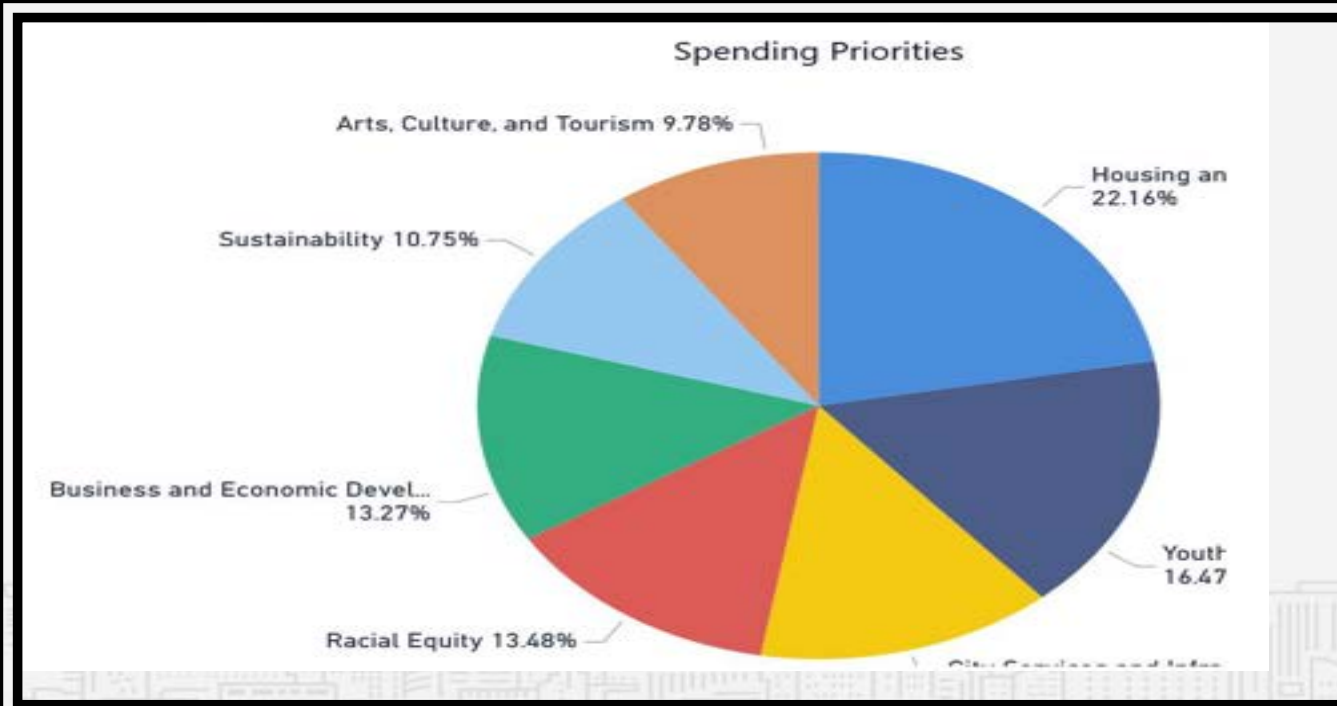


# American Rescue Plan

“  
*To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality”*



# Community Engagement



## **Arts, Tourism and Hospitality:**

Arts, Culture and Special Events Support  
\$1,225,000

PVDFest Producing Partner, FirstWorks  
\$275,000

Cultural Facilities  
\$4,200,000

Public Art to Encourage Tourism  
\$800,000

Tourism and Marketing  
\$700,000

Providence-Warwick Convention & Visitors  
Bureau \$500,000

**TOTAL TO ARTS, TOURISM & HOSPITALITY**  
**\$7,700,000**

# IMPACT:TOURISM

Structure: Subrecipient Agreement

Amount: \$275,000

Deliverable: PVDFest  
June 10-12, 2022

Timeline:

Start: Ordinance

End: Dec 31, 2022

## PVDFest Producing Partner, FirstWorks



*eVenti Verticale at PVDFest 2019. Photo by Erin X. Smithers*

# IMPACT:TOURISM

**Structure:** Subrecipient Agreement

**Amount:** \$500,000

**Deliverables:**

Neighborhood visitor services, tourism products and promotions

**Timeline:**

*Start:* Ordinance

*End:* Dec 31, 2024

## Providence-Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau



Photo by Matthew Huang.

# Government Employment



## ACT Production Coordinator

- Annual Salary A10 + benefits (100% ARPA funded)
- Timeframe: post with contingency asap; hire as soon as ordinance passes; end June 30, 2024
- Deliverables: see job description

## ACT Sponsorship & Marketing Coordinator

- Annual Salary A6 + benefits (50% ARPA funded)
- Timeframe: post as soon as ordinance passes; end date June 30, 2024
- Deliverables: see job description





*Photo by Matthew Huang*

## Arts, Culture and Special Events Support

# Economic Impact

## American Recovery Act Reimbursement Grants for nonprofit art/culture organizations, small hospitality, tourism, and creative businesses

- Grant program designed to address the needs of eligible small businesses and nonprofit arts/cultural organizations
  - Negative impact and revenue loss
  - Financial insecurity
  - Increased costs (e.g., uncompensated increases in service need)
  - Capacity to weather financial hardship
  - Challenges covering payroll, rent, and other operating costs
- Budget:
  - Awards \$10,000-\$50,000 / total available investment \$750,000
  - Contract grant coordinator: \$40,000 contractor over two years
- RFP to be advertised through BOCS
- Timeframe: submit request to advertise to BOCS upon passage of ordinance
- Deliverables: aligned with SLRF reporting requirements



# Economic Impact

## Special Events Support

- Designed to support tourism through expanded support for outdoor events and activities
- Purchase equipment to support special events administration (i.e., barriers, signage, PPE, etc.)
- Equipment and staffing to support public safety at large outdoor events (i.e., vetted security company to support public safety at large events, golf carts to improve mobility in crowds)
- Budget: \$250,000
- RFP to be advertised through BOCS
- Timeframe: submit request to advertise to BOCS upon passage of ordinance – target use for summer 2022 events
- Deliverables: aligned with SLRF reporting requirements



*Photo by Matthew Huang*

**\$4,200,000**

**Cultural Facilities**

# Economic Impact



## American Recovery Act Reimbursement Grants for Cultural Facilities

- Capital investments
  - Restoration / Renovations
  - Arts and cultural spaces in municipal buildings
  - Programs and services that address negative economic impact
- Awards \$250,000-\$750,000 / total available investment \$4,150,000
  - Contract administrative coordinator: \$50,000 contractor over two years
- RFP to be advertised through BOCS
- Timeframe: submit request to advertise to BOCS upon passage of ordinance
- Deliverables: aligned with SLRF reporting requirements



Mural unveiling with AGONZA, artist-in-residence at Providence Housing Authority's Hartford Park (2021).  
Photo by David Santilli

**\$800,000**

**Public Art to Encourage Tourism**

# Public Health & Economic Impact



## American Recovery Act Public Art Residencies

- Partnership ACT, Providence Housing Authority and Healthy Communities Office
- Deliverables:
  - 12 x 18-month residencies
  - Selected artists will participate in Creative Community Health Worker Training to become artist facilitators, with option for CHW certification
  - 12 permanent public artworks
- Standard Art Selection Process will be employed to select artists
  - RFP for public art administrator to be advertised through BOCS (50k)
- Timeframe: upon passage of ordinance bring to Art in City Life Commission for approval, include in ACT Public Art FY23/24 program plan





**\$700,000**

**Tourism and Marketing**

*Hotel Providence and Freeman Park. Photo by Erin X. Smithers.*

# Economic Impact

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## American Recovery Act Tourism Grants

- Designed to support tourism through expanded support for outdoor events and activities and associated marketing
- RFP: service provider to provide fiscal management, grants administration
- RFP to be advertised through BOCS
- Timeframe: submit request to advertise to BOCS upon passage of ordinance – target use for summer 2022 events
- Deliverables: aligned with SLRF reporting requirements

## Community Engagement Survey Responses

### Anonymous

"The city benefits from the arts and culture encouraging tourism. One of the reasons we moved to PVD was because we feel that PVD is a progressive and upcoming city in New England, more affordable than Boston and New York. As we strive to encourage tourism by having a sound structural foundation in the arts, we encourage growth for all populations in the city. Don't let PVD become a Hartford where so many do not visit as there is just nothing there so support interest in visiting the city. Encourage more sustainable cultural events by different ethnic groups - in celebration as a city that recognizes and celebrates community and culture."

"Burnishing the reputation and the stature of PVD as a go-to, livable, friendly, upbeat, safe, progressive, culturally rich, diverse in perspective, forward thinking city is essential to its continued success and ability to grow sustainably."

"We need to put money in the Art, Culture and Tourism this is what makes our city great and brings in money for the city and small businesses. It is also affordable and educational entertainment for families and people on a budget."

"Arts spaces and expression are extremely valuable in supporting creativity and inspiration at a time when many are feeling lost or trapped."



## Reactions

**"These funds present a powerful opportunity** to ensure that, at this challenging moment, Providence's young people can continue to reap the benefits of these programs and that they don't experience yet another setback in their access to arts education." - DownCity Design, Providence CityArts For Youth, Everett: Company Stage & School, AS220, New Urban Arts, Manton Avenue Project, and Community MusicWorks

**"This is not a bailout.** Funding used to create and produce public-art and events, support cultural facilities and encourage tourism will be multiplied many times and reinvested locally; as payments to artists, restaurants, venues, builders, suppliers, hotels and transportation costs. This is true stimulus, and will enable the Department of Art, Culture and Tourism to enact their cultural plan in every corner of the city." - The Steel Yard, Rhode Island Black Storytellers, Wilbury Theater Group, Trinity Repertory Company, AS220, WaterFire Providence, Teatro ECAS, Counterform: Community Design and Print Studio; DESIGNxRI, and EcoArts

"In our interviews, we heard first-hand the stories of how the pandemic has hit the arts, tourism, and hospitality industry hard in Providence: closed restaurants and shuttered theaters, loss of earned income at nonprofits, and vibrant organizations forced to lay off employees. As just one example, a **Salve Regina University study found a 35% decline in overall hospitality and tourism revenue in the first year of the pandemic in Providence.**" Tuba Agartan, Ph.D., is a professor of health policy and management at Providence College, Nicholas V. Longo, Ph.D., is a professor of global studies at Providence College, Eric Sung is an associate professor of art and director of the business and innovation program at Providence College

# Questions?

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**Stephanie P. Fortunato, Director**  
Department of Art, Culture + Tourism

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[www.providenceri.gov](http://www.providenceri.gov)

[www.artculturetourism.com](http://www.artculturetourism.com)

# Providence Business and Economic Development Investment Strategy

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Office of Economic Opportunity



# ARPA Rules

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- *...recognized that pre-existing health, economic, and social disparities contributed to disproportionate pandemic impacts in certain communities and allowed for a broader list of enumerated eligible uses to respond to the pandemic in disproportionately impacted communities*
- *Under the interim final rule, recipients were allowed to presume that families residing in QCTs or receiving services provided by Tribal governments were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.*

# Current State

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## TAKING ON COVID-19 INEQUITIES IS KEY TO CLOSING THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

- Centuries of discrimination and exploitation have left a majority of Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color (BIPOC) residents of Providence much poorer than their white counterparts. This racial wealth divide is the product of centuries of public policies and practices that keep people of color from getting ahead.
- As researched and interpreted in the 2021 “A Matter of Truth Report, *“The origins of this gulf in Black and White wealth stem from the immediate aftermath of slavery when a promise made to provide the formerly enslaved with 40 acres in land grants went unmet—while many White Americans were provided substantial “handouts” (typically 160 acres) of land in the west.”* Providence and Rhode Island’s active participation in the slavery system and the follow-on evolution of racial discrimination public policies and practices that continued well in the present day, have continued to hamper the socio-economic development of BIPOC people and the neighborhoods where they reside.
- The racial wealth gap in present-day Providence is dramatic. As reported by the Economic Progress Institute, *“Income gaps widened more in Rhode Island than in all but eight states from the late 1970s through the mid-2000s.”*

# Current State

## Providence Household Income

- White Rhode Island households in 2019 made 55% more than Black households, and 72% more than Hispanic households. In Providence, in 2019, the neighborhood with the highest Median Household total Income was census tract 34 (Blackstone), with a value of \$178,235.
- The lowest Median Household total Income was census tract 7 (South Providence) with a value of \$18,802. These communities are also significantly divided by race and ethnicity, with many white residents occupying the East Side and BIPOC residents occupying the Southside and West End.

Change in Household Income by Race & Ethnicity, 2010-2019

	2010	2015	2019	# Change 2010- 2019	% Change 2010- 2019
White alone	\$ 58,923	\$ 61,402	\$ 71,096	\$12,173	20.7%
Black or African American alone	\$ 34,699	\$ 36,209	\$ 45,727	\$11,028	31.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	\$ 31,455	\$ 25,082	\$ 37,621	\$6,166	19.6%
Asian alone	\$ 53,357	\$ 53,441	\$ 77,420	\$24,063	45.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	\$ 23,475	NA	\$ 40,507	\$17,032	72.6%
Some other race alone	\$ 31,153	\$ 32,751	\$ 37,910	\$6,757	21.7%
Two or more races	\$ 38,262	\$ 38,885	\$ 48,717	\$10,455	27.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	\$ 33,679	\$ 31,121	\$ 41,293	\$7,614	22.6%
All Households	\$ 54,902	\$ 56,852	\$ 67,167	\$12,265	22.3%

Source: 2010, 2015, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

# Existing Programs and Plans

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The mission of the **OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY** is to expand opportunities for the City's low-income and unemployed residents assisting them to gain skills and credentials needed to succeed in the 21st Century economy, reduce income inequality, and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty in the City of Providence.

## Program 1:

**One Providence for Youth** is a workforce development system for youth and emerging adults aged 14 to 24. Young people access wage earning jobs, gain valuable real-world work experience, learn problem-solving and life skills, and gain access to professional networks, and employers help prepare the next generation of workers they need.

## Program 2:

The City of Providence's **Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE)** Program connects certified businesses with opportunities to sell their products and services to City of Providence departments.

## Program 3:

**First Source Providence**, where job seekers and employers in the City of Providence connect. We are committed to finding job-ready Providence residents and connecting them to open positions with First Source employers. If you live in Providence and are out of work or underemployed, you have come to the right place!

# Explanation of Challenges *Addressing COVID-19 Inequities*

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Create economic opportunity for all of the city's residents, and support Providence businesses to grow and hire locally with a focus on supporting minority, women, people with disabilities and veteran-owned disproportionately impacted COVID-19 pandemic.





# *Immediate Future Priorities*



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• COVID-19 Adaptive Reuse Program	\$3,000,000
• Hardest Hit Community Organizations	\$ 300,000
• Shared Use Infrastructure Grant Program	\$ 500,000
• Workforce Development for COVID-19 Impacted Individuals	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

TOTAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:	\$5,300,000
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# COVID-19 ADAPTIVE REUSE PROGRAM



- The program would be launched as the “**Providence Main Street Facade Improvement**” program, designed to encourage redevelopment of high COVID-19 impacted neighborhoods and commercial corridors by enhancing its visual aesthetics which will lead to increased property values, tenant occupancy, economic development, and job creation.
- Directly engage commercial property and small business owners within COVID-19 impacted neighborhoods.
- Program would be designed and launched with APRA funds to invest in 100 neighborhood small businesses and commercial properties in 3-year program.
- Stimulating private investment in improvements that enhance the appearance and functionality of buildings and properties.
- Eliminate blight and non-conforming design standards

# HARDEST HIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

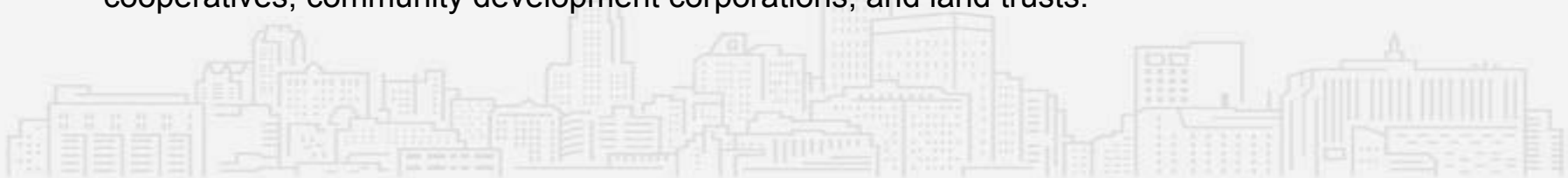


- The City of Providence has been consistently tracked as a “hot spot” for concentrations of COVID-19 infection rates along with delta and omicron variants.
- Nonprofit community organizations are essential to the flourishing of communities, and a vibrant City of Providence requires effective community-based organizations and strong, diverse leadership throughout the nonprofit sector. This funding opportunity aims to strengthen the capacity of nonprofit organizations serving low and moderate-income communities within the City of Providence.
- Many Providence neighborhoods are marked by low income and poverty that have endured on-going social and economic challenges that have been accelerated with the COVID-19 disruptions. Said neighborhoods stand to directly benefit through a community led investment strategy that builds and operates a series of programs that improve the social, environmental, economic, and educational opportunities of the residents.
- ARPA funds would be set aside for direct relief funding for non-profit organizations to extend social services such as minority business assistance, behavioral health services, health care, job training, food pantries and childcare to residents within neighborhoods most disrupted by COVID-19.

# SHARED USE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM



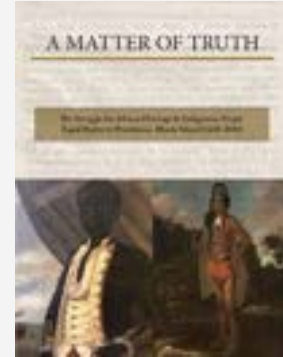
- Neighborhoods that have experienced disproportionate impact from COVID should look inward to the assets (e.g., land, environment, industries, community partners) that exist within their places.
- A strategic ARPA investment strategy within Providence neighborhoods that are comprised of the most vulnerable populations, is intended to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions through the investment of critical programs and services that invest in people and with the neighborhoods they reside.
- ARPA funds would provide grants to block clubs, neighborhood associations, and nonprofit organizations to improve vacant or neglected properties and put them to use for small businesses, community gardens, farms, recreation areas or pop-up shops. This effort can be accomplished through the direct support of neighborhood-based cooperatives, community development corporations, and land trusts.



# Program Benefits

The recommended ARPA fund investment strategies to eliminate and/or dramatically reduce the racial wealth gap within the City of Providence accelerated by the disproportionately impact of COVID on residents and communities are directly aligned with the program concepts that were presented by **three key reports:**

- Expand financial recovery tools such as loans and grants to small businesses
- Provide locally informed technical assistance and recovery supports to local businesses
- Invest in local workforce development and promote empowerment models
- Support wealth building programs for historically underinvested communities
- Technical assistance for Providence-based businesses
- Workforce development programs in manufacturing, technology and energy.
- Business corridor investments
- Micro-grants for small businesses
- Support for business districts and shared use infrastructure
- Investments in professional development for community organizations and conferences
- Support for minority owned businesses
- Local training, hiring and contract Awards



# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding



## Partnership/Funding Source 1

- An investment focus on improving the socio-economic conditions of low and moderate-income people and communities is directly aligned with the R I Foundation and United Way grant priorities.
- The “Make It Happen RI” report outlines specific strategies that the city is currently operating and can immediately scale up with additional funding.

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

- The OEO training program can directly partner with the funding available through the Rhode Island Temporary Cash Assistance For Needy Families (TANF), Real Jobs (DLT), and Providence Workforce Board programs.
- Rhode Island is a finalist for federal Build Back Better grant program that includes workforce training in emerging sectors.

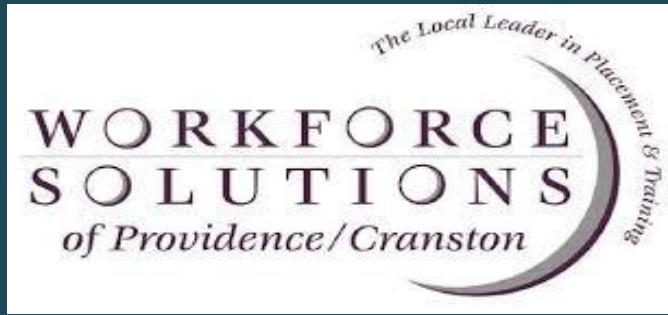
## Partnership/Funding Source 3

- RI Foundation and Commerce RI are completing a comprehensive study to advance minority business entrepreneurship to be released in early 2022.

# Questions?

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Stephen C. Boyle

*Executive Director*





Providence/Cranston Workforce Solutions (PCWFS) functions as the administrative entity, appointed by the Mayor of Providence, for the Providence/Cranston Workforce Development Area and the Providence/Cranston Local Workforce Development Board.



We are a significant partner in the American Jobs Center (AJC) representing Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) services for the Providence/Cranston Workforce Development Area. American Job Centers are designed to provide a full range of assistance to job seekers under one roof. Established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014 (WIOA), the center offers training referrals, career counseling, job listings, job search, resume assistance and similar employment related services. We are commonly referred to as the One-Stop.

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# Current State

Providence/Cranston Workforce Solutions (PCWFS) is one of two local workforce development areas in the state. Currently PCWFS has only one funding source as provided through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for funding training programs which at times can be limiting.

The majority of our customers come from Providence/Cranston but there have been significant numbers also in Pawtucket, Central Falls, East Providence, and Warwick. We are required by regulation to serve the entire state regardless of residency. The majority of the customers enrolled by age were in the 25-34 category with the next highest being in the age group of 35-44 and 45-54. Most that come in for services have Basic Literacy Skills Deficiencies, are Offenders, Single Parents (including pregnant women) and English Language Learners. 89% had an educational level attainment of High School/Out of School.

The obvious impact to the workforce from Covid-19 to the residents of the City was clear in the unemployment numbers. (See Chart)  
The programs and services of the AJC increases the employability of the most vulnerable customers not only to find work but to enter and follow a career pathway that leads to high skilled, high demand and high paying jobs that increase self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.

We currently provide training dollars for a myriad of training programs consisting of industry categories such as CDL drivers, CNA's, Medical Assistants, Cardio Phlebotomists, as well as On-the-job training opportunities for Employers.

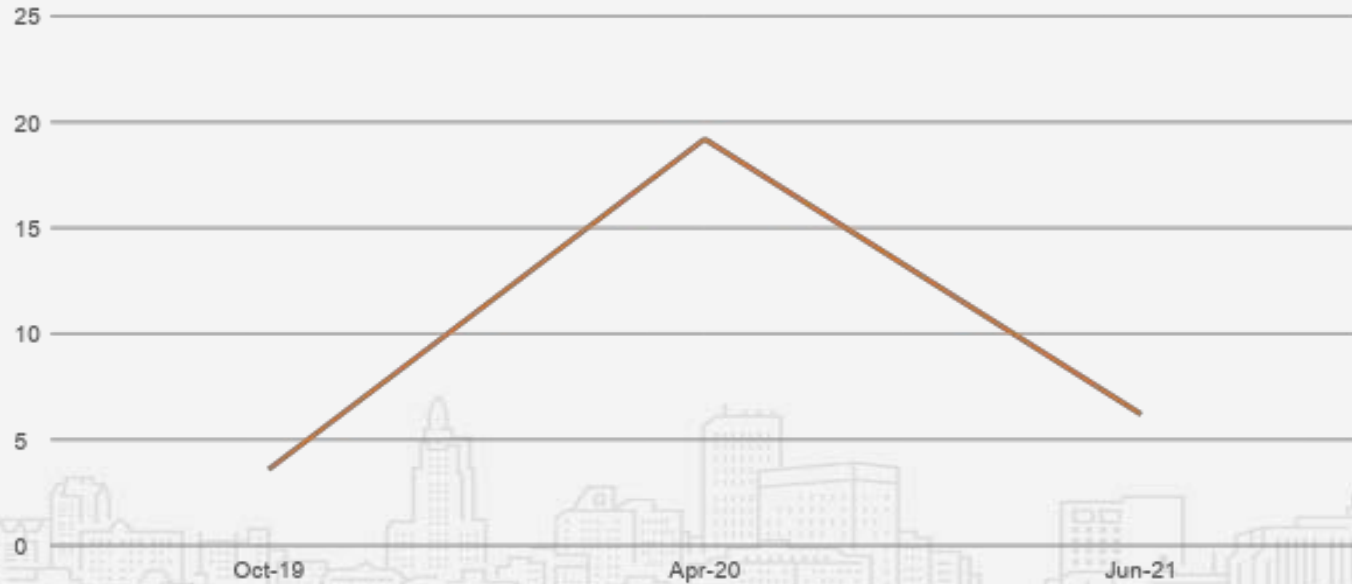
PCWFS has a high degree of success based a review of the outcomes/exit information with 40% entering unsubsidized employment, 28 percent achieving training related employment, and 22 percent attaining a recognized certificate/diploma/degree

The programs and services of the AJC increases the employability of the most vulnerable customers not only to find work but to enter and follow a career pathway that leads to high skilled, high demand and high paying jobs that increase self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.

The most obvious impact of Covid-19 can be seen in the unemployment numbers pre and post pandemic.

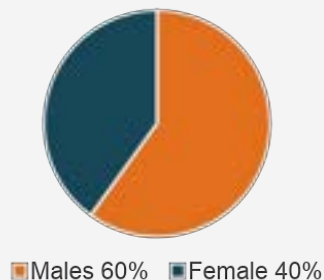
# City of Providence Unemployment

## Unemployment Rates Pre/Post Pandemic

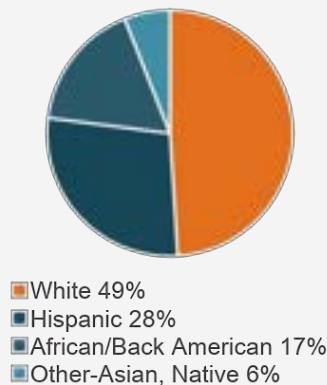


# PY 20-21 Enrollment Overview

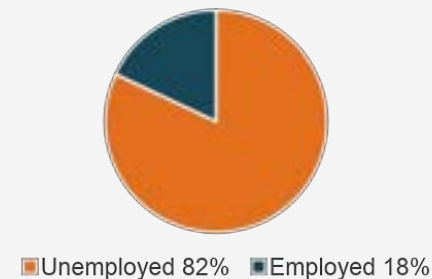
PY 20-21 Gender



Ethnicity



Unemployed/Employed at Service



# Existing Programs and Plans



## Program 1: Adult

Workforce services for eligible adults are available thru on of the six core programs authorized by WIOA. The Adult program serves individuals and helps employers meet their workforce needs. It enables workers to obtain good jobs by providing them with job search assistance and training opportunities. WIOA establishes a priority requirement with respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment and training opportunities. American Job Center staff must give priority to recipients of public assistance, low income individuals and those basic skills deficient. Veterans receive priority of service for all Department of Labor funded programs.

## Program 2: Dislocated Worker

The Dislocated Worker Program is designed to help workers get back to work as quickly as possible and overcome barriers to employment. When individuals become dislocated as a result of job loss, mass layoffs, global trade or transitions in economic sectors i.e. hospitality, manufacturing, the Dislocated Worker Program provides services to assist them in re-entering the workforce. Services for dislocated workers are integrated and provided by the American Job Center (AJC). The AJC implements workforce education, training, employment programs and help displaced workers

## Program 3: Youth

All Youth programs are administered by providers i.e. CCAP, Forster Forward, and Providence Housing Authority.

## Plan A:

The plan is to develop non-WIOA funding streams that will allow us the flexibility to create innovative training programs for non credentialed careers and will allow us to expand the implementation of programs for those who have barriers to employment. Funding for digital and financial literacy as well as basic skills enhancements are examples of critical skills to the placement of those with barriers. Providing training and job ready development programs is essential to addressing the shortage of workers for the business community as they recover from the economic losses due to Covid-19 and allows to focus on development of the hardest hit populations. We are in specific conversations with Polaris MEP/Jane Addams Resource Corporation to develop a manufacturing training program

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1*

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### **Challenge 1:**

A major challenge that we face is in the guidelines for the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) itself. While an important source of training dollars it has several strict requirements such as attainment of a Credential or License, fairly immediate employment and the reporting of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter wages. It prevents us from offering non-credentialed training which would include IT, Manufacturing functions and soft skills training i.e. industrial sewing, web development, digital and financial literacy, etc. This makes it difficult at times to address the changes and challenges to the workplace as a result of Covid-19 as people transition into new career paths..

### **Challenge 2:**

Another challenge to diversification of revenue streams is in the way the state distributes funding for non-WIOA grants that the state receives for the programs of Real Jobs and Real Pathways. There is not a set formula in the sharing of revenue to the Providence/Cranston Workforce Development Area. The Governor' Workforce Board and the Real Jobs Rhode Island program received general revenue support for a total of 8.45 Million and the FY2021 Budget included \$45 million for the Back to Work Program. At times we are encouraged to make "pitches for particular programs" but to date we have not received any additional funding. Other states do not work this way as a certain percentage is distributed to the Local Workforce Areas. The other impediment to obtaining additional funding rests in the fact that many of the grants from the Department of Labor require the State to apply rather than the Local Workforce Development Area.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 2*

### Challenge 3:

Previous Management at the AJC removed several positions due to reduced funding that were critical to the overall operation and outreach to the community partners and the business community. The elimination of the Operations Manager and the Job Developer had a detrimental impact on our ability to move internal projects along and stifled our ability to have a continued dialogue with various community groups for the development of effective group training, relations with various business groups i.e. Chambers of Commerce, and industry specific On-the-Job training opportunities. We are required as part of our certification process to review any deficiencies that might exist and the lack of a coordinated outreach program is consistently mentioned as an area of concern. Since we service a highly ethnic and diverse socioeconomic populations it is critical to have a daily presence in their workforce development opportunities and directly with specific businesses. Covid-19 had a detrimental impact on various communities and the lack of a Career Pathway Development Coordinator reduces our ability to offset the overall costs to each. For example to assist businesses that have been impacted by Covid-19 we are able to subsidize up to 50 percent of the wages (max \$20.00 per hour) up to \$10k in training expense for an in demand job.





# Immediate Future Priorities

Rhode Island should “smartly support the most important driver of economic prosperity: its people. It’s time to boldly invest to transform Rhode Island’s labor force into an innovative, creative and entrepreneurial society.”

Edinaldo Tebaldi, Economist Bryant University



## Priority 1:

Diversification of funding streams to allow us to implement non-WIOA training opportunities with Polaris MEP/Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC) Hospitality and the Department of Corrections.

## Priority 2:

Create a Career Pathways Coordinator position to coordinate services for the manufacturing industry, hospitality partnerships and the Department of Corrections. In addition add an Employment Opportunity Coordinator to call on Employers and Community based organizations.

## Priority 3:

To increase the capacity of WSPC to service residents that would not be served by the traditional federal and state funding sources for development of job readiness skills development.

# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding

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## Partnership/Funding Source 1

We will continue to utilize our annual WIOA allocation and try to leverage Real Jobs/Real Pathway opportunities.

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

We will continue to search for funding opportunities with the Department of Labor in coordination with the state and pursue limited direct funding opportunities for the Local Workforce Area.

## Partnership/Funding Source 3

We will be pursuing private funding by utilizing our 501 C 3 known as the Providence Skills Center to develop soft skills, digital and financial literacy, and upgrading educational attainment for those communities most affected during these times.

# Proposed Funding

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## THE PROPOSED ALLOCATION FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IS \$1.5 MILLION

- These funds will provide non-credentialed training and career development opportunities for Providence residents with the greatest barriers to employment and will be utilized for the following programs:
- **IMPROVEMENT OF AMERICAN JOB CENTER:** Implementation of an Employment Opportunity Developer will provide direct employer and community based group services for improved performance and development of training opportunities.
- **POLARIS MEP/JANE ARC PROGRAM:** to provide C-N-C Mechanical Manufacturing programs at the women's prison and the setup of a manufacturing training facility at Sims Avenue ( A Providence Redevelopment Property).
- **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS EMPLOYMENT TRIAGE SERVICES:** to provide coordination of a multitude of services for formerly incarcerated Providence residents that will provide training and career opportunities in addition to coordinated efforts across all proposed programs.
- **RI HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION:** form a partnership with the RI Hospitality Association to train and transition difficult to employ and out of school youth into mid-level management hospitality roles.
- **IT TRAINING HUB:** In addition, we are in preliminary discussion with the Minority Coalition led by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to develop a computer training hub to serve the minority community for coding, web development and cybersecurity.

# Questions?

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# ARPA Downtown Infrastructure Investments

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Bonnie Nickerson, City Planning Director  
& Executive Director of Providence Redevelopment Agency



# PROJECT GOALS

## **Bringing much needed amenities and services to the City's central city square**

- Food and beverage options
- Seating
- Public bathrooms
- Large shade structure
- Event space
- Space for vendors

Universal feedback from all users – transit riders, downtown workers, families, residents, visitors – these amenities and services are required to make public spaces accessible and functional

This investment works now – with the current Kennedy Plaza configuration – and will work in the future, if RIPTA were to relocate

# PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

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## **Building strong, healthy communities** (p. 128)

“investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments” (p. 129)

## **Neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes.** (p. 129)

“Developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase healthy foods, streetlights, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.” (p. 132)



# PROJECT STATUS AND TIMELINE

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- ✓ Robust public input throughout 2021 through the Unified Vision for Downtown Providence project – thousands of residents and stakeholders provided input. See detailed project information here: <https://imaginedowntownpvd.com/>
- ✓ Detailed planning and preliminary engineering for infrastructure and sustainability and economic development and activation for the connected public spaces throughout Greater Kennedy Plaza
- ✓ Have completed 30% design and engineering for site improvements
- ✓ **Have internal capacity to quickly issue architectural services RFP, with construction bid immediately following and execute this project to bring these needed improvements online quickly to serve our community.**

# PROJECT BUDGET ESTIMATE

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## \$8M ARPA proposed allocation

– Estimated cost for building construction	\$3.5M
– <u>Estimated cost for canopy structure construction</u>	<u>\$2.8M</u>
– Construction cost subtotal:	\$6.3M
– Contingency	\$0.7M (11%)
– Estimated cost for design and constr. management	\$1M

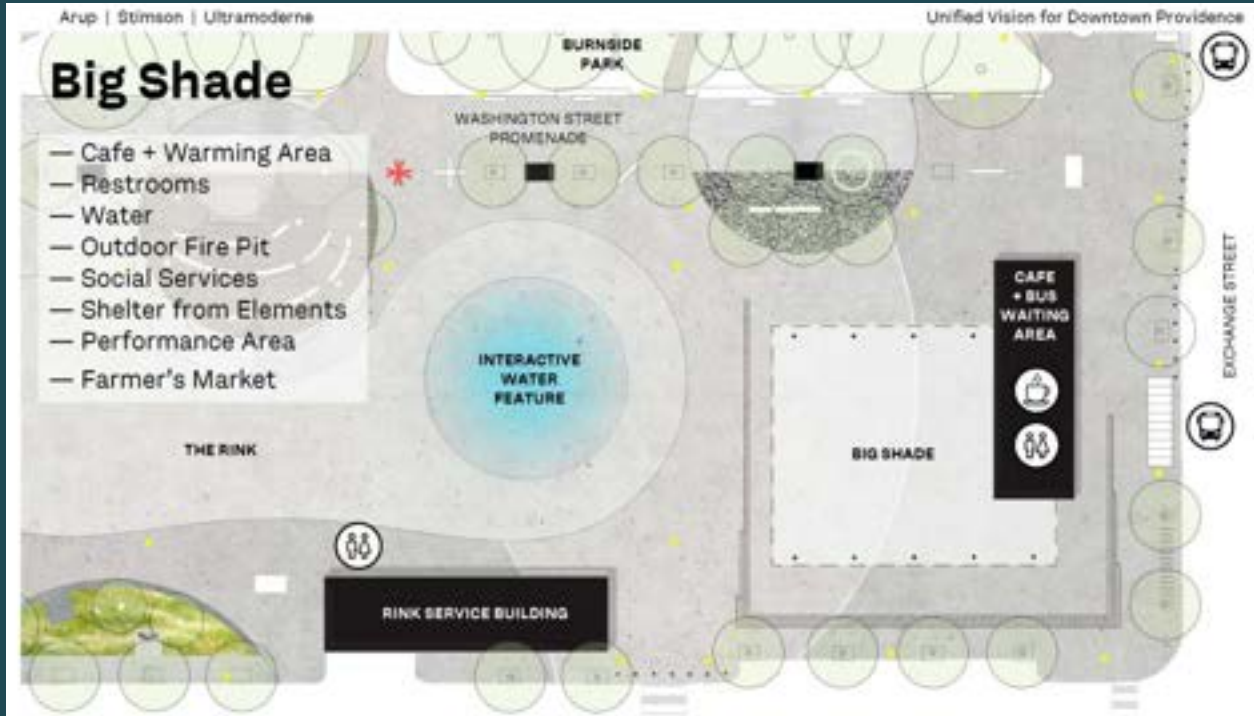
# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDED SERVICES AND AMENITIES



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# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDED SERVICES AND AMENITIES

Arup | Stimson | Ultramoderno

Unified Vision for Downtown Providence

## SOCIAL + CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

What is missing from the spaces of Greater Kennedy Plaza?



You need to give people a reason to be there. Food & Drink Kiosks would be a great way to invite people to spend a moment in the park.

"I think successful activation includes getting local organizations to program activities, as well as diverse artists/ performers."



# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDED SERVICES AND AMENITIES

Arup | Stimson | Ultramodern

Unified Vision for Downtown Providence

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Use this opportunity to bring economic development to residents and help everyone equitably enjoy the city.

Address policing, equity, justice, and housing.

This is a HUGE opportunity to do things right re: climate change, economic and social equity.





# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDD SERVICES AND AMENITIES

Anup | Stimson | Ultramodern | Civic

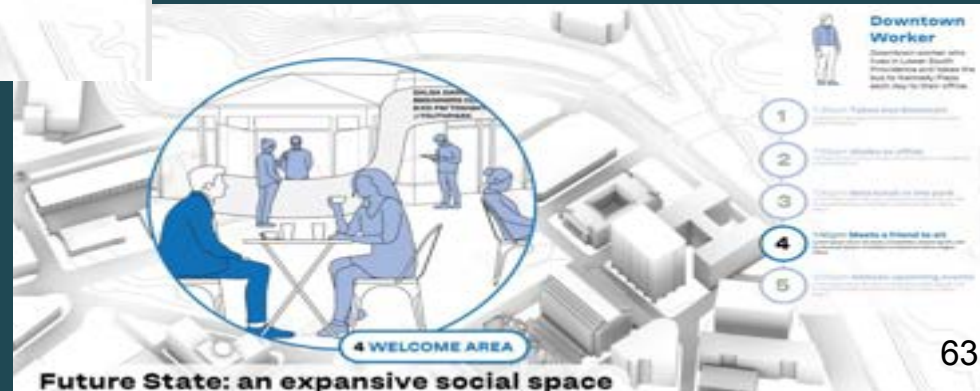
Unified Vision for Downtown Providence

## Imagine if...

**"Imagine seeing a well  
used, loved and  
respected plaza..."**

**"This area needs  
transformational  
ideas..."**

# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDED SERVICES AND AMENITIES



# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDED SERVICES AND AMENITIES



# PRIORITY: BRINGING NEEDED SERVICES AND AMENITIES



# Questions?

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# Providence Parks Department ARPA Proposals

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Wendy Nilsson  
*Superintendent*



# Providence Parks Department in Collaboration with Providence Recreation Department

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All projects will provide multi-generational, year-round expanded outdoor learning, camp, art/conservation/history programs and recreation opportunities in Providence's public parks.

All projects support Providence Recreation Department programs and infrastructure.

Most Projects are within the Qualified Census tract. Those that are not address increased usage during the pandemic.





# Adapting Parks to the “New Normal”

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# Current State

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- Providence is home to over 120 parks & open spaces
- Park usage increased more than four-fold during the first COVID surge, exposing deficiencies we aim to fix
- Our goal is to address these issues and provide parks that meet the expanded needs of the “new normal”
- The largest issue we hope to address is the interface between the neighborhoods and the parks



# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1A*

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### **Challenge 1:**

At a time when we want to draw people into the parks more than ever (and give them an escape from quarantine), the fencing looks more like an off-putting stockade.

### **Challenge 2:**

The increased park usage has placed a strain on infrastructure that is critical for recreation and safety.

Several parks need playgrounds for younger visitors and some playgrounds are old and unappealing.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 2A*

### Before/after: Fence replacement



# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 3A*

### New and Improved Playgrounds:



# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 4A*

### Playground transformations:





# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1B*

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### **Challenge 1:**

Thousands of people visit the bridge each day. The bridge and its amenities were not designed for ease of maintenance. Over the course of 18 months, the bridge has suffered from over \$40,000 of damage.

### **Challenge 2:**

The replacement materials are high-end and custom built. We propose making modifications to the bridge and its amenities that will not only enhance its beauty, but will ease maintenance and protect from further damage. Replacement pieces will be pre-ordered and fabricated and available directly from our stockroom.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 2B*

### Precedents & Mockup of table screen:





# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 3B*

### Other Park Improvements:



# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

Commercial Grade Welded Wire steel fencing for 6 playgrounds will enhance safety and curb appeal and increase usage of the parks network.

## Priority 2:

New or revitalized playgrounds at 6 parks will increase park use and will be available for schools and other organizations to use who need expanded play space.

## Priority 3:

Retrofit the bridge with materials that will be able to withstand graffiti, damage and vandalism. Perforated steel tops will prevent damage to the tabletops and metal skate stops at the wooden seating area and the blue stone steps will stop the damage from skateboarding.



# Immediate Future Priorities



## Priority 4:

Passive parks like Cerbo Square, Murphy Trainor-Park and Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park all need repairs to make them safe and welcoming spaces and to encourage people to walk to them and within them.



# Playgrounds

PARK NAME	NBHD	WARD	Funding recommended	Recommendations	Qualified Census Tract?	Other Qualifier
George Araujo Park	Fox Point	1	\$30,000.00	Fencing & Playground Imps.	N (35)	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.
Davis Park	Valley	12	\$50,000.00	Playground	N (22)	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.
Merino Park	Hartford	7	\$50,000.00	Playgrounds	Y (18)	
Bucklin Park	West End	8	\$100,000.00	Playground and Environmental Remediation	Y (3.01)	
Corliss Park	Wanskuck	14	\$100,000.00	Walkways & Playgrounds	Y (27)	
Father Lennon Park	Smith Hill	12	\$60,000.00	2-5 yr old playground area and fencing	Y (26)	
Joslin Playground	Olneyville	15	\$75,000.00	2-5 yr old playground & *adult fitness	Y (19)	

**Total \$465,000**

# Fencing

PARK NAME	NBHD	WARD	Funding recommended	Recommendations	Qualified Census Tract?	Other Qualifier
Billy Taylor Park	Mount Hope	3	\$50,000.00	Fencing	Y (31)	
Kerry Kohring Park	Hope	3	\$35,000.00	Fencing	N (33)	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.
Pleasant St. Park	Mount Hope	3	\$5,000.00	Fencing Imps.	Y (31)	
Paul Grande Park	Silver Lake	7	\$80,000.00	Fencing & Shade Tree Plantings	Y (17)	
Diamond St. Playground	West End	11	\$10,000.00	Fencing	Y (14)	
Mattie Smith Totlot	Upper S.PVD	11	\$25,000.00	Fencing	Y (4)	

**Total \$205,000**

# Other Improvements

PARK NAME	NBHD	WARD	Funding recommended	Recommendations	Qualified Census Tract?	Other Qualifier
Pedestrian Bridge	Downtown	1	\$50,000.00	replacement benches, tables and railing, lighting and making access door OSHA - Skate stops	Y (6, 37)	
Cerbo Sq.	Silver Lake	7	\$10,000.00	shrubs and trees	Y (17)	
Murphy-Trainer Park	Reservoir	8	\$25,000.00	Walkway replacements	N (15)	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.
Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	Valley	12	\$25,000.00	Paving repairs	N (22)	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.

**Total \$110,000**

# Waterpark Improvements

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# Current State

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85% of Providence's water parks/spraygrounds have antiquated infrastructure and lack play appeal. 12 waterparks serve all of Providence. 2 are new and in excellent condition (Fagnoli and George West). 3 will be revitalized as part of a full park revitalization (Harriet & Sayles, Richardson, and General Street) and 7 are in dire need of upgrades and renovations to make them attractive, sustainable and fun destinations.





# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1*

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### **Challenge 1:**

Currently, shade trees are not equitably distributed across the City, lowering environmental quality in certain neighborhoods and affecting the health and welfare of underserved residents.

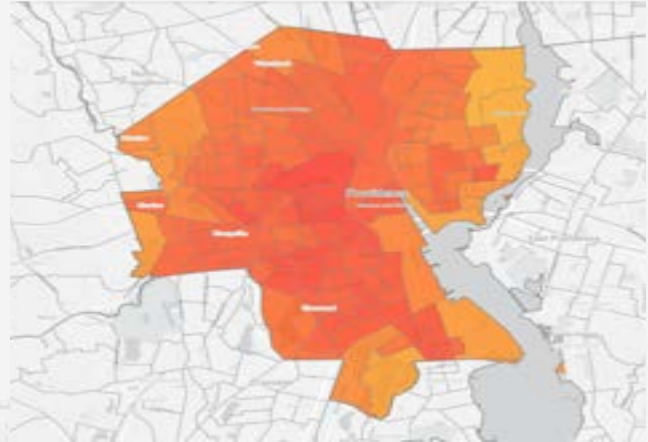
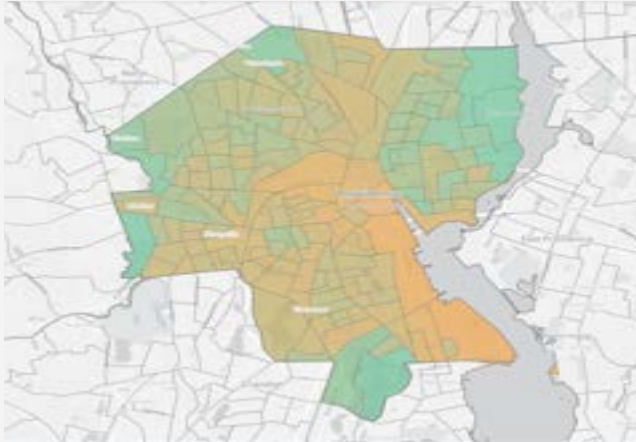
### **Challenge 2:**

12 waterparks serve for cooling and recreation during the hottest summer weeks. 7 Waterparks are in need of repair and improvements, including re-piping and replacement of spray nozzles and features, and upgrades to the infrastructure for better efficiencies of water use and drainage, maintenance, and operations. Trees and shade structures are needed both as part of waterpark improvements and near playgrounds and adult fitness zones.

# Explanation of Challenges

## Part 2

### Tree canopy cover & Temperature\*:



*\*by Census block group, data from Tree Equity Score Analyzer*

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 3*

**Fargnoli Park splash pad before/after:**



# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

Redesign 7 waterparks to include sustainable materials, multiple natural and fabric shade areas, permeable surfaces, reclaimed materials, and public art in underserved neighborhoods.

## Priority 2:

Designate space for trees and other vegetation to provide shade and cooling, help filter pollutants, capture stormwater and increase ecological biodiversity per site.

## Priority 3:

Re-pipe spray pads and replace manifold and controllers for better maintenance and to allow for interchangeable spray features between parks that can be choreographed each season.

# Waterparks

PARK NAME	NBHD	WARD	Funding recommended	Recommendations	Qualified Census Tract?	Other Qualifier
<b>Cabral Park</b>	Fox Point	1	\$150,000.00	Replace water features and add ADA features, improve drainage	Y (37)	
<b>Billy Taylor Park</b>	Mount Hope	3	\$100,000	Replace water features, replace fencing	Y (31)	
<b>James Ahern Park</b>	Silverlake	15	\$100,000	Replace manifold and piping, Add Shade Sails and Natural features	No	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.
<b>Neutaconckanut Park</b>	Silverlake	7	\$150,000	Replace manifold and piping, Add Water features, Replace Fence, Add Natural features	Y (18)	
<b>Miguel Luna Park</b>	Elmwood	9	\$150,000	Replace manifold and piping, Add Water features, Replace Fence, Add Natural features	Y (2)	
<b>Pastore Park</b>	Federal Hill	13	\$75,000	Replace Water Features, Add Natural Features	Y (9)	
<b>Joslin Playground</b>	Olneyville	15	\$75,000	Replace Surfacing, Amend Shade Sails, add Plantings	Y (19)	

**Total \$800,000**

# Outdoor Recreation Expansion

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# Current State

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There are currently 11 outdoor fitness areas in Providence parks. Over the past 18 months, virtually every community conversation about neighborhood park upgrades has included conversations about adding outdoor fitness areas so that teens and adults can work out, while smaller children they are accompanying can play; or as places to build community around shared fitness goals.





# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1*

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### Challenge 1:

NRPA reported that 83% of adults found exercising at local parks essential during COVID, and this increased usage shows no sign of slowing. Outdoor fitness areas are open for anyone to use and we would like to add these facilities to areas where residents may not have access to private gyms.

Older adults and seniors have different fitness goals such as maintaining mobility, functional strength, and balance--especially important in avoiding falls. Beyond the risks of a sedentary lifestyle are the risks of loneliness and isolation, which are risk factors for both physical and cognitive decline.

### Challenge 2:

2 of the most used fields in the City do not currently have irrigation. We would like to pilot a centralized irrigation system as we upgrade these fields.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 2*

**Precedents for reflexology path & senior fitness:**



# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 3*

**Tim O'Neil Field before/after:**



# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 4*



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### **Challenge 1:**

The sustainability of our athletic fields is dependent on an ongoing comprehensive turf management program. Without proper watering, athletic turf cannot be sustained with the amount of use by teams in a municipal setting.

### **Challenge 2:**

Aeration, slice-seeding and organic fertilizer is not effective without adequate water. Proper watering techniques can only be achieved with automatic irrigation systems that water at the proper time of day and for the appropriate amount of time.

### **Challenge 3:**

Outdoor fitness has become increasingly popular. There is demand for Fitness centers in all neighborhoods.

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

We will improve access to organized recreation by improving 2 ballfields.

New irrigation systems will be installed at Obediah and George West fields.

## Priority 2:

The upgrades will include the installation of weather station tech to automatically adjust the timing and output of the irrigation systems. All systems will be monitored and controlled by a central computer allowing the systems to be adjusted remotely.

## Priority 3:

We hope to add outdoor fitness area 2 parks that will include reflexology stations.

New outdoor fitness areas will feature state of the art equipment suitable for all ages 12 and beyond at Warren Street Park and Joslin Street Park.

# Outdoor Fitness Centers



PARK NAME	NBHD	WARD	Funding recommended	Recommendations	Qualified Census Tract?	Other Qualifier
Warren Street Park	West End	11	\$50,000.00	Fencing and Outdoor Fitness	Y (12)	
Joslin Playground	Olneyville	15	\$30,000.00	2-5 yr old playground & adult fitness	Y (19)	

**Total \$80,000**



# Ballfields

PARK NAME	NBHD	WARD	Funding recommended	Recommendations	Qualified Census Tract?	Other Qualifier
Obediah	Elmwood	5	\$75,000.00	Add irrigation	No	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.
George West	Elmwood	5	\$75,000.00	Add irrigation	No	Increased usage of parks during the pandemic.

**Total \$150,000**





# Questions?

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Total Request: \$1,750,000





MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

# Elmwood Community Center

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Demo Roberts

Director, Public Property



# The Department of Public Property in Collaboration with Providence Recreation Department

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When used correctly, air cleaners and HVAC filters can help reduce airborne contaminants, including viruses, in a building or small spaces.

The HVAC systems of large buildings typically filter air before it is distributed throughout a building. This pandemic has reinforced the importance of good air quality in our public buildings



# Current State

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All Providence Recreation/Community centers serve as an integral part of the Providence Community. Not only are they accessible for Providence Youth to find safe spaces to enjoy after-school time. They also serve as warming centers, emergency food stations, vaccination stations, and WIFI hubs to all Providence Residents. Their importance to the Providence Community has only been highlight during the pandemic. An investment into this infrastructure would immediately improve the lives community members and as such The City of Providence has committed to full renovation and revitalization of the Elmwood Community Center.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1*

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### **Challenge 1:**

The Providence City Council passed the approved Capital Improvement budget for the Elmwood Community Center in 2018. Since then, the world has encountered record-setting inflation due to the pandemic.

### **Challenge 2:**

This building has been vacant for several years. Vandalism and the natural breakdown of the HVAC system are now an issue. The original estimate for construction was \$1.5 million. The actual cost, including the HVAC repair, is roughly \$2 million

# Immediate Future Priorities

## Priority 1: Refurbish and Replace Rooftop Units



# Questions?

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Total Request: \$500,000





# City of Providence Cybersecurity Opportunities

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Jim Silveria

*Chief Information Officer*



# Information Technology Department



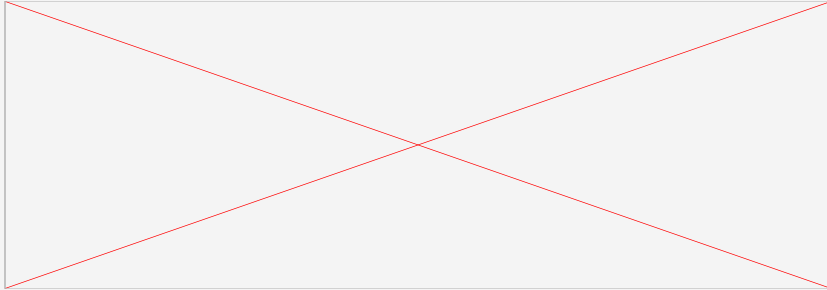
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Securely advancing the network,  
applications and hardware throughout  
the City to support business operations  
and information sharing.



# Proposed Projects

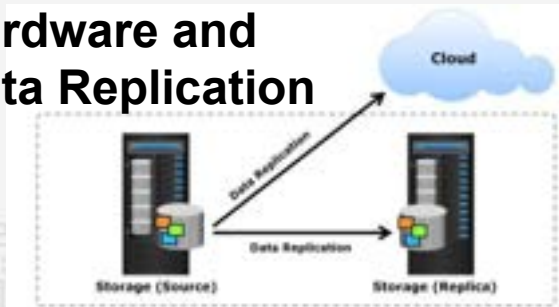
## Budget and Data Management



## Physical Security



## Hardware and Data Replication



## Citywide Cashiering System



# Explanation of Outcomes

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## **Budget, Data and Project Management Tools \$700,000**

Staff tools to manage ARPA funds, budgets, projects and payments

Management tools to ensure project goals are on target

Public portal to highlight projects and budget/payment details

Advance annual budget development process to improve transparency

Commercial products, readily available and integrated with Lawson

Data integration improvements among city business systems



# Explanation of Outcomes



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## **Hardware Security and Redundancy \$400,000**

- Scheduled replacement of server and hosting hardware

- Build redundant solution to host critical city services

- Protection against cybersecurity and hardware failure events

## **Citywide Cashiering System \$150,000**

- Standardize fee collection across departments

- Provide a single payment portal for residents to receive city services

- Improve financial reporting and fund distribution

- Secure credit card transactions to current standards

# Explanation of Outcomes

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## **Physical Security Improvements \$150,000**

Build-out and enclose 444 Westminster St. data center

Secure access, camera and environmental improvements

Backup power to ensure continuous operations

Total Project Budget: \$1,400,000



# Questions?

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# Cybersecurity Infrastructure

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Monsurat Ottun

*Chief Information Security, Data Privacy  
and Risk Management Strategist*



# Cybersecurity Priorities

## (non-Info Tech)

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- Ensure the City is prepared to respond to any cybersecurity incident, breach and/or inquiry/investigation by department
- Compliance with Federal and State mandates
- Identify and mitigate unnecessary risk
- City Cyber-Insurance
- Ongoing internal and external cyber supports



# Current State

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- With the increase in attacks in 2021, the dynamic of City business, engagement and interaction has changed significantly, especially as many employees are working remotely. The City is looking to improve its posture – the more control we have over our infrastructure during these times, the better we'll be able to protect ourselves from attacks.
- We have state and federal supports in place who are willing to work with us to protect Providence's infrastructure. We are looking to take advantage of these supports (including our PISAC, DHS, CISA and other external cyber experts).



# Necessary Programs and Plans



## Program 1: Incident Response Plan

Develop and practice an incident response protocol to mitigate risk to City's critical assets (including critical infrastructure (e.g. gas, water, electricity, etc.).

### Plan A:

- Develop Incident Response Plan and Protocol (proposal for Incident Response Plan and Budget can be provided)
- Purchase cyber-insurance for the City
- Engage Risk Management Services (Cyber Risk Management Proposal can be provided if necessary)
- Develop proper vendor management ("vm") protocols to mitigate risk (including identifying and utilizing effective VM software)
- Other training supports for all City staff.

## Program 2: Risk Identification and Mitigation

Work with our (internal and external) resources to prevent attacks from occurring by taking inventory of current risks and actively mitigating those risks.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1*

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### **Challenge 1:**

Without basic cybersecurity protocols in place as outlined by national cybersecurity standards (See NIST Framework), the City is vulnerable to major attacks and fines as well as legal claims in the event of an attack. The common phrase is “it’s not a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’.” The City could be better positioned to prevent as well as mitigate a major attack.

### **Challenge 2:**

With the proper funding, the City is well positioned to implement basic security standards. With basic security standards in place, we avoid regulatory, as well as media, inquiries as to why our cybersecurity posture is not what it could be in the event of a major attack. With this we avoid fines as well as damage to the City’s reputation regarding the protection of employee and constituent PII (personally identifiable information).

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

Implement Incident Response for Critical Infrastructure and major City assets

## Priority 2:

Risk Mitigation

- Purchase Insurance
- Implement basic risk management protocols
- Engage various departments in risk mitigation strategies

## Priority 3:

Ongoing trainings, monitoring and evaluation of City posture.



# Proposed Budget

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- Risk Management \$ 3,000
- Incident Response \$ 5,000
- Vendor Management \$ 350,000
- Insurance \$ 150,000
- Ongoing Support (e.g.  
trainings, external  
collaborations,  
maintenance of services,  
etc. \$ 100,000

**TOTAL: \$ 608,000**

# Questions?

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# \$3M: Resiliency Infrastructure in Frontline Communities

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Emily Koo

*Office of Sustainability*



# What we heard from Peer-led Interviews of Frontline Community Members (Fall 2018)



## Priorities

- Adequate heat and insulation
- Energy efficient heating
- Efficient central air
- Better windows in homes
- Be able to control heat
- Ability to open windows
- Renewable energy
- Move away from natural gas

## Concerns

- Gas Leaks
- Smog
- Contaminated Air – especially in Port area
- Lack of maintenance in subsidized housing
- Support for obtaining electric energy/solar panels
- High pollen
- Highways, transportation causing pollution

"Not every room in my house has heat! **Radiators are missing or broken.** Windows are a mess and the outside air come right through the walls. Gotta use space heaters, but can't really afford it. ...

[Summer is] so hot I have to go outside. Can't even open windows in my apartment. **More access to AC would make a big difference for my family."**

# Climate Justice Plan



## Clean Energy

### Objective

Transition to 100% clean energy supply in Providence, with a focus on local generation and equitable access.

### Targets

By 2035, 50% of electricity is carbon-free.

By 2050, 100% of electricity is carbon-free.

Local generation accounts for 30% of supply.

### Targets to Develop

Number of low to moderate income Providence residents enrolled in community solar.

Percentage of clean energy assets in Providence owned by frontline community organizations and individuals.

## Housing and Buildings

### Objective

To end **displacement** and ensure dignified housing and access to affordable, efficient and clean energy for Providence residents, while eliminating fossil fuel use in all buildings.

### Targets

By 2035: 48% of residential heating and 45% of commercial converted to heat pumps.

By 2050: 90% of residential heating and 85 percent of commercial converted to heat pumps.

By 2040, reduce low-income energy burden to <5%. (Low income energy burden is the percent of income that low-income households are spending on energy)<sup>14</sup>

By 2040, eliminate **utility** shut offs.

### Targets to Develop

Increase the energy savings (MMBTUs) for low income households in Providence.

Increase low-income **energy efficiency** program participation.

Increase **energy efficiency** and electrification investment dollars for low income households.

Housing and anti-**displacement** metrics and targets.

# Explanation of Challenges

## Part 1

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### Challenge 1: Energy efficiency

Increase funding for energy efficiency investments in low- and moderate- income households and communities, including pre-weatherization barriers; Expand knowledge of and access to existing energy efficiency programs, especially among frontline communities; identify specific **barriers to participation** among LMI populations; make programs more accessible and consumer-friendly

### Challenge 2: Electrification

Expand access to clean energy and electrification programs to better serve low- and moderate-income and frontline communities; identify the best-fit consumers and households that would benefit from lower energy costs with electrification via heat pumps; supplement heat pump incentives for income-eligible customers; establish funds for **pre-electrification investments**, such as electrical panel upgrades, that would support the future transition of LMI households to cleaner technologies such as induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, and air source heat pumps

# Explanation of Challenges

## Part 2



### Challenge 3: Climate resilience

For Providence residents, climate change will likely mean rising sea levels, more high heat days, and more intense and more frequent storms. Green infrastructure strategies to capture the rain where it falls, such as tree planting and bioswales, will help the city be more resilient to climate change impacts like high heat days and more intense and frequent storms.

Trees provide many critical benefits for human and environmental health, from cleaning our air and water to providing shade to lower energy costs and combat the urban heat island effect. However, Providence's trees are not distributed evenly among all neighborhoods. **Distribution of tree canopy cover** varies widely across the city, and mirrors other environmental, social, racial and health disparities.

While City tree planting programs continue to place priority on planting in low canopy neighborhoods, the cost of services such as depaving or sidewalk cut-outs, poses challenges to massive deployment in frontline communities.

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

Maximize the impact of existing energy efficiency education and incentive uptake among LMI homeowners and organizations

Connect existing LMI clients to unrestricted funding to address pre-weatherization barriers

## Priority 2:

Fund pre-electrification investments, such as electrical panel upgrades, to support the future transition of LMI households to cleaner technologies such as induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, and air source heat pumps

Supplement state heat pump program for targeted LMI households and organizations that would benefit most

## Priority 3:

Address barriers to tree plantings and green infrastructure in frontline communities, addressing urban heat island effect and mitigating stormwater runoff i.e. depaving, curbing

# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding



## Partnership/Funding Source 1

National Grid in partnership with RISE Engineering offers free home energy audits. By collaborating on an energy audit, homeowners become eligible for:

- 50% off approved insulation
- Full coverage of air sealing.
- Rebates of up to \$2,750 on energy-efficient, heating, cooling and water equipment
- Access to 0% interest loan for eligible energy-efficiency improvements

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

\$37 million from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to support the purchase and installation of high-efficiency electric heat pumps in homes – with additional incentives for LMI households – as well as energy efficiency improvements in community-based organizations. This builds on existing incentive for heat pumps which have been offered by both National Grid and the Office of Energy Resources in partnership with RISE Engineering

## Partnership/Funding Source 3

The PVD Tree Plan is a collaborative project to develop a vision and action plan for creating a just, resilient and equitably distributed urban forest in Providence.

The Green Infrastructure Coalition is a statewide, as well as PVD-specific, coalition committed to nature-based solutions for cleaning runoff pollution. Both source a range of funds, including DEM/EPA.

# Questions?

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# ARPA Downtown Sustainability Investments

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Bonnie Nickerson, City Planning Director  
& Executive Director of Providence Redevelopment Agency



# PROJECT GOALS

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**Implement mitigation strategies to capture stormwater, address urban heat island, and improve user comfort year-round in the City's central city square**

- Installations to improve stormwater retention
- Enhanced landscaped areas to address urban heat island
- Installation of trees to create shaded areas
- Help address flooding and improve water quality
- Enhance native habitat

Feedback from constituents on improvements to the city's center—included an emphasis more landscaped areas, trees, shade and stormwater retention installations are needed to make public spaces more livable, usable and enjoyable in all seasons

This investment works now – with the current Kennedy Plaza configuration – and will work in the future, if RIPTA were to relocate

# PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

## **Building strong, healthy communities** (p. 128)

“investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments” (p. 129)

## **Neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes.** (p. 129)

“Developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase healthy foods, streetlights, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.” (p. 132)

# PROJECT STATUS AND TIMELINE

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Robust public input throughout 2021 through the Unified Vision for Downtown Providence project – thousands of residents and stakeholders provided input. See detailed project information here: <https://imaginedowntownpvd.com/>

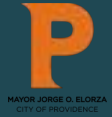
Detailed planning and preliminary engineering for sustainability elements for the connected public spaces throughout Greater Kennedy Plaza

Have completed 30% design and engineering for site improvements

**Have internal capacity to quickly issue architectural services RFP, with construction bid immediately following and execute this project to bring these needed improvements online quickly to serve our community.**

# PROJECT GOALS

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The sustainability and resilience strategies for this central downtown project is grounded in the City's existing sustainability and resilience goals based on data for future climate projections to ensure the design of downtown is future-fit to support the residents of Providence.

The landscaping elements make the plaza softer and more welcoming and, also play a critical role in the sustainability of the city's center. The shade and vegetation introduced by the island reduce the urban heat island effect in the summer while screening and slowing winter winds, improving thermal comfort year round. At the same time, the islands are strategically placed to absorb stormwater, slowing and filtering runoff before it is ultimately discharged into Narragansett Bay.

# PROJECT POLICIES AND GOALS

The sustainability and resilience strategy is framed around the UN Sustainable Development Goals – recognizing the interconnected strategies of public health, climate change, and working to improve water quality and preserve forested areas. These goals were adopted in 2015

The project team connected the City's goals to a holistic approach to achieve sustainable development – aligned with these global priorities



# PROJECT POLICIES AND GOALS



Each goal from UN and Providence Sustainability Goals directly informed the strategies and the ultimate design proposals in the plan.

# PROJECT POLICIES AND GOALS

## Connecting the goals



## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

### UNSDGs

#### Target 13.1

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

#### Target 13.2

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

#### Target 13.3

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

### PROVIDENCE GOALS

#### Sustainable Providence

- Expand renewable energy and clean energy projects, and implement energy reduction policies and practices city-wide through promotion and project development.

#### Climate Justice Plan Collaborative Gov. & Accountability

- Develop a long-term climate resilience and adaptation plan
- By 2035, there are three Resilience Hubs in frontline communities and by 2050, there is one in every neighborhood

### STRATEGIES

#### Planning & Design

- Raised Riverwalk to protect from flooding
- Use flood-resistant materials and flood barriers to minimize coastal flood impacts
- Use materials that reduce urban heat island impacts
- Design drainage for increased rainfall and improve stormwater management practices

#### Operational

- Educational opportunities for enhancing public understanding of climate change
- Regular maintenance of pervious pavement, green infrastructure, drainage, etc.
- Regular care and maintenance of trees and plantings

### KEY PROJECT DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Elevate the Riverwalk and install flood barriers as needed

Consider opportunities for integrating trees, green infrastructure, and rainwater harvesting

Implement additional shading options as part of project design

Ensure drainage is designed for increased intensity of rainfall

Ensure mechanical and HVAC equipment can accommodate future temperature projects, especially as it relates to the impact of warmer winters on the ice rink and the impact of more extreme heat days in the summer on the comfort and use of the site



# PROJECT POLICIES AND GOALS

## Connecting the goals



**PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

### UNSDGs

#### Target 15.2

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests

#### Target 15.5

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity

#### Target 15.9

By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, and development processes

### PROVIDENCE GOALS

#### Climate Justice Plan

- Incorporate community priorities and maximize opportunities for new open space and climate resiliency investments.
- Prioritize tree plantings in low-canopy areas where heat island index is high, and residents can experience the cooling (electricity savings), air pollution, and water filtration benefits.
- Prioritize deep root, native plantings in parks and other public green spaces to maximize carbon sequestration, eliminate the need for fossil fuel-based fertilizer and pesticides, and educate the community on the climate and biological benefits of such planting and land use practices.

### STRATEGIES

#### Planning & Design

- Enhance biodiversity with plant selection
- Avoid monoculture
- Focus on pollinator plants
- FSC Certified (or equivalent) wood products
- Decrease impervious area
- Increase street trees
- Weave natural elements into park and playground areas

#### Operational

- No petrochemical fertilizers
- Responsible water consumption & reuse
- Maintenance of greenery

### KEY PROJECT DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Increase green space from what was previously in the plaza and Riverwalk

Increase number of trees on site, especially along pedestrian pathways and sidewalks

Implement native species and consider opportunities for pollinator pathways

# CITY DATA ANALYSIS

## Climate Resilience in Providence



Providence's ambitious sustainability and carbon neutrality goals are grounded in the reality that climate change is happening now, and any robust sustainability and climate change strategy must recognize how climate change is already impacting the City and its residents. Observed and future climate impacts in Providence are expected to include:

- Rising sea levels are already causing floods in the city and sea levels are expected to rise +9.6' by 2100
- Rhode Island summers are expected to get 9.1 degrees hotter by 2100
- High heat danger days (above 105 degrees) are likely to increase to at least 12 days by 2050
- RI has seen a steady increase in extreme precipitation

# CITY DATA ANALYSIS

## Extreme Heat and Precipitation Projections

### Extreme Heat

The following map shows the urban heat island risk at the project site, according to the Trust for Public Land's Climate-Smart Cities tool.



### Precipitation

Climate projections indicate that rainfall throughout Rhode Island is likely to become more frequent and intense throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At this stage of the design, the project team has developed a civil and landscape strategy that focuses on increasing the permeability of the site through a reduction in impervious surfaces and use of on-site stormwater storage systems and green infrastructure practices. This allows for more runoff to be captured and managed before entering the stormwater system, thus improving the ability of the drainage systems serving the project area to accommodate more extreme precipitation-based flood events. Site drainage is currently designed based on existing code, but with the intent of reviewing the design criteria as the project progresses further in the design process.

As the stormwater management and drainage design evolves, consideration should be given to future rainfall projections and the potential for designing site drainage and green infrastructure to accommodate larger volumes of water.

# DATA ANALYSIS

## Coastal Flooding and Sea Level Rise: Design Considerations

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RI CRMC) recommends the use of the following sea level rise projections for planning and design throughout the State of Rhode Island.

**Table 2. Sea level rise projections for Rhode Island**

	2030	2050	2080	2100
<b>NOAA 2017 projections based on "high curve"</b>	1.67 feet (83% CI)	3.25 feet (83% CI)	6.69 feet (83% CI)	9.6 feet (83% CI)

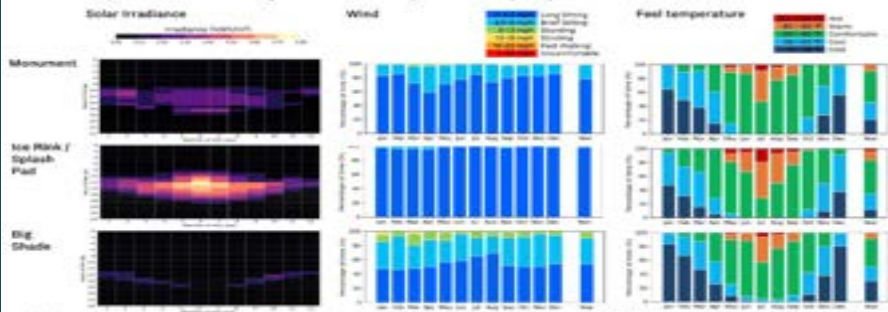
For the purposes of this project, we have assumed that the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier will protect against more severe events and/or the City will need to implement a comprehensive flood protection strategy for Downtown if the Hurricane Barrier cannot protect against more extreme events. Therefore, the flood protection strategy for this project focused on protecting against less severe, but potentially more frequent coastal flood events that could occur. The 10-year storm surge event in 2050 (using 3.25' of sea level rise as recommended by RI CRMC) was used as the basis of design for the PVD-UVD coastal flood protection strategy. The anticipated flooding associated with a 10-yr storm event in 2050 is shown on the map to the right.





# SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS – examples

## Event Space | Monthly Overview (8am – 8pm)



## Recommendations for Improved Usage

The following measures may be taken to improve comfort as indicated on the plan at right.

-  **Reduce wind exposure** - provide structures, screens, evergreen trees, or other year-round foliage to block and deflect wind.
-  **Increase sun exposure** - reduce the density of foliage or remove other obstructions to increase the availability of sunlight and solar heat.
-  **Add shading** - provide temporary structures, movable shades, deciduous trees, or other seasonal foliage to block or diffuse direct sunlight.



## Event Space | Winter and Summer

Based on the seasonal use of the Event Space, different programmed activities will encounter widely varying comfort conditions over the course of the year.

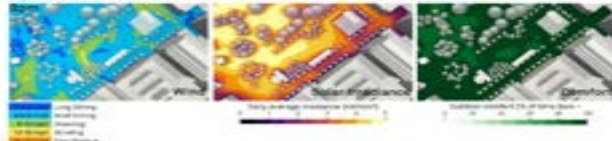
Winter use as an ice rink will encounter higher wind speeds and reduced solar availability. These factors combine with already cold winter temperatures to reduce the comfort level in the area. However, reduced solar irradiance has a positive effect on maintaining ice in the rink. Occupants' winter clothing and elevated metabolic rates while skating will aid in providing comfort during this season.

In summer, high temperatures will encourage use of the Splash Pad. Occupants are only expected to use this amenity when it is otherwise uncomfortable to sit. High solar irradiance levels will promote evaporative cooling, which may otherwise be reduced given the higher relative humidity levels encountered in July and August.

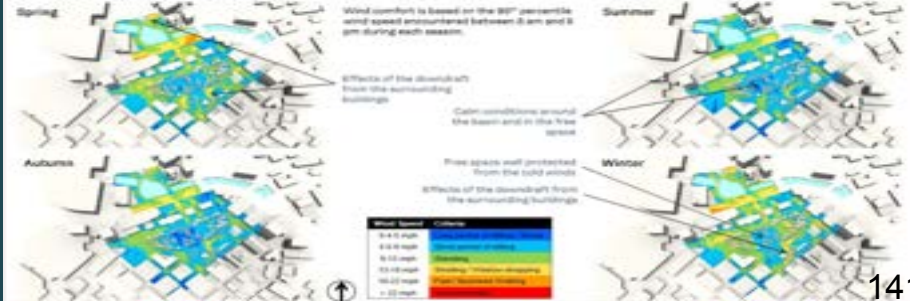
### Ice Rink Winter 8am - 8pm



### Splash Pad Summer 8am - 8pm



## Seasonal Wind Patterns



# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS

## RIVER BIRCH STAGE

A thicket of airy river birch emerge through steel grating to float around an elevated stage. River boulders and switchgrass weave a welcoming and playful atmosphere to take in the sights or enjoy a casual performance.

### THEATRICAL CANOPY

River Birch  
Ashe maple

### COMMUNITY STAGE

Casual setting for performance

### SOFT LANDING

Switchgrass

PERMEABLE PAVING ON  
EAST / WEST AXES

### CURVED SEATING

Creates theater in the round

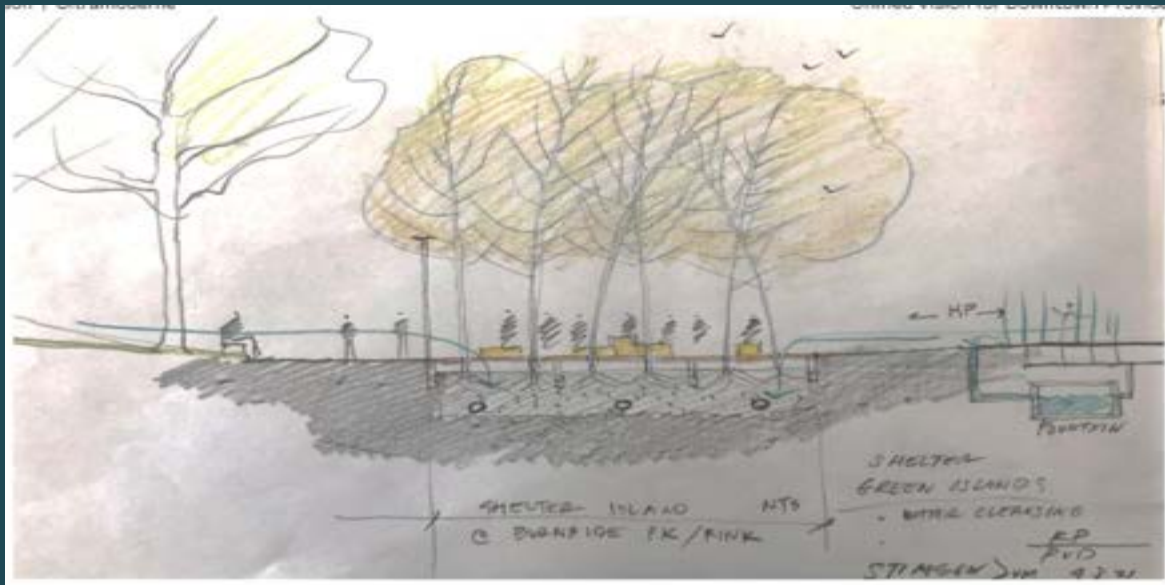
### RIVERSIDE REPOSE

Large riverine boulders offer seating and scrambling play

### BIG SPONGE

Steel grating allows

# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS





# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS

## CIVIC BOSQUE

Tulip Poplars, Redbuds and granite benches encircle, designate and provide space to meet and linger at the Soldiers and Sailors monument. Granite pavers and a formal planted language reflect the civic relationship of the space to the monument and adjacent City Hall.

### SHADE TREE

**Tulip Poplar**  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*

### RELOCATED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

### FLOWERING TREE

**White Redbud**  
*Cercus canadensis 'alba'*

### PERMEABLE GRANITE PAVERS

CURVED GRANITE SEATING AND  
VEHICULAR SAFETY WALL

GRANITE BENCHES





# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS



# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS

## SASSAFRAS SHADE

Throughout the year, sassafras and high bush blueberry provide a riot of color, taste, and spatial interest to a calm and welcoming grove. A granular groundplane allows water to percolate while designating the space as an eddy in the river of activity in Kennedy Plaza.

**EDIBLE ENCLOSURE**  
High Bush Blueberry  
*Vaccinium corymbosum*

**GRANULAR SURFACE**  
Porous Paving

**COLORFUL CANOPY**  
Sassafras  
*Sassafras albidum*



# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS





# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS

## GOLDEN GROVE

Playful and fresh ginkgos, witch hazel, spicebush and yellow twig dogwood provide a golden glow all year round. Hammocks, scattered across a wooden deck alongside switchgrass and river boulders, provide space to lounge and linger.

### GOLDEN GROVE

Ginkgo  
*ginkgo biloba*

### FEATHERY FOLIAGE

Sumac  
*dasycarpus*

### IN THE LIMELIGHT

Spicebush  
*lindera benzoin*

### GRANITE BENCHES

PERMEABLE PAVING IN  
FREE PLAY AREA

### WINTER WONDER

Witch Hazel  
*Hamamelis virginiana*

### PUNCTUATED PLANTING

Yellow Twig Dogwood  
*cornus sericea*

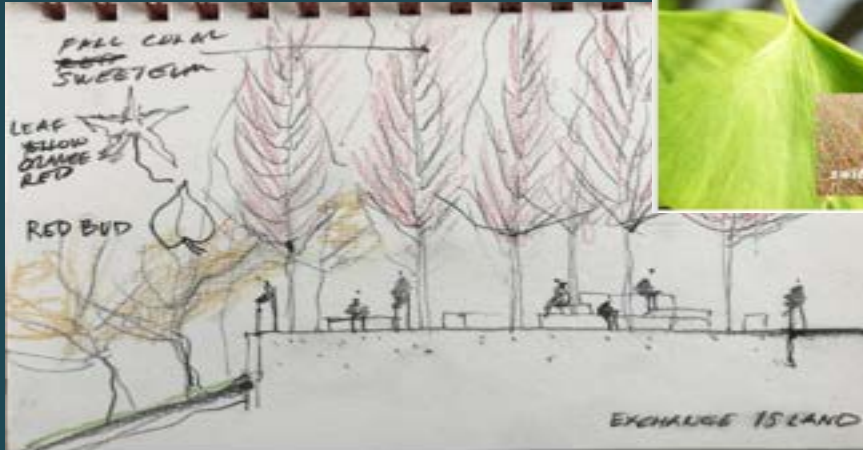
### HAMMOCK DECK

### PLAYFUL POOLS

Blazes of switchgrass float  
through river rock boulders

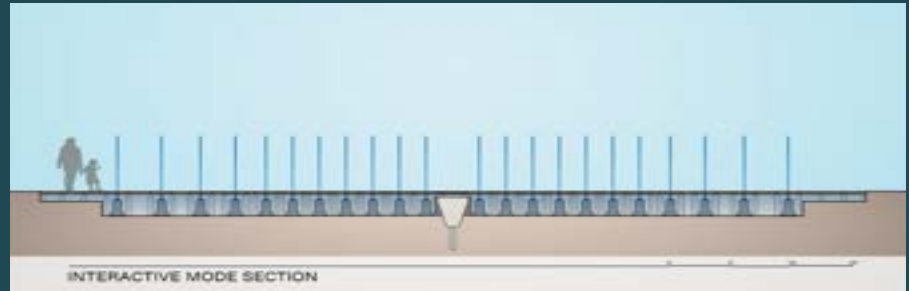


# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS



# PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS

The project will include a modified mist or water installation to add to the comfort and usability of these downtown public spaces, particularly during high-heat days. The installation will be like other installations in Providence parks designed to provide relief and enjoyment to residents.



# ADDITIONAL PROJECT BENEFITS



This project would expand the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center to include the public parks in downtown Providence – expanding the outreach and education of the center.

## PROVIDENCE STORMWATER INNOVATION CENTER



Roger Williams Park is home to the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center (PSIC). The Innovation Center has been developed by a partnership between the City of Providence Parks Department, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute, Restore America's Estuaries, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the SNEP Network, The Robbins-de Beaumont Foundation and the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center.

# PROJECT BUDGET ESTIMATE

## \$6M ARPA proposed allocation

– Estimated cost for installation & construction	\$4.2M
– Estimated cost for mist feature installation	\$250k
–	
– Construction cost subtotal:	\$4.45M
– Engineering and construction management	\$950k (16%)
– Contingency	\$0.6M (10%)
– Estimated project total	\$6M



# Questions?

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# Providence Sewers and Stormwater

- Improve the overall health of the city's waterways
- Improve water quality to create recreation opportunities (swimming, fishing, boating)
- Develop a data-driven asset management approach to sewer infrastructure
- Maintain and/or replace existing sewer infrastructure to serve the City for centuries into the future
- Develop a maintenance plan for grease, tree roots, inflow/infiltration
- **Satisfy outstanding and approaching regulatory deadlines**



# Clean Water Act (CWA) - 1972

Basic structure for regulating pollutant discharges into the waters of the US.

STORMWATER SEWER SYSTEM - RIPDES – Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, regulated by RIDEM

**2/9/09, 11/24/10** - Violation Notices, Failure to Comply

**3/6/17** - Consent Agreement (Notice of Violation and Resolution)

**Pending Violation Penalty - \$25,000/year starting in 2010. Total Pending to date:**

**\$275,000**

SANITARY and COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM - CMOM/NPDES – Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance Program

Regulated by USEPA/RIDEM

**2/7/07** - Administrative Order (Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance)

**6/28/10** - Failure to respond to Administrative Order

# Providence Sewer History

1830's - 1840's - Municipal sewer planning and construction commence

1900's - Fields Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) established

1972 - Clean Water Act established by US Government - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

Stormwater Sewer System - **RIPDES** – Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, regulated by RIDEM

Sanitary and Combined Sewer System - **CMOM/NPDES** – Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance

Program regulated by USEPA/RIDEM

1970's - Narragansett Bay Commission created. Take over Fields Point WWTP, 40 miles of sewer main (10% of PVD system), the majority of the existing municipal sewer department, and ALL USER FEES!!!

2003 - RIPDES Permit required for Providence

**2/7/07** - CMOM Administrative Order (Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance) - USEPA

2/9/09 - RIPDES Violation Notices, Failure to Comply - RIDEM

6/28/10 - CMOM Failure to respond to Administrative Order - USEPA

11/24/10 - RIPDES Violation Notices, Failure to Comply - RIDEM

**3/6/17** - Consent Agreement (Notice of Violation and Resolution)

# Challenges

- Past regulatory failures and missed deadlines
- Consent Agreement and Administrative Order
- Lack of dedicated funding
- No user fees collected, only general fund allocation
- Difficulty attracting and retaining staff
- Aging equipment

# CIP Budget and 10 Year Budget Forecast

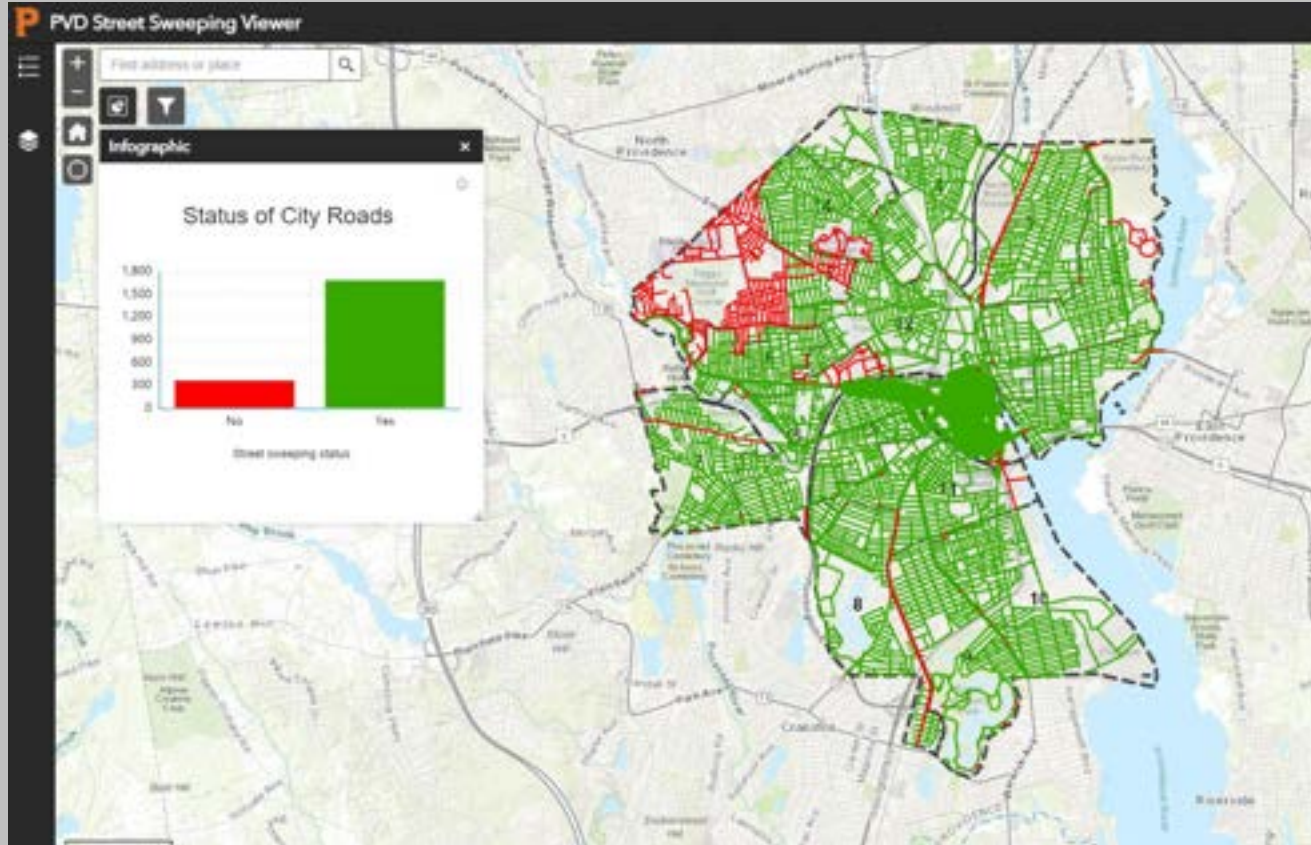
	PPBA2017		PPBA2020		Budget FY23-FY32
	RIPDES	CMOM	RIPDES	CMOM	
Irving Ave (RIPDES)	\$ 42,000		\$ 500,000		
Illicit Discharge Det. And Elim. (CMOM/RIPDES)	\$ 117,000		\$ 120,000		\$ 1,220,000
GIS Mapping (CMOM/RIPDES)	\$ 550,000	\$ 280,000			
Main Line Cleaning and CCTV 1 (CMOM)		\$ 175,000			
Sewer Repairs and Lining 1 (CMOM/RIPDES)		\$ 1,380,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,300,000	
Emergency Sewer Repairs (CMOM/RIPDES)			\$ 100,000	\$ 400,000	
Mashapaug Wier (RIPDES)	\$ 19,900				
RWP Stormwater Projects (RIPDES)	\$ 1,500,000				
Butler Access Road, CCTV and Lining (CMOM)		\$ 31,300		\$ 2,000,000	
Main Line Cleaning and CCTV (CMOM)				\$ 250,000	\$ 12,700,000
Sewer Repairs and Lining (CMOM/RIPDES)					\$ 15,400,000
Sewer ROW, Easements, Access and Maint. (CMOM/RIPDES)					\$ 4,475,000
TMDL Imp. Plan (Woon, West, RWP, Mash) (RIPDES)					\$ 375,000
TMDL Implementation (RIPDES)					\$ 4,200,000
CB/MH Cleaning/Inspection (RIPDES)					\$ 18,720,000
Engineering Consulting (General) (CMOM/RIPDES)					\$ 2,285,000
Consulting for next RIPDES permit (RIPDES)					\$ 1,330,000
Pump Station Management and Insp. (CMOM)					\$ 43,500
Pump Station Generator Replacement and Pit Study (CMOM)					\$ 50,000
Manhole Inspection and Asses. (CMOM)					\$ 3,190,000
Sewer Capacity Analysis (CMOM)					\$ 550,000
GIS Mapper - Hosting, and edits (CMOM/RIPDES)					\$ 250,000
GIS Mapper Enhancements and document archive					\$ 170,000
Asset Management Software (CMOM/RIPDES)					\$ 304,000
(2) Catch Basin Digger Trucks					\$ 450,000
(1) Catch Basin Vacuum Truck					\$ 300,000
(1) Sewer Camera Truck with Lateral Launcher					\$ 450,000
(1) Sewer Vacuum Truck Replacement					\$ 450,000
(1) Flush Truck					\$ 190,000
Personnel (Salary based on FY22)					\$ 4,310,000
	\$2,228,900	\$1,866,300	\$920,000	\$3,950,000	\$71,412,500
Total:	\$4,095,200		\$4,870,000		\$71,412,500



# Street Sweeper Mapper - RIPDES CA

Ensure all streets are swept to reduce sediment to waterways. Built and managed by City.

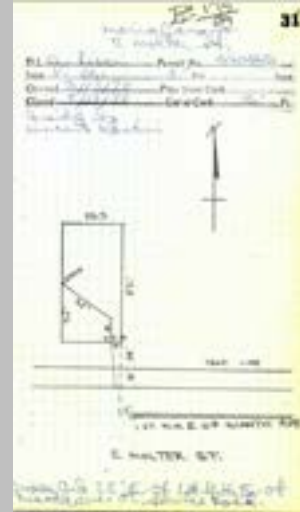
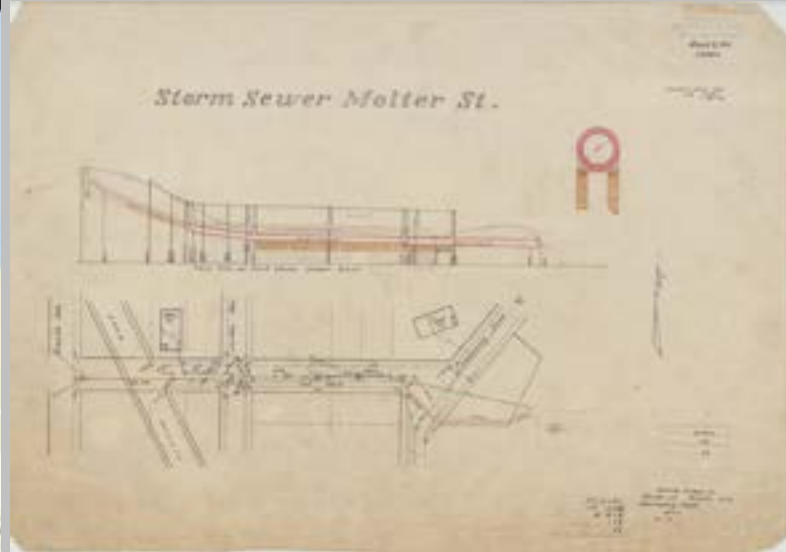
\$0 annual cost



# Sewer Mapper – RIPDES CA and CMOM AO

PPBA2017 - \$436,800 to develop, scan, georeference, survey and field verify

10 Year Budget Request - \$250,000 to continue hosting, editing, scanning and populating map database

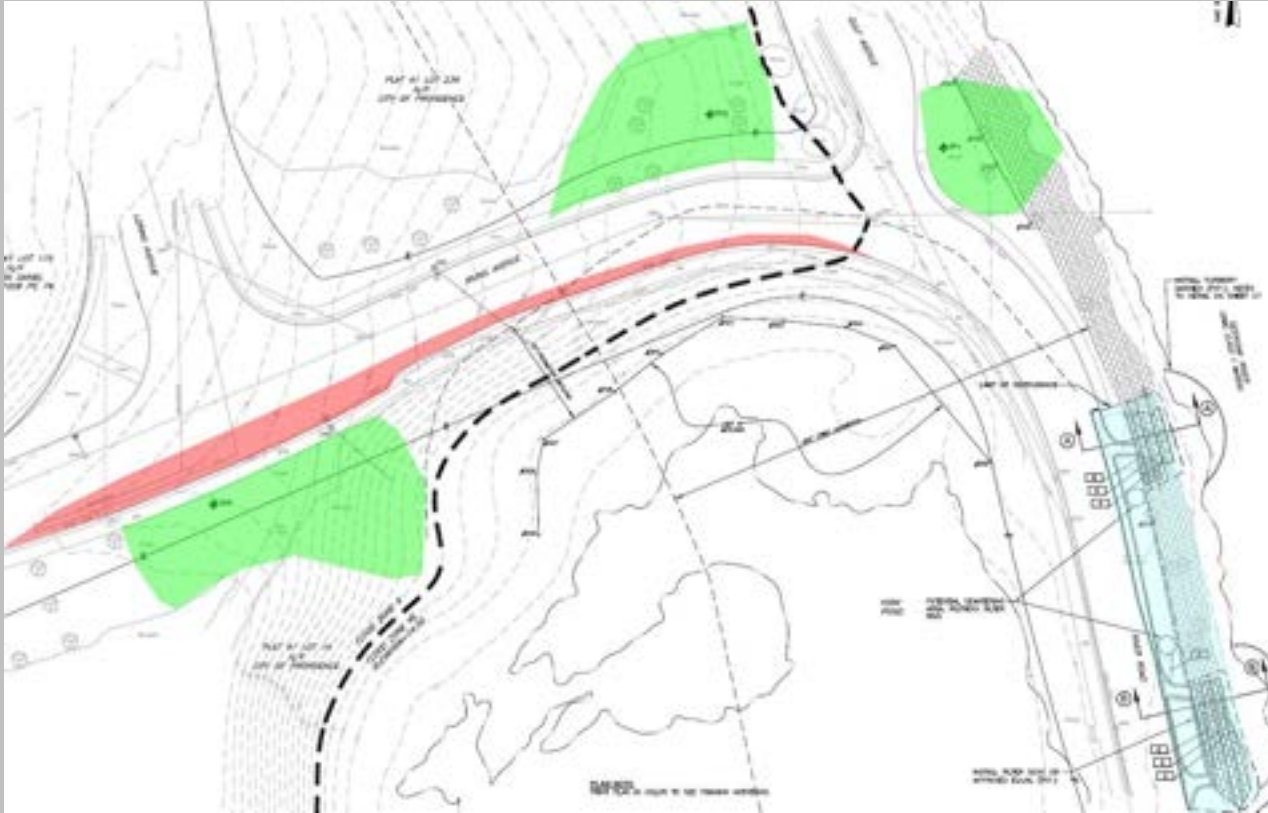


# Irving Ave Sample Env. Project - RIPDES CA

Capture and treat stormwater runoff, and reduce erosive stormwater flow to the Seekonk River.

PPBA2017 - \$42,000 (Design)

PPBA2020 and RIDEM Grant - Est. \$500,000 (Construction)



<https://goo.gl/maps/MUzZhVpVi hLX85Mu7>

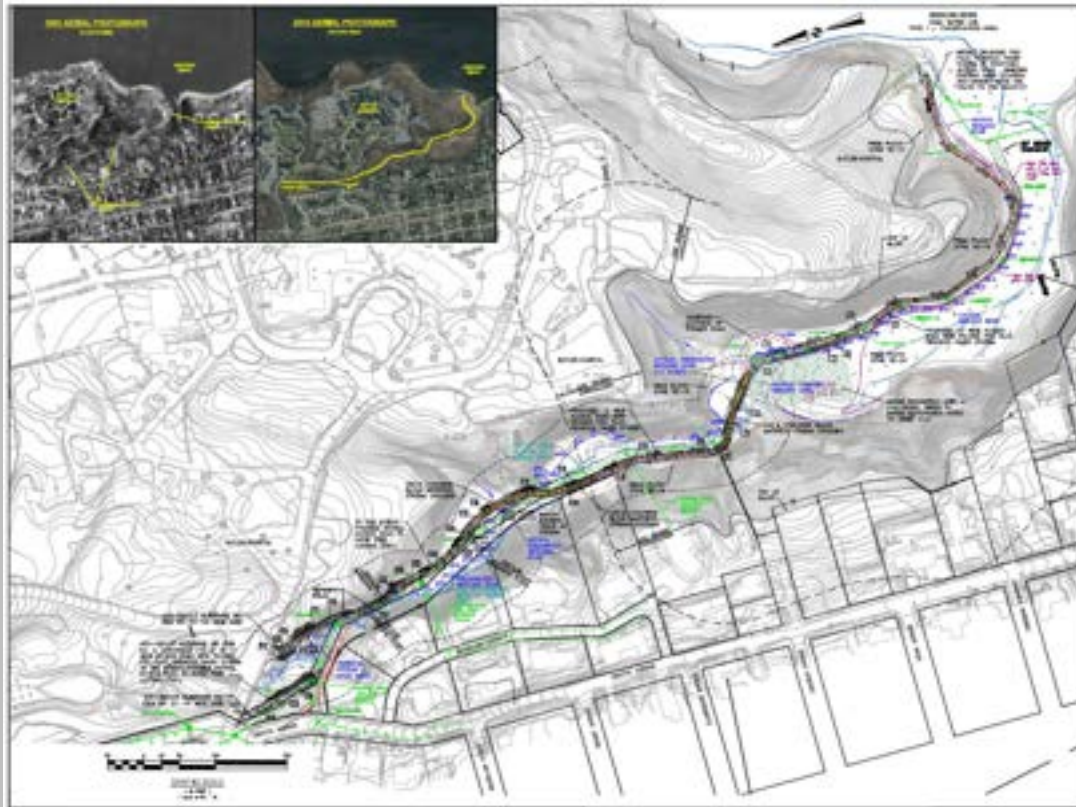
<https://goo.gl/maps/v52VZKKi6 MYt1xuB7>

# Butler Hospital Sewer Easement Access Road Investigation, & Pipe Lining - CMOM AO

Diagnose cause of, and eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows

PPBA2017 - \$31,300 (Design)

PPBA2020 - Est. \$2,000,000(Construction)



## Project Info:

- 2015 Sanitary Sewer Overflow - Est. 75,000 gallons
- 2018 Sanitary Sewer Overflow - Est. 15,000 gallons
- 2600 linear feet
- Adjacent to wetlands, seasonal stream crossings
- Significant elevation differences
- FEMA Flood Zone VE-15



# Sewer Right-of-Ways and Easements - CMOM AO

Identify, create/maintain access, and identify sewer assets

PPBA2020 - Est. \$2,000,000(Construction) - Previous Slide  
10 Year Budget Request - \$4,475,000



# Sewer Repair (Proactive and Reactive) - CMOM AO and RIPDES CA

Repair sewer defects identified through inspection and emergency responses

PPBA2017 - \$1,126,000

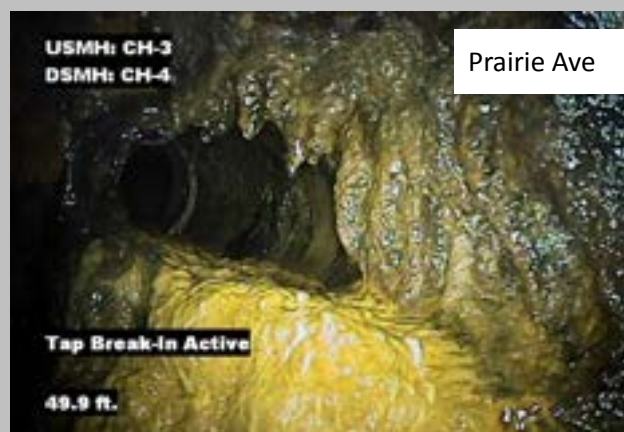
PPBA2020 - \$1,600,000

10 Year Budget Request- \$15,400,000





# Continued Sewer Repair (Proactive and Reactive) - CMOM AO and RIPDES CA





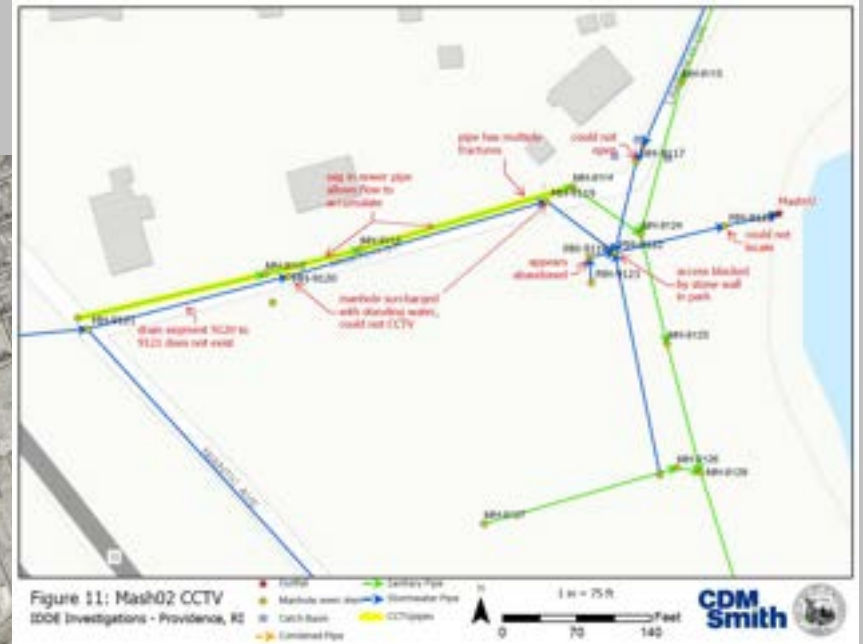
# Continued

## Sewer Repair (Proactive and Reactive) - CMOM AO and RIPDES CA



PPBA2017 - \$82,000  
PPBA2020 - \$120,000  
10 Year Budget Request: \$1,220,000

10 Year Budget Request: \$1,220,000



# Catch Basin and Manhole Inspection – RIPDES CA

10 Year Budget Request RIPDES: \$18,720,000

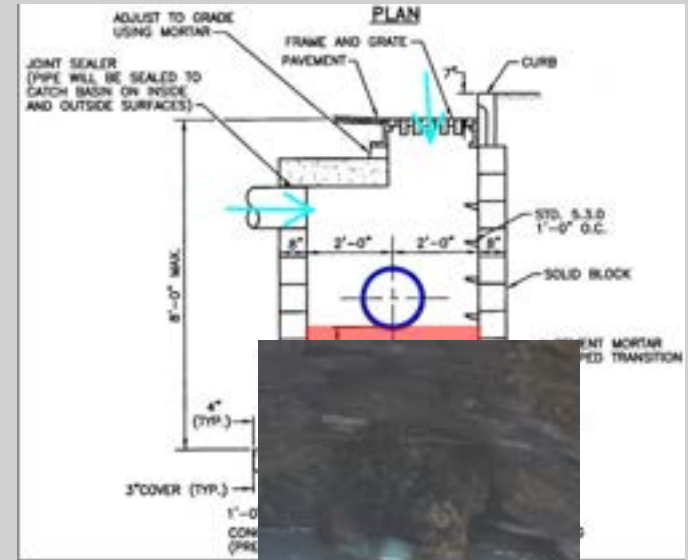
- Assume 75% need annual cleaning (contracted services)

	Main Pipe (Mile)	Catch Basins	Manholes
Storm System	96.3	7,092	4,289
San/Comb System	327.4	7,227	14,473
<b>Total</b>	<b>423.7</b>	<b>14,319</b>	<b>18,762</b>

DPW Sewer Department 5-year CB cleaning average - 1900 CB/year

**Total Length to Cycle System: 7.5 years**

**Currently, only 1 catch basin digger truck in service**





# Manhole Inspection/Assessment – CMOM AO

- 10-year program - clean, inspect, identify deficiencies, document attributes.
  - 10 Year Budget Request: \$3,190,000



Before



After

- Grease Accumulation
- Sediment Accumulation
- Obstructions
- Infiltration
- Tree Roots



Before Heavy Rain



During Heavy Rain

# Sewer Main Cleaning and Inspection - CMOM AO and RIPDES CA

Clean and inventory sewer mains to identify proactive repairs and maintenance.

2017PPBA - \$165,000

2020PPBA - \$250,000

10 Year Budget Request - \$15,400,000

Pilot Cleaning and Inspection - 2017PPBA

Table ES-2: Defect Grade Scores

PACP Condition Rating	Pipe Length (ft)	Percent of Total Pipe Footage (%)	Suggested Reinspection Time Frame (years)
5	3,648	6%	1-2
4	8,163	14%	2-3
3	8,907	16%	4-6
2	15,102	27%	8-10
1	20,842	37%	10+
Total	56,662	100%	

Cycle through system years 1-5, continue through system every 10 years



July 2020 - 59 Blackstone Boulevard

# Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans – RIPDES CA

Develop a plan to limit pollutants as determined by RIDEM's TMDL documents.

PPBA2017: \$1,500,000

10 Year Budget Request: \$375,000 for Implementation Plans, \$4,200,000 for implementation

- RWP Ponds and Mashapaug Pond – Due 12/31/20
  - Implement Recommendations \$2,050,000
- Woonasquatucket and West River – Due 12/31/22
  - Implement Recommendations \$2,150,000



<https://www.jfbrennan.com/blog/waterplace-park-river-restoration-small-dredges-useful-in-downtown-waterways>



<https://www.stormwaterinnovation.org/cyanobacteria>

# Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans – RIPDES CA, con't

Capture and treat stormwater runoff to reduce phosphorus to ponds

Bioswale



Infiltration Basin



## Roger Williams Park Ponds Watersheds

Upper Watershed (977 acres)



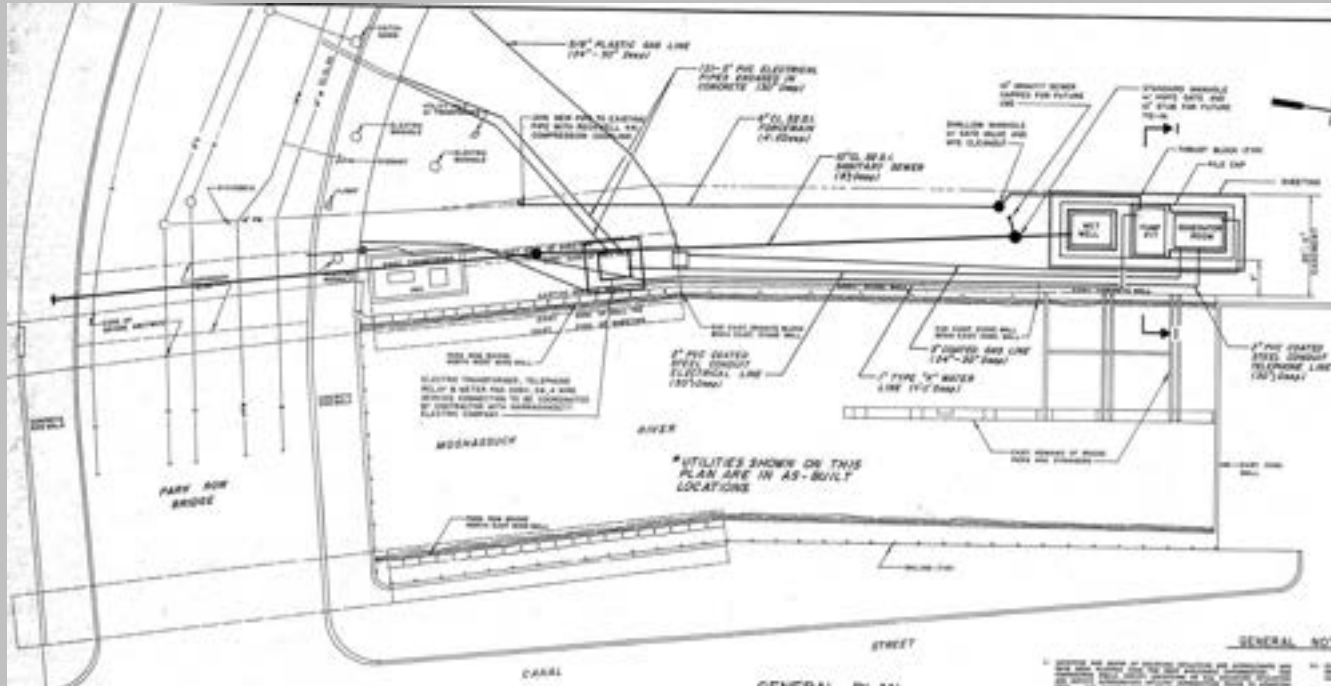
Lower Watershed (649 acres)



# Capitol Center Pump Station - CMOM

Contracted quarterly inspections and light maintenance  
10 Year Budget Request: \$43,500

Generator Replacement and Pit Relocation  
Budget Request: \$50,000

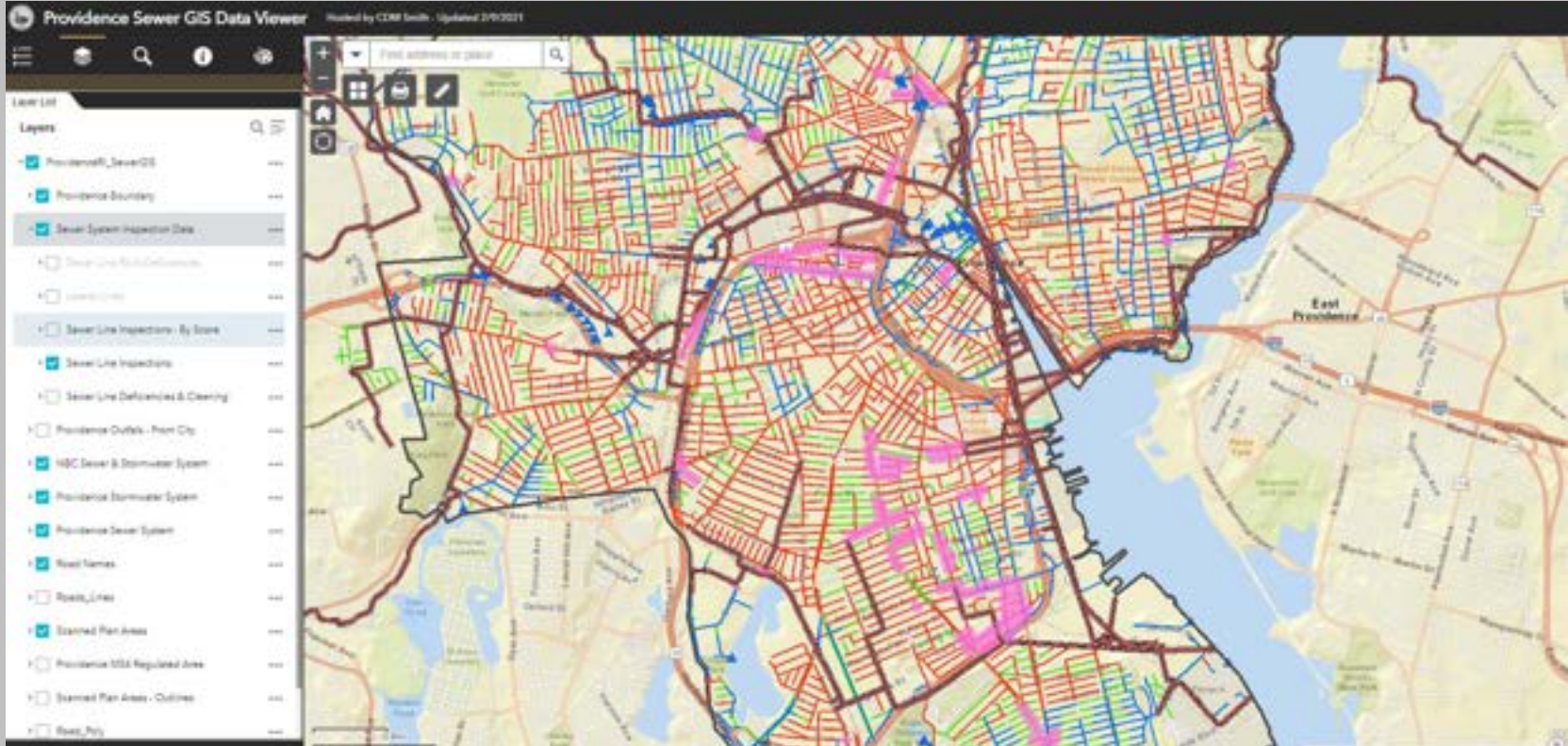


# Asset Management - CMOM and RIPDES

Procure Asset Management software to include findings from all cleaning, investigations, repairs, etc.

10 Year Budget Request for software- \$304,000

10 Year Budget to maintain and upgrade mapper, digitize records: \$420,000



# Hydraulic Capacity Analysis - CMOM

Measure and model flow to determine if current system is adequate, and plan for future developments.

2 Year Budget Request: \$550,000



# ARPA - Housing Supports & Homelessness Investments

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Emily Freedman, Community Development Director  
Hannah Kahn, Deputy Director of Research & Development



# Current State



- The City receives “entitlement” funding from the U.S. Dept. of HUD on an annual basis for housing & community development initiatives.
- Providence Housing Trust capitalized with \$25M to provide lending capital to affordable housing development projects.
- The City was also the recipient of 2020 disaster relief funding through the CARES Act. Funds were deployed for:
  - Rapid rehousing & other short-term rent/utility assistance
  - Shelter operations
  - Expanded street outreach & supportive services
  - Vaccination, testing, & community health initiatives
  - Food security
- City Council allocated \$500,000 in first ARPA Ordinance for “homelessness intervention.” This funding has been awarded to Crossroads RI for mobile diversion program.

# Explanation of Challenges



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## Challenge 1:

CARES disaster relief funds expiring.

## Challenge 2:

Scope of need exceeds resources available, and recovery needs are anticipated to continue beyond next 12 months.

## Challenge 3:

Shortage of affordable housing units. Most acute shortage is for price-appropriate housing for households earning <30% of area median income, which has only been further exacerbated by the pandemic. City's [Anti-Displacement & Comprehensive Housing Strategy](#) projected shortage of 7,500 price-appropriate units by 2030 prior to economic downturn.

# Explanation of Challenges



## Challenge 4:

Growing rates of unsheltered homelessness & system capacity limitations.

- 146 shelter beds lost to accommodate CDC social distancing guidelines; timeline for restoration still uncertain.
- Eviction moratoriums have expired.
  - Pre-pandemic, there were approximately 8,300 evictions a year; 25% in Providence. Advocates estimate this number may rise to 15,000 in 2022 and beyond.
- Shelters at full capacity; lack of available beds and housing units creating logjams throughout system.
  - 503 identified as “Unsheltered” in Coordinated Entry System in recent 14 day period (12/5-12/18).
  - 150+ hotel rooms in use.
  - Statewide figures, but approximately 40% of people experiencing homelessness identified in HMIS are Providence residents per RI Coalition to End Homelessness.



# Priority: EXPAND OVERFLOW & NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER CAPACITY



- Transition households experiencing homelessness into safe shelter or rehousing options.
  - **Line item(s):**
    - **Emergency Housing Solutions \$1,000,000**
    - **Expand Rapid Rehousing \$4,000,000**
  - Work with partners to expand non-congregate shelter models, diversion and housing navigation programs to add capacity to homeless service system.
  - Sustain increased levels of Rapid Rehousing investment (18-24 months rental assistance paired with case management) for 2-3 years to expedite client transition from shelter into housing.
  - Leverage Consolidated Homeless Fund (ESG, Title X, HRC funding), Medicaid reimbursement for home stabilization services, Treasury Rent Relief RI funds.
  - Impact: ~175 individuals; 120 families housed
  - Eligibility: 31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC77, p. 83

# Priority: PRESERVATION OF HOUSING



- Ensure existing naturally-affordable housing stock is safe, healthy and habitable.
  - **Line Item: Home Repair Program \$3,000,000**
  - Fund expanded rehab lending in parallel with more proactive code enforcement (Rental Registration & Certificate of Habitability pilot) & aging-in-place initiatives.
  - Leverage rehab funds with Lead Safe Providence Program, ProvWater Lead Line Replacement Program, CAPP Weatherization Program.
  - Impact: ~94 properties rehabbed.
  - Eligibility: 31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC77, p. 84-85
- Launch innovative pilot programs via new fund to respond to community housing need.
  - **Line Item: Affordable & Alternative Housing Programming \$500,000**
  - Issue RFP for community-driven proposals to serve impacted households in hardest hit neighborhoods.
  - Eligibility: 31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC77, p. 81-83

# Priority: HOUSING PROTECTIONS



- Continue and expand protections to prevent loss of housing.
  - ***Line item: Right to Counsel \$600,000***
  - Continue successful Right to Counsel pilot providing no-cost legal aid services to prevent displacement.
  - Leverage State's Rent Relief RI rental assistance; eviction defense lawyers ensure clients are given priority for program and use assistance to negotiate agreement with landlords.
  - Impact: ~2,000 households
  - Eligibility: 31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC77, p. 81-83

**\$28 million**

### ***Housing and Homelessness***

Respond to the current housing crisis in the short term, and implement a long term strategy to end housing insecurity and homelessness in the City, addressed in collaboration with community, state, and federal partners.



#### **Strategies**

- Expand immediate shelter and rapid rehousing
- Increase supply and preservation of affordable housing units through a variety of tools including but not limited to land banking and strategic acquisition, repairs, rehabilitation, and new construction.
- Focus on increasing housing opportunities for people and families with low or no income.
- Fund supportive housing and other inclusive housing models
- Invest in creative homelessness prevention and housing stabilization programs, and maintain accessibility and affordability

# Questions?

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# ARPA Housing Production Investments

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Bonnie Nickerson, City Planning Director  
& Executive Director of Providence Redevelopment Agency



# PRIORITY: PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS



- Subsidy dollars are needed to support the construction of critically-needed affordable housing units.
  - **Line item(s):**
    - **Affordable Housing Development (PRA Transfer) \$17,000,000**
    - **Permanent Supportive Housing (PRA Transfer) \$2,000,000**
  - Will create additional subsidy pool within Providence Housing Trust with targeted goal of accelerating affordable housing projects in the pipeline and increasing overall production of affordable housing units throughout Providence neighborhoods.
  - \$2M as set-aside for capital for permanent supportive housing projects.



# PROVIDENCE HOUSING TRUST



- Administered by the Providence Redevelopment Agency, financing review through Department of Planning and Development Finance Director
- Capitalized through the \$25M Bond, closed in 2021
  - - Low interest lending for Affordable housing projects
    - Short-term construction lending at below market interest rates
    - Long-term project financing as part of a development project capital stack
    - Since the bond closed in Feb. 2021, have committed approximately \$10M to the following projects:
      - Paragon Mill (9% Low-income Housing Tax Credit Project, mill renovation)
      - Barbara Jordan II (combination of 9% and 4% Low-income Housing Tax Credit Project, new construction)
      - Bowdoin Street (HOME funded project, new construction)
      - Additional applications are currently under review

# PROVIDENCE HOUSING TRUST

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- \$19M ARPA transfer to the Providence Housing Trust
- ARPA funds will allow deeper assistance to affordable housing projects
  - In addition to project lending, will be able to offer subsidy funds for projects (grants) that will help to fill project gaps
  - In combination with other sources now available, will move Providence projects into construction in the near term
  - \$19M will be deployed quickly, either in combination with bond funds, other subsidy programs or as stand-alone investments, via an RFP process
  - PRA will be working with a third-party underwriter to provide independent project review (to determine appropriate subsidy targets per project)

Eligibility: 31 CFR Part 35 RIN 1505-AC77, p. 106-108

# PROVIDENCE HOUSING TRUST



- In addition to development project subsidies, other allowable uses of ARPA affordable housing funds may include property acquisition.
- PRA, in partnership with CDCs, may consider targeted, strategic property acquisition, where such acquisitions would allow for much needed affordable housing in areas of the city that are currently underserved with diverse housing options.
- Additional uses may include addressing blighted properties in partnership with CDC partners to increase small-scale infill projects throughout Providence neighborhoods.



# PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

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- To be eligible for ARPA funding, affordable housing projects must be targeted to:
  - Households earning 60% of Area median income for rental units
  - Households earning 80% of Area Median Income for home-ownership units



# OPPORTUNITY

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- In combination with the Providence Housing Trust bond funds, the additional ARPA funds for affordable housing will allow us to quickly address the critical housing shortage for low-income households in Providence.
- We have the mechanisms in place and the capacity to move issues RFPs, approve projects and move funds quickly to bring units online
- These funds allow the City to address many of the needs and priorities expressed by our community through our recent Anti-Displacement and Comprehensive Housing Strategy, a robust engagement to identify a 10-yr blueprint for housing policy, program and investments in Providence
- See more information here:  
<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/comprehensive-housing-strategy/>

# Questions?

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# Providence Racial Equity Investment Strategy

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Office of Economic Opportunity





# ARPA Rules



- *...recognized that pre-existing health, economic, and social disparities contributed to disproportionate pandemic impacts in certain communities and allowed for a broader list of enumerated eligible uses to respond to the pandemic in disproportionately impacted communities.*
- *Under the interim final rule, recipients were allowed to presume that families residing in QCTs or receiving services provided by Tribal governments were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.*
- *...too many Americans remain unemployed, out of the labor force, or unable to pay their bills, with this pain particularly acute among lower-income Americans and communities of color.*

# Current State



## TAKING ON COVID-19 INEQUITIES IS KEY TO CLOSING THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

- Centuries of discrimination and exploitation have left a majority of Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color (BIPOC) residents of Providence much poorer than their white counterparts. This racial wealth divide is the product of centuries of public policies and practices that keep people of color from getting ahead.
- As researched and interpreted in the 2021 “A Matter of Truth Report, *“The origins of this gap in Black and White wealth stem from the immediate aftermath of slavery when a promise made to provide the formerly enslaved with 40 acres in land grants went unmet— while many White Americans were provided substantial “handouts” (typically 160 acres) of land in the west.”* Providence and Rhode Island’s active participation in the slavery system and the follow-on evolution of racial discrimination public policies and practices that continued well in the present day, have continued to hamper the socio-economic development of BIPOC people and the neighborhoods where they reside.
- The racial wealth gap in present-day Providence is dramatic. As reported by the Economic Progress Institute, *“Income gaps widened more in Rhode Island than in all but eight states from the late 1970s through the mid-2000s.”*

# Current State

## Providence Household Income

- White Rhode Island households in 2019 made 55% more than Black households, and 72% more than Hispanic households.
- In Providence, in 2019, the neighborhood with the highest Median Household total Income was census tract 34 (Blackstone), with a value of \$178,235.
- The lowest Median Household total Income was census tract 7 (South Providence) with a value of \$18,802. These communities are also significantly divided by race and ethnicity, with many white residents occupying the East Side and BIPOC residents occupying the Southside and West End.

Change in Household Income by Race & Ethnicity, 2010-2019

	2010	2015	2019	# Change 2010- 2019	% Change 2010- 2019
White alone	\$ 58,923	\$ 61,402	\$ 71,096	\$12,173	20.7%
Black or African American alone	\$ 34,699	\$ 36,209	\$ 45,727	\$11,028	31.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	\$ 31,455	\$ 25,082	\$ 37,621	\$6,166	19.6%
Asian alone	\$ 53,357	\$ 53,441	\$ 77,420	\$24,063	45.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	\$ 23,475	NA	\$ 40,507	\$17,032	72.6%
Some other race alone	\$ 31,153	\$ 32,751	\$ 37,910	\$6,757	21.7%
Two or more races	\$ 38,262	\$ 38,885	\$ 48,717	\$10,455	27.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	\$ 33,679	\$ 31,121	\$ 41,293	\$7,614	22.6%
All Households	\$ 54,902	\$ 56,852	\$ 67,167	\$12,265	22.3%

Source: 2010, 2015, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Addressing Racial Equity*



- Address historic inequities with intersectional investments including braiding from other categories to ensure equity across all ARPA programs and funding.
- Any plan to eliminate and/or dramatically reduce the racial wealth gap within the City of Providence requires a direct and transformative public investment in BIPOC households, businesses and neighborhoods.
- Said investments must be based upon the measurable premise of Investment strategies that advance wealth creation in the BIPOC community head on. New and innovative investment strategies to strengthen, diversify and expand the City of Providence commitment to propelling upward mobility in the BIPOC community will reach across several critical areas of development that invest in Six Key Investment Areas:
  - SOCIAL SERVICE CAPACITY
  - URBAN ENTERPRISE
  - MINORITY BUSINESS
  - WORKFORCE TRAINING & EDUCATION
  - EDUCATION
  - NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

# Priorities



## COVID-19 Inequities Program, \$10,000,000

- Establish a public body would meet and provide recommendations to the City on how to address disparate impacts of COVID-19 due to structural racism and provide reparation to such individuals.

## Facilities Development Program, \$4,500,000

### Facilities Development Investments

- Urban League \$2.0 million
- 25 Bough Street \$2.0 million
- Project design, business plan,  
planning and community charrette \$500,000

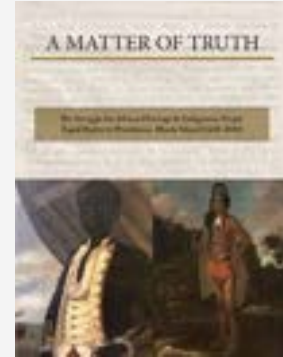
**Total Cost \$4.5 million**



# Program Benefits

The recommended ARPA fund investment strategies to eliminate and/or dramatically reduce the racial wealth gap within the City of Providence accelerated by the disproportionately impact of COVID on residents and communities are directly aligned with the program concepts that were presented by **three key reports:**

- Expand financial recovery tools such as loans and grants to small businesses
- Provide locally informed technical assistance and recovery supports to local businesses
- Invest in local workforce development and promote empowerment models
- Support wealth building programs for historically underinvested communities
- Technical assistance for Providence-based businesses
- Workforce development programs in manufacturing, technology and energy.
- Business corridor investments
- Micro-grants for small businesses
- Support for business districts and shared use infrastructure
- Investments in professional development for community organizations and conferences
- Support for minority owned businesses
- Local training, hiring and contract Awards



# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding



## Partnership/Funding: Nonprofit Partners

- An investment focus on improving the socio-economic conditions of BIPOC people and communities is directly aligned with the R I Foundation and United Way grant priorities.
- The “Make It Happen RI” report outlines specific strategies that the city is currently operating and can immediately scale up with additional funding.

## Partnership/Funding: State/Federal Agencies

- The OEO training program can directly partner with the funding available through the Rhode Island Temporary Cash Assistance For Needy Families (TANF), Real Jobs (DLT), and Providence Workforce Board programs.
- Rhode Island is a finalist for federal Build Back Better grant program that includes workforce training in emerging sectors.

## Partnership/Funding: Public/Private

- RI Foundation and Commerce RI are completing a comprehensive study to advance minority business entrepreneurship to be released in early 2022.
- Governor has announced a \$10 million commitment for minority business development as part of the FY23 state budget.



# Questions?

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# Direct Relief for Low-Income Providence Residents

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Hannah Kahn

*Deputy Director of Research and Development*



# Rhode Island Family Expenses

*For a single parent, 2-child family*

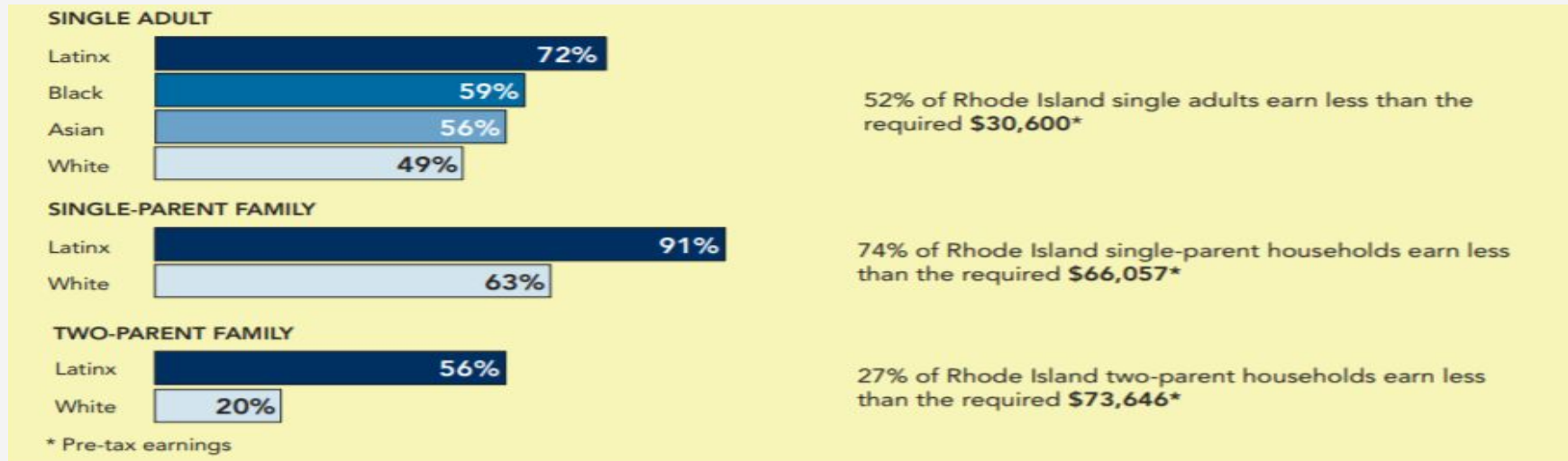


\*Housing cost is based on HUD Fair Market Rent - but average housing costs are much higher. The average 2 bedroom apt in Providence costs \$1,779/mo (w/o the East Side)

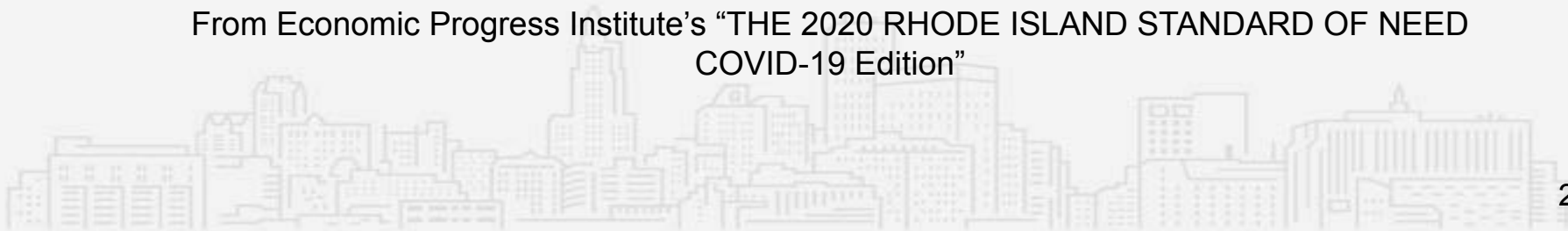
\*\*Includes apparel, personal care, household supplies (including furnishings and equipment, household operations, housekeeping supplies, and telephone services), reading materials, and school supplies

# Rhode Islanders Struggle to Make Ends Meet

## *Especially Rhode Islanders of Color*

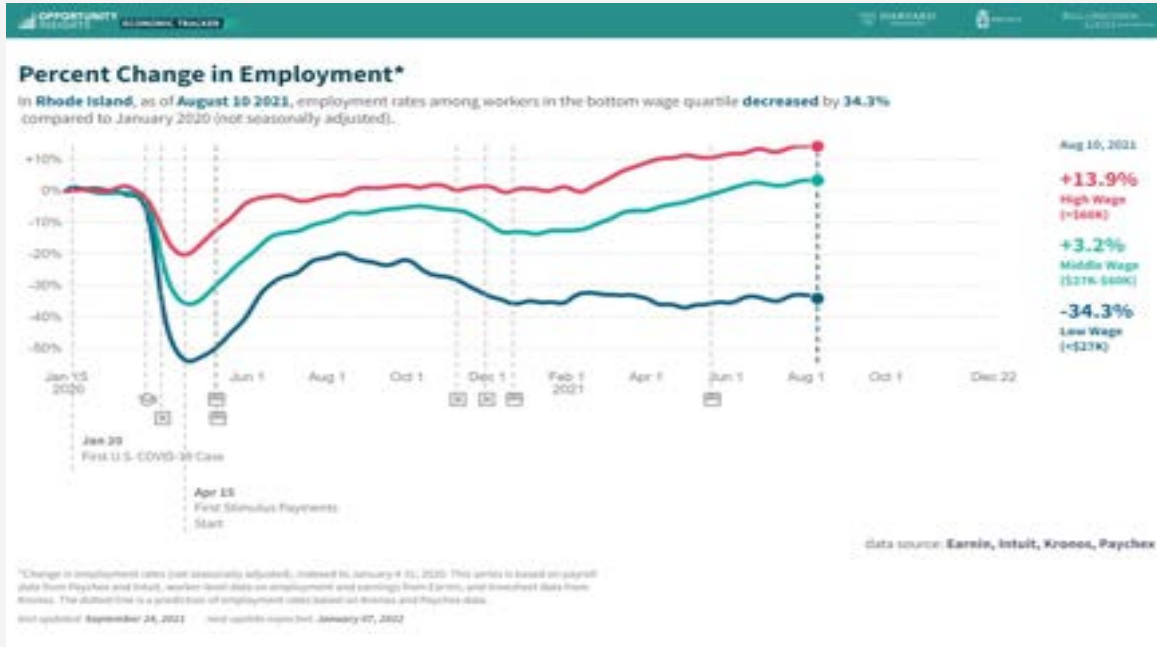


From Economic Progress Institute's "THE 2020 RHODE ISLAND STANDARD OF NEED  
COVID-19 Edition"



# Pandemic Economic Recovery has been uneven

## *Pre-existing inequalities have been exacerbated*



Nationally:

- Unemployment among African Americans is nearly twice that among white Americans.
- Approximately 3 million women (2%) have left the workforce since Feb 2020, compared to 2 million men (1.5%).

# Existing Programs and Plans

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## **Programs/Plans to Support Low-Income Households Include:**

- Emergency Food Distribution (Healthy Communities Office)
- Affordable Housing development/housing vouchers and subsidies (Providence Housing Authority, Planning)
- Community Development Block Grants (Planning)
- Education and Youth Enrichment Opportunities (Providence Public School District, Parks and Recreation, Policy)
- Workforce Development Programs (Office of Economic Opportunity)
- Fines and Fees reform (Policy, Public Safety)
- Community supports e.g (Budget grants, ACT, Planning):
  - Take It Outside (and other small business supports)
  - Providence Community Libraries
  - Community Centers

# Explanation of Challenges

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## Challenge 1: Patchwork of Supports

- Receiving help requires navigating multiple bureaucratic systems, each with its own red-tape, rules, and requirements.
- Each program has its own administration, requiring significant overhead costs.
- Programs are inflexible, slow, and leave large holes in meeting needs of low-income families.

## Challenge 2: Low-income families are disempowered

- Families are unable to make the choices that make sense for them.
- Families are at risk of losing benefits if they earn more money.
- Families are forced to be reactive instead of proactive.



# Immediate Future Priorities



## **Priority 1: Provide flexible cash relief to low-income Providence households who have suffered economic hardship due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Ongoing pilot for 110 low-income Providence households:

- Participants are receiving \$500/month for one year
- Administered by Amos House and Dorcas International
- For this pilot, eligibility was limited to any Providence resident w/ income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- 61% of recipients have children under the age of 18.
- Received over 4000 applications in one-week application period (participants selected through lottery)
- Pilot has already taught us innumerable lessons about how to structure and manage cash assistance programs, and created the infrastructure needed to expand efficiently.

# Immediate Future Priorities



## Priority 1: Provide flexible cash relief to low-income Providence households who have suffered economic hardship due to COVID-19 Pandemic

- Extend existing program or a new program that can have different eligibility requirements that meet the needs of vulnerable populations.
- **With \$500,000, we can extend the existing program for 6 months or provide \$500/month for a year to approximately 75 households** (estimating 10% administration costs)
- Over the course of the Pandemic, we have seen huge increases in violence and homelessness in Providence. A new cash assistance program could leverage other city investments to address these parallel crises by targeting:
  - People experiencing homelessness OR
  - People at risk for involvement in the criminal justice system

# Impact (GI Pilots)



In the words of one recipient of the Providence Guaranteed Income:

*“That money helped me get a rental until the dealership could refund me, and then that money could go to groceries and winter coats,” Perry said. She said after getting through the holiday season, she hopes to save future payments to go towards a down payment on a house, “so we don’t have to live in the projects anymore.” “I feel so heard,” Perry said. “I’m more than just thankful, grateful, appreciative.”*

- In Stockton, CA, recipients of \$500/month in direct cash assistance **saw a 12% increase in full time employment after one year**, compared to only a 5% increase amongst members of a Control Group.
- Recipients experienced significantly less economic volatility, and significantly more ability to pay for an unexpected expense with cash or a cash equivalent, keeping them from falling into debt or relying on predatory payday lending institutions.
- Recipients in Stockton, CA experienced significantly less negative physical and mental health symptoms. The impact on mental health and wellbeing was on par with the impact of antidepressants.

# Impact (CTC)



The expanded federal Child Tax Credit provide 36 million American families direct cash assistance during 2021. Preliminary data shows that:

- The vast majority of families used the funds to defray the costs of basic necessities: 56% of families spent their CTC payment on food, 33% spent it on internet and other utilities, 30% spent it on mortgage/rent, 30% spent it on clothing and 11% spent it on child care.
- After the first CTC payments, there were sizable declines in financial hardship and food insufficiency for families with children. The share of households with children who reported they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat dropped 24%.
- The CTC is estimated to provide \$8 in social and economic benefits for every \$1 of investment. Direct cash assistance allows recipients to use the money to buy goods and services that in turn generate income for other people and businesses. This increased economic activity is a boon to local businesses, creating jobs in the recipients' communities.
- One survey showed that 42% of CTC recipients planned to use part of the payments to start or grow a college fund for their child.

# Impact (Research)

- Over the long term, research has found that an extra \$3,000 in a family's annual income when a child is younger than age 5 leads to 19% higher future earnings. Other research finds that increasing family incomes has tangible outcomes for children, including higher graduation rates for high school and college, improved health outcomes, and lower rates of incarceration.
- One study in Chicago looked at whether emergency financial assistance reduced criminal behavior among those experiencing a negative financial shock. **It found that recipients of cash assistance were 51% less likely to be arrested for a violent crime** than similarly situated individuals who did not receive financial assistance. The impact remained statistically significant for multiple years after the initial financial assistance.
- An evaluation of a Massachusetts program which provided emergency financial assistance to families experiencing a housing crisis found that **the State was able to help families maintain their housing for an average cash benefit of \$2,595/family, compared to an average cost of \$46,450 for each household that entered the state's homeless shelter program**. Though eligible to receive this benefit in consecutive years, only 6.5 percent of families requested a second year of assistance. .

# Compliance

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- Cash assistance is an enumerated eligible use of ARPA funds.
- Responding to increased violence is a specifically enumerated eligible use of ARPA funds under “Responding to the public health impacts of the public health emergency”
  - Eligible activities include “Evidence-based practices like ... financial assistance”
- For cash transfers, ARPA recipients “may presume that ... households that experienced unemployment, food insecurity, **or housing insecurity**, experienced a negative economic impact due to the pandemic.

# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding

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## **Partnership/Funding Source 1**

The City can likely leverage infrastructure set up for Guaranteed Income Pilot at Amos House and Dorcas International for this program.

## **Partnership/Funding Source 2**

The City can also draw on state investments in benefits counselors (as part of GI Pilot) to provide benefits counseling to participants in new program.

## **Partnership/Funding Source 3**

Foundations such as Ford Foundation, Wend Foundation, Kellogg Foundation are interested in promoting economic and racial justice and may be willing to support pilots and initiatives aligned with that mission.





# Questions?

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# City of Providence COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency

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## Justice Reform Investments



# CURRENT STATE DATA & INVESTMENTS OVERVIEW

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# Introduction

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- Feedback from the 1,100 surveys received suggested ~13% of ARPA funding be dedicated to Racial Equity initiatives
- Included in this categories are justice reform related program suggestions including:
  - Increase in diversionary services (a.k.a Behavioral Health/Social Service Crisis Response)
  - Fine and fee reform
  - License restoration services
  - Formerly incarcerated reentry supports
  - Etc.

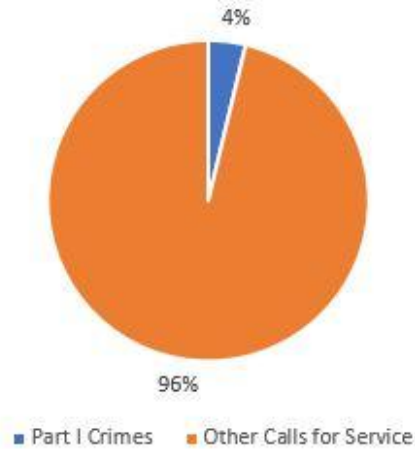
# Introduction (cont.)

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- Community feedback is consistent with other legal system policy reforms the Administration has explored and began executing (many times in partnership with City Council)
  - Comprehensive Public Safety Operational/Financial Analysis
  - Fines and Fees Work Group
  - Open Doors Community Survey
- ARPA funds present an opportunity to expand these efforts and support systemic change

2019 PPD Calls for Service



## **Current State of Public Safety Calls – Providence Police Department**

Data from 2019-2020 PFM Public Safety Analysis

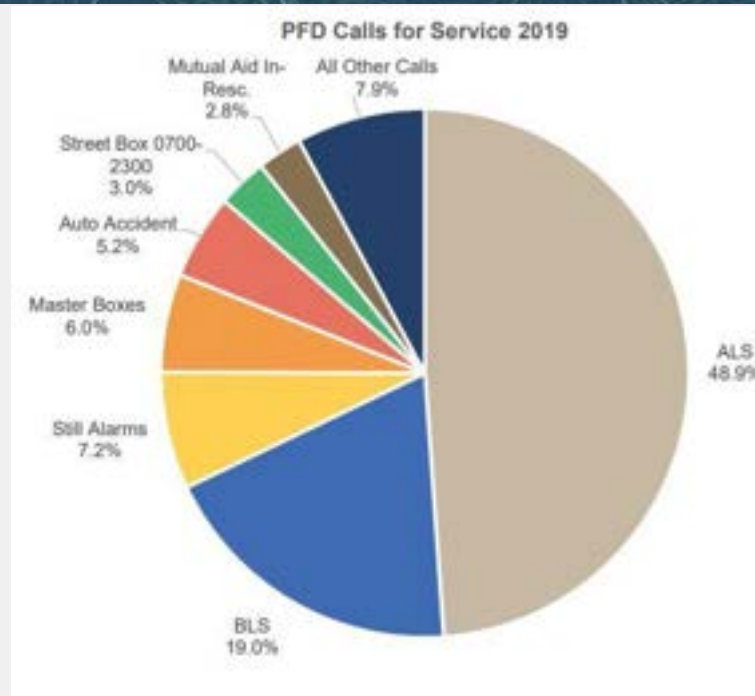
**Top 15 CFS by Total FTEs – CY2019**

<b>Call Type</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Hours per year</b>	<b>Total FTEs*</b>
Traffic Accident	10,452	8,150	3.9
Traffic Stop	11,752	4,022	1.9
Officer Initiated	4,351	3,020	1.5
Check Well Being	6,728	2,964	1.4
Keep the Peace	5,343	2,490	1.2
Suspicious Person/Activity	5,748	2,419	1.2
Larceny	3,617	2,206	1.1
Alarm - Business	8,438	2,147	1.0
Loud Music/Party	5,700	1,819	0.9
911 Hang Up/Open Line	4,736	1,558	0.7
Illegal Parking	2,828	1,499	0.7
Person Annoyed	2,499	1,313	0.6
Disturbance - Public	3,431	1,308	0.6
Traffic Accident - with Injuries	1,208	1,182	0.6
Disturbance - Domestic	2,278	1,114	0.5
<b>Total of top 15</b>	<b>79,109</b>	<b>37,210</b>	<b>17.9</b>
<b>Total of all CFS</b>	<b>117,806</b>	<b>57,896</b>	<b>27.8</b>
<b>% of total CFS</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>

## **Current State – PPD Calls for Service by Type**

Data from 2019-2020 PFM Public Safety Analysis





## Current State of Public Safety Calls - PFD

Data from 2019-2020 PFM Public Safety Analysis

# Investment Goals

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**Goal 1:** Invest in long-term, proactive services that provide Providence residents with needed services

**Goal 2:** Unburden PPD and PFD with calls for services that do not require their intervention; allow them to focus on emergency, high-priority calls

# Investments

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1. Behavioral Health Crisis Response Program
2. Driver's License Restoration Services
3. Public Safety Digital Infrastructure
4. Expanded Supports for New Americans

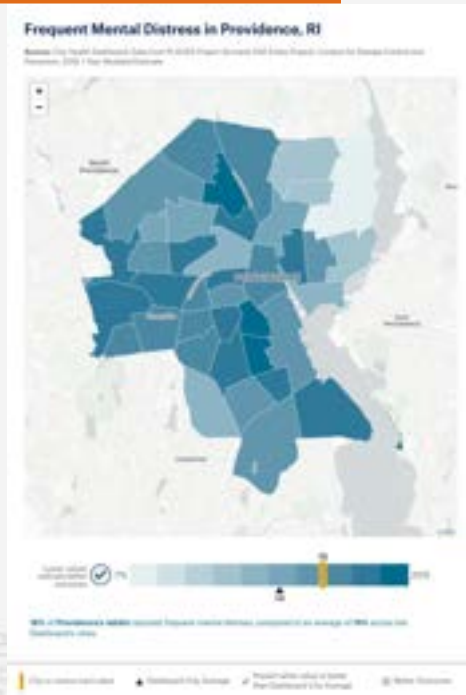


# Behavioral Health/Social Service Crisis Response Program

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# Mental Health In Providence



- In 2018, 16% of adults reported frequent mental distress compared to an average of 14% across dashboard cities.
- Impacts of COVID-19 prove that there is a national increase.

# Substance Use Disorder Related Emergencies

High burden areas for non-fatal & fatal overdoses are outlined below which include zip codes: 02907, 02908, 02909 and Downtown Providence.



## Data Highlights for January 1, 2021-September 30, 2021:

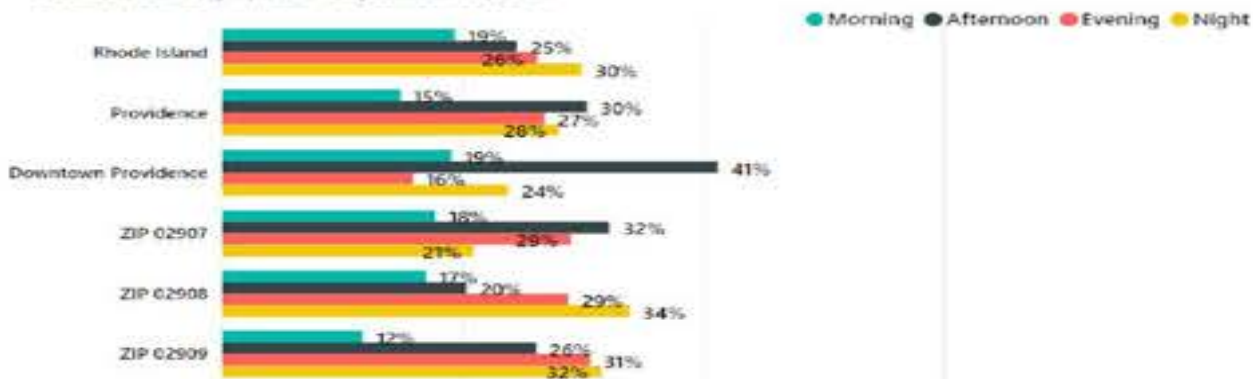
- 71% of statewide opioid overdose (OOD)-related EMS runs occurred in Providence County. **Of the OOD-related EMS runs occurring in Providence County, 45% were attributed to the city of Providence.** High-burden areas of Providence accounted for most of all non fatal overdoses: 02909 25%; Downtown Providence 14%; ZIP code 02907 14%; and, ZIP code 02908 13%.

## For July 1, 2021-September 30, 2021 (Quarter 3):

- Downtown Providence and ZIP code 02909: More people received emergency medical care for an opioid overdose than any quarter since 2018.
- Statewide, Providence County, and the city of Providence: EMS data for these regions revealed the second-highest number of individuals receiving emergency medical care for an opioid overdose since Quarter 1 of 2018.
- ZIP code 02908: This area in Providence represented the highest number of people receiving emergency medical care for an opioid overdose since 2018, only seen one time previously in Quarter 3 of 2019.

# EMS Runs: Opioid Overdose-Related

**EMS Runs. Figure 5: Percentage of Opioid Overdose-Related EMS Runs by Time of the Day and Incident Location: January 1, 2021–September 30, 2021**



Source: Rhode Island Emergency Medical Services Information System (RI-EMSIS)



# Current State



## **Challenge 1:** Number of People Experiencing Behavioral Health Crisis Increase

- Number is increasing throughout the country, Mental Health America reports that "Even before COVID-19, the prevalence of mental illness among adults was increasing. In 2017-2018, 19% of adults experienced a mental illness, an increase of 1.5 million people over last year's dataset"

## **Challenge 2:** City lacks alternative response to provide appropriate care

- Community members are unable to access appropriate care due to lack of options in crisis (24/7), language options and locations.

**Increasing options to serve communities in need of mental health treatment will ultimately create a cost savings for the City of Providence**

<https://mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america>

# Existing Programs and Plans



## Program 1: Behavioral Health Crisis Response Program

- \$150,000 planning process
  - Planning process took place in summer/fall 2021
  - The Providence Center & Family Services of RI supplied the City of Providence with many recommendations to address need
- \$600,000 implementation
  - Increase resources for co-response model
  - Investing in community engagement
  - Training opportunities for community organizations and public safety

## Program 2: Prevention and Harm Reduction

- \$150,000 for neighborhood-based outreach services
- \$150,000 investment in SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)
- \$100,000 investment in PVD Safe Stations, a 24/7/365 substance use treatment referral service at all Providence Fire stations

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## **Priority 1:** Increasing Access to Care

- Increase services within co-response model
- Multi-lingual supports
- Technology to assist with access and administration of services

## **Priority 2:** Crisis Response Infrastructure

- Data systems
- Training for all parties involved in crisis response
- Staff within dispatch & administration
- Vans, harm reduction supplies, etc.
- Technical support to sustain efforts

# Behavioral Health Crisis Response

Estimated Budget	
Immediate Needs	
Increase Co-response efforts	\$500,000 - \$700,000
Increase Pipeline of Multi-lingual Peer Recovery and Community Health Workers	\$400,000 - \$500,000
City Staff Training opportunities	\$200,000 - \$300,000
Hire mental health clinicians to work within Public Safety Department	\$300,000-\$500,000
Community Education Campaign	\$100,000 - \$200,000
Data & Infrastructure Investments	\$400,000 - \$500,000
<b>Total Amount*</b>	<b>\$1.9M-2.7M</b>

*\*Please note that these are budget estimates only. Services will need to be competitively bid, and actual cost may vary based on bids received*

# Driver's License Restoration Services

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# Current State

- **Challenge 1:** The #1 known reason for arrest of Providence residents is driving on a suspended license → Represents ~25% of the top 15 known reasons for arrest  
  
Of 317 PVD residents surveyed, 42% reported owing municipal court debt; over 25% reported suspended license due to court debt
- **Challenge 2:** Unpaid court debt is a major driver of suspended licenses →
- **Challenge 3:** Existing responses (arrest, citation, court summons) fail to address underlying license suspension → Thus, residents are caught in a cycle of debt issuance, license suspension, and arrest

Top 18 Arrests by Type - CY2019	Total CY2019	Black alone Arrests (%)	White alone Arrests (%)	Hispanic or Latino (all races) Arrests (%)
Null	962	31.6%	18.7%	41.8%
Driving After Denial, Suspension Or Revocation Of License	538	32.7%	8.1%	53.3%
Domestic Simple Assault/Battery	252	30.6%	18.3%	48.2%
Bench Warrant Issued From Superior Court	204	37.7%	31.4%	28.4%
Disorderly Conduct	190	39.5%	13.2%	38.4%
Bench Warrant Issued From 8th District Court	164	34.1%	30.5%	32.3%
Simple Assault Or Battery	160	35.0%	18.2%	42.5%
Possession Of Schedule I II III	105	31.4%	24.8%	39.0%
Warrant Of Arrest On Affidavit - All Other Offense	102	43.1%	14.7%	38.3%
Resisting Legal Or Illegal Arrest	97	43.3%	17.5%	39.9%
Manufact/Poss/Deliver Sch I/II	88	28.8%	12.5%	52.5%
Shoplifting-Misd - Shoplifting	73	31.5%	19.2%	35.8%
Felony Assault/ Dang. Weapon Or Substance	62	29.0%	12.9%	51.8%
Driving After Denial, Revocation Or Suspension For Misd.	45	37.8%	13.3%	44.4%
Driving Under The Influence Of Liquor Or Drugs (>= .08< .1)	42	5.5%	19.0%	61.9%

\*Arrest data includes custodial and non-custodial arrests (e.g., citations and summons).  
Arrest Data is for PVID residents only and excludes 436 arrests that were coded with either unknown or "null" ethnicities in order to ensure that census and arrest data comparisons were as accurate as possible.

13

## Current State – Providence Police Department Arrests



# Existing Efforts

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## **Program 1: Partnership w/ Municipal Courts**

- Collaboration w/Providence Municipal Court to identify existing indigent residents to reduce/expunge existing court debt preventing license issuance
- Expansion to other municipal courts in the state will be in discussion

## **Program 2: Partnership w/Providence Police Department**

- Currently in process of designing “Smart Card” guidance for officers to identify drivers eligible for restoration services



# Immediate Future Priorities



## **Priority 1:** Investing in Driver's License Restoration Services

- Legal navigators can represent indigent clients in court to reduce their court debt
- Peer navigators can ensure residents follow proper procedures to get licenses restored

## **Priority 2:** Referring Residents and Expanding Partnerships

- Conduct a focused organizing and advertising campaign to identify residents with suspended licenses due to court debt
- Partner with PPD and other RI municipal courts to refer eligible drivers to restoration services in lieu of arrest, citation, or court summons

## **Priority 3:** Identifying and Implementing Long-Term Reform

- Data collection and stakeholder engagement will provide pathway for systemic reform that prevents cascading court debt from causing license suspension

# Estimated Budget

Driver's License Restoration Services	Projected Budget 2022-2024
Legal Navigator(s)	\$100,000-180,000
Peer Navigator(s)	\$35,000-50,000
Program Management	\$45,000-55,000
Need-based Grants	\$50,000-70,000
<i>Total Per Year Amount</i>	\$230,000-\$350,000
<b>Total Request</b>	\$460,000-700,000

*\*Please note that these are budget estimates only. Services will need to be competitively bid, and actual cost may vary based on bids received*

# Public Safety Digital Infrastructure

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# Current State

- **Challenge 1:** ~13.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) officers responding to calls that are currently able to be/could be self-reported online → • Expanding residents' use of online reporting will reduce the encumbered time of police officers, allowing them to focus on more serious crime
- **Challenge 2:** Lack of resident awareness/interest in self-reporting online → • Only ~3,000 online reports were generated in 2021, relative to the ~125,000 calls for service
- **Challenge 3:** If calls are successfully diverted online, officer redeployment analysis required

# Existing Efforts

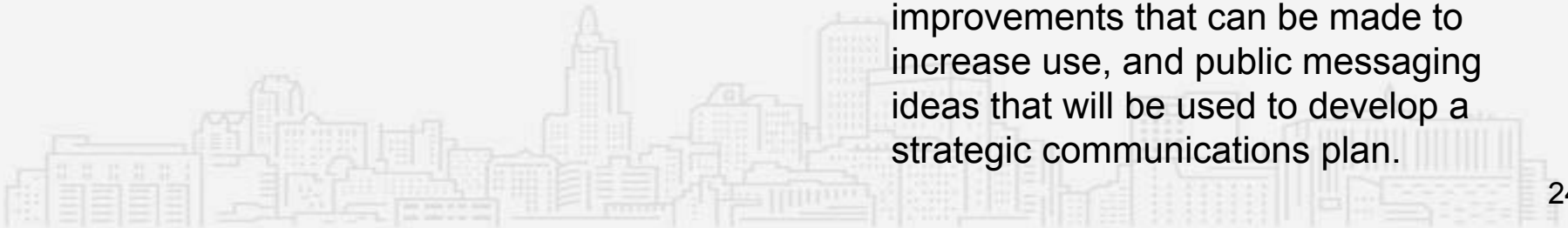
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## NYU Wagner School Literature Review

- Comprehensive research of other municipalities' efforts to increase use of online reporting
- Recommendations of best-practices to increase use

## Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Capture information about residents' comfortability with self-reporting systems.
- Yield a clear understanding of residents' real and perceived barriers to utilizing online reporting systems, improvements that can be made to increase use, and public messaging ideas that will be used to develop a strategic communications plan.



# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1: Invest in Public Awareness Campaign

- Raise awareness of availability of online reporting system
- Educate public about types of incidents that can be reported online
- Increase and track use of online reporting over time

## Priority 2: Conduct Deployment Analysis

- Ensure PPD is operationalizing response practices in most efficient manner
- Determine new deployment plans based on increase in online reporting, implementation of alternative responses



# Estimated Budget

Public Safety Digital Infrastructure	Amount Budgeted 2022-2024
Marketing/Advertising Consulting	\$10,000-\$20,000
Communications Plan Implementation	\$40,000-60,000
Deployment Analysis	\$120,000-150,000
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$170,000-230,000</b>

*\*Please note that these are budget estimates only. Services will need to be competitively bid, and actual cost may vary based on bids received*

# Expanded Supports for Disproportionately Impacted Immigrants

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# Current State

- **Challenge 1:** The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many aspects of the legal system, particularly for immigrants
- **Challenge 2:** Federal stimulus and support services excluded non-citizens
- The National Conference of State Legislatures found that immigrants made up an outsized percentage of essential workers and played “an above-average role in helping states management and cope with the pandemic”

(<https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/immigrant-essential-workers-and-covid-19.aspx>)

# Immediate Future Priorities

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- Due to the front line nature of the work of immigrants who are Providence residents, they were disproportionately impacted and support is needed for the community:

**Priority 1:** Invest in Basic Needs Supports

**Priority 2:** Invest in Peer and Legal Supports



# Estimated Budget

	Amount Budgeted 2022-2024
Basic Needs Support	\$300,000-400,000
Peer Support	\$50,000-100,000
Legal Support	\$350,000-400,000
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$700,000-900,000</b>

*\*Please note that these are budget estimates only. Services will need to be competitively bid, and actual cost may vary based on bids received*

# Thank you

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# Anti-Violence Investment

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Community Violence Intervention  
and Prevention Strategy (CVIPS)





# Current State



- Providence's community violence reduction strategy (CVIPS) has been limited to Public Safety and a few community-based organizations.
- The ARPA has provided an opportunity to expand on the success of that strategy by funding, developing, and implementing a holistic community violence intervention and prevention strategy.
- Providence's CVIPS is derived from nationally recognized community informed and based practices, including the model of violence reduction being implemented here in Providence over the past 20 years, the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) out of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Selma, Alabama, Chicago, IL, Crown Heights Brooklyn, NY, Fall River, New Bedford, Brockton, MA and other cities across the country.
- [Everytown, Rhode Island Moms Demand Action Applaud Mayor Elorza and City...](https://www.everytown.org/press/everytown-rhode-island-moms-demand-action-applaud-mayor-elorza-for-announcing-request-of-1-6-million-in-violence-intervention-funding-to-combat-city-gun-violence-in-providence/)  
<https://www.everytown.org/press/everytown-rhode-island-moms-demand-action-applaud-mayor-elorza-for-announcing-request-of-1-6-million-in-violence-intervention-funding-to-combat-city-gun-violence-in-providence/>

# Current State

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- Current ARPA funds address the immediate need for intervention while creating long-term system and structural solutions by empowering communities with employment, mentoring, and nonviolence training opportunities.
- *Employment* opportunities allows for youth to earn, develop skills and build a sense of self-worth
- *Mentoring* allows youth to build and learn from meaningful life-long relationships that will help guide them through all aspects of life
- *Nonviolence training* teaches the skills needed to navigate relationships, grieve or console properly, keeping the focus on healing, and how to address conflicts, resolving them without resorting to violence.

# Current State

	2020	2021
<b>Total of Shooting Victims</b>	73	78
<b>Total Homicides</b> (Number includes all Homicides)	18	23
<b>Homicides &lt; 24yrs</b>	6	9
<b>Total Juvenile Arrests</b>	974	906
<b>Total Gun Related Arrests</b>	76	192 (210 Guns Seized)



# Explanation of Challenges

## Part 1

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### Challenge 1:

Reducing and sustaining levels of community violence is based on the ability to development meaningful relationships. The challenges presented by COVID-19 to deliver high quality in-person programs are numerous. These investments are designed to reach the most vulnerable and in crisis individuals. Actual in-person facetime is required for the level of reduction needed in Providence.

### Challenge 2:

The implementation of a of a holistic strategy like the “Anti-Violence Initiatives” requires communication, cooperation, and compassion. There are many high quality organizations, small and large that play a part in reducing community violence. Their relationships to each other need to develop, because collectively they will effectively determine how large of community violence reduction there will be.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 2*

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### Challenge 3:

Any reduction in community violence cannot be sustained with a one-time investment. Through these initiatives, a city-wide evidence-based and community informed Community Violence Reduction Strategy (CVIPS) has been created. The direct intervention and prevention programs being implemented must be sustained if the City desires an ROI with real lasting impacts



# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 1



## Program 1: EMPLOYMENT

**Total Investment:** \$1,000,000

**CVIPS Partner:** Office of Economic Opportunity, City of Providence - OEO

**Project Name:** “Year- Round Employment”

**Connection to Reducing Violence:** Employment has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce community violence. Besides earning legal wages, it limits the amount of idle time an individual has, it provides daily structure, high expectations and self-confidence leading to a sense of purpose and worth of self. It becomes harder for an individual to turn back to threat of violence.

**Plan:** Provide community-based organizations (CBOs) with the resources to provide workforce training and development and employment. OEO awarded a total of \$1mil to eight (8) CBOs which will create 450+ training and employment opportunities for city residents ages fourteen (14) to Twenty-Four (24).

# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 1 continued



## Program 1: EMPLOYMENT

Project Name: “Year- Round Employment”

### The Data:

- In FY ‘21 **218 or 11%** out of the 2,000 youth that applied were employed
- Year-Round funding increases total available positions by an estimated **490** spots, bringing the total of youth jobs available in Providence to **708**.
- All positions pay \$15/hr for 20hrs a week up from \$11.50/hr the year before.
- Continued funding would increase the estimated number of total job opportunities for youth (14-24) available to **1,416** or **70%** of the projected 2,000 youth job applicants.



# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 2



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## Program 2: MENTORING

**Total Investment:** \$1,100,000

**CVIPS Partner:** Mentor Rhode Island

**Project Name:** “Relationships at the Center”

**Connection to reducing violence:** All successful people have been fortunate to have one or more persons in their life guide them. For many youth in Providence, connecting with mentors is challenging. This shortage of positive role models come from systemic poverty, oppression and over policing of neighborhoods, particularly neighborhoods of color and of underrepresented populations. To grow, is to learn, and not just from the formal systems of education but from those who live around us or whom we interact with daily, at school, church, or playgrounds etc. When a person truly knows someone has their back and wants to see them be successful it pushes them to be better, to do better. And when, there is a system or network of people and organizations that share common goals are working together to build capacity to develop the skills within neighborhoods, the opportunities for young people to find a mentor is vast.

# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 2 continued



## Program 2: MENTORING

### Project Name: “Relationships at the Center”

**Plan:** To serve youth who are at risk of dropping out of school or getting involved with the justice system. Mentoring relationships foster positive youth development, increased social and emotional wellness, and academic success through use of the nationally accepted *Elements of Effective Practice in Mentoring*™.

In the long-term, MENTOR Rhode Island, the only nationally recognized mentoring organization in the State, sees the outcomes of continued support of “Relationships at the Center” to be:

- The City will be a relationship-centered community, where young people have a sense of belonging and trust.
- The City will dedicate resources (financial, physical plan, human) to relationship strategy.
- Young people are less likely to engage in violent behaviors.

# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 2 continued



## Program 2: MENTORING

**Project Name: “Relationships at the Center”**

### **The DATA:**

Per KIDS COUNT RI, in comparison to their peers, youth who have a mentor:

- 52% are less likely to skip a day of school.
- 46% are less likely to start using illegal drugs.
- 37% are less likely to skip a class.
  - In Providence, during the 2019-2020 School Year, there were a total of 1,747 total disciplinary actions against students.
- Experience fewer depressive symptoms in Rhode Island,
  - one in ten (9.8%) has significant functional impairment

# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 3

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## **Program 2: NONVIOLENCE TRAINING**

**Total Investment:** \$500,000

**CVIPS Partner:** Nonviolence Institute

**Project Name:** S.E.E.D and Beloved Community Workshop

**Connection to Reducing Violence:** Community violence is a breakdown of relationships. Nonviolence training teaches skills to build relationships and address the underlying interpersonal challenges contributing to violence in the first place. Communities will always have conflict, it's how the conflict is addressed that matters. The end result of conflict can be reconciliation instead of violence if people are given the tools to do so. Nonviolence training teaches those skills to resolving conflict, first, within oneself; second, with others involved in conflict, third, within the community. By following the principles and practices of Dr. King's theory of Nonviolence, the Beloved Community is achievable.

# Existing Program and Plan, pt. 3 continued



## Program 2: NONVIOLENCE TRAINING

**Project Name:** S.E.E.D and Beloved Community Workshop

**Plan:** To implement citywide nonviolence trainings to reach 200 Providence youth ages 15-24 and 150 adults in a variety of nonviolence training, education, and self-development opportunities over the course of the next 2 years.

- S.E.E.D Details:
  - Monthly Cohorts
  - 200 Paid Opportunities for ages 15 – 24
  - 40 hours of nonviolence training, integrated case management, and job readiness skill development.
  - Beloved Community Workshops Details:
    - Bi-Monthly
    - 150 Stipend Opportunities ages 18+
    - 4 to 40 hour community-based nonviolence training
    - Increase in funding would create an additional 350 paid nonviolence training opportunities

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

Increase the number of opportunities for youth 14-24 to engage in positive activities through employment, mentoring, and nonviolence training programs, while creating a strong organizational relationships and community ownership of “Anti-Violence Initiatives.”

## Priority 2:

Expand equitable accessibility to nonviolence, mentoring, employment training throughout the city, via community locations in underserved neighborhoods and through partnerships with traditional and non-traditional community-based organizations.

## Priority 3:

Create a sustained network of providers that meet regularly to seek to address community violence in ways that create reconciliation and bonds unity.

# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding



## Partnership/Funding Source 1

The Federal Infrastructure Bill recently passed makes available \$500bil over the next 8 years to evidence based community-based violence prevention programs. Cities will apply for funding through an RFP process.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/01/983103198/-5-billi-on-for-violence-prevention-is-tucked-into-biden-infrastructure-plan>

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) – Federal/State Funding through Department of Justice. Application available each year to address community safety issues. AUSA-RI office submits the application in partnership with city police departments and community organizations.

## Partnership/Funding Source 3

Ford Foundation – Invests in public health projects and other community development initiatives. Community Violence although not a direct funded focus, employment and mentoring are focus areas.

## Partnership/Funding Source 4

Local sources examples United Way, PVD School Department ARPA funds



# Questions?

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# High-Quality Early Learning Investments

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Thomas Kerr-Vanderslice

*Director of Programs and Initiatives*





MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

# Policy Office

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# Current State

90% of brain development occurs before the age of 5. For Providence children, providing high-quality early learning experiences is critical to improving the educational outcomes of our city's youth.

## 2021 Providence Enrollment

Students Enrolled PPSD	22,400
Children Ages 0-3	7,609
# of Children Age 4 in Head Start or Pre-K	918
Number of students identified MLL	32%
Number of students meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Level (2019)	26%



	Licensed Programs	Accept CCAP	No Rating	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	% in Brightstars	% with High Quality Rating
Early Learning Facilities	53	40	13	9	12	5	9	5	75%	25%
Home Daycare	241	235	16	129	91	2	3	0	93%	1%

# Existing Programs and Plans

## Program 1:

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) was awarded funding to provide specialized assessment and technical assistance to local childcare and early learning providers. In 2020 and 2021, LISC released funding to support both center- and home-based childcare facilities in developing comprehensive indoor and outdoor facility plans and renovating space to address barriers to quality improvement and expansion of programming.



Year	Number of Applications	Number of Eligible App.	# of Funded Projects	Increased Toddler Slots	Increased Preschool slots
2020	26	22	10	52	18
2021	21	12	9	24*	32*

*\*Projected once assessment concludes*

# Existing Programs and Plans, pt. 2

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## **Program 2:**

Providence Talks is a language enrichment program that brings parents, children, and educators together to enhance language development and learning during the critical years of 0-3. Providence Talks uses a LENA language pedometer to tabulate words spoken with children, aiming for a critical threshold of 21,000 daily words. Providence Talks employs three models of programming: 1:1 virtual coaching; Interactive playgroups, and; Professional development for educators.

## **Program 3:**

Providence Promise is a parent-driven partnership that provides a foundation for Providence students to pursue post-secondary education. Its flagship programs, College Savings & Early Scholarship Program, works with families to open a 529 College Savings Account and contributes \$100 for each child enrolled. These programs are paired with family engagement and education, to begin planning for higher education as early as birth.

# Existing Programs and Plans, pt. 3

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## Plan A:

1. Fund additional rounds of planning and infrastructure grants to increase the number of toddler and Pre-K seats for Providence children, while assessing additional public buildings for suitability in housing early learning centers.
2. Expand the Providence Talks professional development model to increase parental engagement and address a critical word gap in early learning facilities.
3. Offer a Providence Promise scholarship to a critical mass of Providence children, while expanding parental engagement and education.

# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 1*

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### **Challenge 1:**

The broad inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic are felt strongly by families with young children. Early learning providers face critical staffing shortages, families have faced illness, unemployment, and changes in transportation and childcare, and fears regarding COVID spread have led many families to opt towards home-based childcare rather than centers.

COVID has also created obstacles in home and center visitation, as well as engaging directly with parents in-person.



# Explanation of Challenges

## *Part 2*

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### **Challenge 2:**

There is high demand for infrastructure investment, in total LISC has received 15 eligible applications that were not able to be funded due to restricted funding.

### **Challenge 3:**

Expanding the number of high-quality childcare facilities is complicated, as they must meet a large number of federal and state regulations regarding the physical space.

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1:

Increase the number of high-quality early education seats in Providence through planning and infrastructure grants through LISC, while assessing additional facilities that could host early learning programs.

## Priority 2:

Expand the Providence Talks program of training and development within early learning centers to ensure that program quality supports language development.

## Priority 3:

Expand the Providence Promise scholarship program, as low- and moderate-income children with college savings of just \$500 are three times as likely to attend college and four-times as likely to graduate.

# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding



## Partnership/Funding Source 1

If passed, President Biden's Build Back Better plan includes significant early learning investments, including \$100 billion in the first 3 years to provide high-quality, affordable childcare for children ages birth to five.

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

The Department of Human Services will be distributing the \$15 million Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund Bond spring 2022.

## Partnership/Funding Source 3

RI Children's Cabinet distributes \$350,000 each year to Health Equity Zones to distribute local grants to support early education initiatives.



# Questions?

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# Providence Community Library

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Hannah Kahn

*Deputy Director of Research and Development*



# Current State



- Providence Community Library is a network of 9 libraries - most located in the hardest hit neighborhoods in PVD during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Since 2009, PCL has been **the** public library system in Providence
  - It is primarily publicly funded and governed by a board with members appointed by the City, State, and community.
  - Providence Public Library is primarily privately-funded and governed
- Throughout the pandemic, PCL has served 340,000 visitors and hosted 2,805 programs with 30,507 people in attendance
- To continue providing services in a Covid-safe environment and meet community needs, PCL has:
  - Expanded outdoor WIFI with CDBG funding;
  - Set up outdoor spaces at each library;
  - Adjusted programming to virtual, outdoor, and take home kits;
  - Hosted COVID testing and vaccine clinics.

# Current State

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- PCL libraries are important community spaces that:
  - Support the community's mental and behavioral health needs;
  - Provide educational and ongoing professional development resources for adults;
  - Support youth by providing enrichment and educational activities for youth;
  - Support the immigrant community by offering ESL classes and resources;
  - Help leverage city investments by partnering on programs such as Eat, Play, Learn; Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, etc.
- PCL buildings also serve as emergency warming and cooling centers, a critical resource for community safety and wellbeing as climate change causes more extreme temperature waves.

# Existing Programs and Plans



PCL received \$500,000 in the first ARPA ordinance that they are using to extend hours and expand summer and other programming at their three largest libraries (Mt. Pleasant, Rochambeau and Knight Memorial) through the beginning of 2023.

- These libraries will now be open:
  - Monday-Thursday: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
  - Friday: 1:00 – 5:30
  - Saturday: 9:30 – 5:30

This is an increase of 14.5 open hours per week per library.

- Summer outreach program will run for eight weeks, June- August, Monday – Friday, from approximately 10:00 – 2:00.
- PCL will also use funds to rebuild and relaunch its website in a new, bilingual format to increase access for Spanish speaking residents; and to purchase materials for expanded program offerings.



# Explanation of Challenges

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## Challenge 1: Air quality and ventilation

The State of Rhode Island has set new guidelines for ventilation and air quality in public buildings as a result of the pandemic. Seven of nine PCL buildings do not meet the new standards. This impacts both regular library programming and the ability to use these spaces safely during extreme weather.

## Challenge 2: Open hours

PCL has six smaller libraries that would also benefit from extended hours. Additionally, once consistent hours are established, it is important to maintain them.

During focus groups and surveys, community members have overwhelmingly reported that:

- PCL's current hours make it difficult for them to utilize the library.
- There is significant demand for evening, morning and weekend hours.

# Immediate Future Priorities

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## Priority 1: Invest in Library Infrastructure

Bring all PCL buildings up to new state air quality standards so they can continue serving as Covid-19 safe gathering spaces and warming/cooling centers during extreme weather:

- Invest in improved exhaust systems to clean the air at 6 of our libraries
- Invest in an HVAC system to properly ventilate and air condition the Knight Memorial Library.

## Priority 2: Maintain expanded hours

Additional funding will be used to maintain extended hours at Knight Memorial, Mt. Pleasant, and Rochambeau beyond 2023.

Depending on amount of funding provided, funds may also be used to begin expanding hours at six smaller libraries, many of which are in hardest hit neighborhoods: Olneyville, Lower South Providence, Washington Park

# Impact

- With increased hours, PCL estimates they will be able to serve 271,440 additional people in 2022. Extending increased hours beyond the beginning of 2023 would allow continued services to more Providence residents.
- With new HVAC/air filtration systems, PCL community spaces will be available for use as **safe** gathering spaces during both extreme weather events and on an ongoing basis to combat isolation and engage community members (including youth) in enrichment activities.
- Investing in PCL, will, in particular, support vulnerable populations, such as women, racial/ethnic minorities, low-income households, etc, who are:
  - Residents of surrounding neighborhoods, such as Olneyville, South Providence, Wanskuck
  - Disproportionately likely to have visited a library in the past year, compared to the general population, according to [the Pew Research Center](#)

# Compliance

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- PCL is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.



# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding



## Partnership/Funding Source 1

PCL has a potential funder who has indicated willingness to financially support the installation of an HVAC system at Knight Memorial.

However, they have told the Library that they require matching funds from the city or other investors.

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

With funding from the State Office of Library and Information Services this past summer, PCL greatly expanded programming, resources, and outreach to Spanish-speakers.

City funding will build on this investment to keep libraries accessible to Spanish-speaking Providence families.

## Partnership/Funding Source 3

PCL received a grant from RI Housing to offer math tutoring and enrichment to 3rd- 4th grade students, in partnership with PPSP starting in January, as well as financial and digital literacy education for parents/guardians.

City investments in expanded hours will complement this investment.

# Questions?

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# Food Security Infrastructure Planning

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Laurie Moise Sears

Rachel Newman Greene

*Director, Healthy Communities Office*

*Deputy Director, Healthy Communities  
Office*



# Healthy Communities Office

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The City's lead agency for health policy, health promotion and substance abuse prevention. The HCO works to ensure that Providence residents have equitable access to the resources they need to lead healthy lives.

## Areas of Focus:

- Behavioral Health and Substance Use
- Child and Maternal Health (inc. school)
- Food Security



# Current State: Food

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March -June 2020: 1,422,470 emergency meals

- 1,286,000 distributed through Parks, PPSD at Recs, Schools
- 33,500 via Meals on Wheels frozen
- 33,000 Brown Dining Services
- 28,900 Snapchef
- 19,620 Kosher
- 15,750 Urban Greens grocery bags
- 4500 URI Dining Services
- 1200 Fidelity frozen



# Current State: Food

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*COVID-19 has exacerbated long-standing health disparities that continue to affect Latino families, and further, the pandemic has revealed that many Latino families are struggling to put food on the table... Since the pandemic began, **47% of Latino households with children** have reported food insecurity, and recent data show this continues to rise.*



# Current State: Food

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Nationwide, food insecurity **unchanged** 2019-2020

EXCEPT:

- Households with children 13.6%→14.8%
- Black householders 19.1%→ 21.7%
- Hispanic householders 17.2% (↑ but not significant)

Gap between Black and White households grew: 11.2 →14.6 points



# Existing Programs and Plans

## Emergency Food Distribution:

- “Building the bridge while crossing it”
- Based on existing networks
- Flood then drought of resources
- Limited storage & transportation capacity
- Opportunities for mutual support of businesses, institutions
- Recommendations from 2020

## Food Policy:

- Lots of Hope
- AAAG Food Disparities Group
- PPSD Health and Wellness Nutrition Working Group
  - School meals
  - Farm to School
- Farmers’ Market Incentives
- Small-scale food security supports (refugee distribution etc.)

# Explanation of Challenges



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## Challenge 1:

No existing plan for food security in current or future emergencies

- No improved plan of action to enact in future emergencies
- Inequities create magnified threat to most vulnerable (e.g. elderly, dependent on congregate meals, disconnected, lack of transportation).

## Challenge 2:

Scattered understanding of current food infrastructure and needs

- Storage
- Distribution
- Institutional/business capacities
- Potential/necessary partners

## Challenge 3:

- Existing weaknesses in food system exacerbate emergency

# Immediate Priorities

## Priority 1:

Develop Providence Emergency Food Security Response Plan

- Identify successes and weaknesses in 2020 response system
- Assess current infrastructure and needs
- Establish Food Security Network to activate in emergency
- Identify long-term funding opportunities

## Priority 2:

Reduce long-term vulnerabilities in local food system

- Identify vulnerabilities (e.g. storage, transportation)
- Pursue funding to strengthen foundation

# Budget

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<b>ARPA</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
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- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| • Emergency/Food Systems Planning Contract: | \$150,000 |
| • Implementation:                           | \$ 82,500 |
| • Staff Support (13%FTE):                   | \$ 17,500 |

<b>Future Annual Budget needs (starting FY25):</b>	<b>\$165,500</b>
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- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| • Food Security Program Manager (A12) : | \$ 90,500 (est) |
| • Annual Plan Implementation:           | \$ 75,000       |

# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding

## Partnership/Funding Source 1

Engage state and local partners in development & implementation of plan

- RIFPC
- IFNPAC
- RI Hunger Elimination Taskforce

## Partnership/Funding Source 2

Implementation Funding

- FEMA
- USDA
- DEM
- RIDOH
- Foundation/Grant funds

## Partnership/Funding Source 3

Identify funding with internal partners

- PEMA
- Sustainability
- Public Properties
- AC&T/OEO
- Senior Services



# Questions?

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# Elderly Supports/Transportation ARPA Budget Presentation

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Sue Robbio, Director of Senior  
Services



# Current State

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The impact on seniors' daily lives due to the pandemic has had a significant effect on their well-being. Older adults face a substantial risk of developing anxiety and depression due to Covid-19 pandemic. The measures taken to reduce the spread of the virus have isolated individuals and limited their access to physical and mental healthcare. Supports we have provided to our older adults during this time include access to nutritious food, basic supplies, emergency micro grants, technology assistance, local transportation, and resources.



# Existing Programs and Plans

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## Program 1: Senior Fitness & Art Activities

- 45 minute in-person and virtual exercise classes designed specifically for older adults.
- Recreational art classes

## Program 2: Food Access & Events

- Farm Fresh, A program that combines fresh, local food access with education
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Wellness Fairs
- Mayor's Day in the City
- Farmer's Market vouchers

## Program 3: Transportation

Providing transportation to groups of seniors for shopping, entertainment and social interaction.

# Existing Programs and Plans



## Program 4: Age-Friendly PVD

- A 5 year process through which the City, in conjunction with AARP and Age-Friendly RI develops programs and services which make it more friendly for residents of all ages.

## Program 5: Case Management

Case Management for City Services  
i.e. Tax issues, emergency home repair

The Senior Activities will continue to be administered and the hope is to increase services as much as possible to include communities who may not have access.

# Explanation of Challenges

## Part 1

### Challenge 1: Isolation due to COVID19 and change in mental health

#### Summary

##### Substance Use Behaviors

- Alcohol is still the most widely used substance by the older adult population
- Traditional cigarette use is still more likely compared to ENDS
- Less opiate use reported in 2020
- More marijuana use reported in 2020
- 42% reported improper disposal of prescription medications

##### Mental Health & Wellness

- Nearly 50% continued to report feeling sad or hopeless
- Over 10% reported considering suicide, an increase compared to 2017
- Physical activity decreased in 2020
- Less respondents reported seeking resources in 2020
- Primary types of resources sought were healthcare & transportation

# Explanation of Challenges

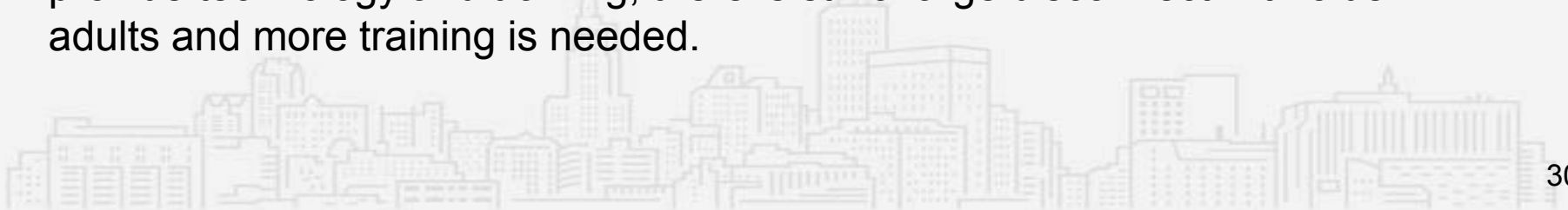
## *Part 1*

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### Challenge 2:

#### Access to Basic Needs

The challenges faced by seniors include everything from food security to social isolation. During this time, we have worked with partners to ensure our older residents had access to food and medication. Another challenge is assisting older adults with technology. While we have worked with partners to provide technology and training, there is still a large disconnect with older adults and more training is needed.



# Immediate Future Priorities

## Priority 1: Increase Transportation Access

- Preserve and sustain handicap accessible bus to safely transport residents with little or no access to transportation.
- Increase RIPTA access for individuals of low-income.

## Priority 2: Healthy Housing Needs

- Leverage other ARPA investments to ensure senior access to funds for home improvement deficits for low-income residents.
- Address food & health disparity concerns within elderly community.
- Increase availability to safe shelter for seniors

## Priority 3: Addressing Technology Access & Education

- Increase virtual access to services including; telehealth, senior center activities, etc.
- Escalate availability to health education access virtually
- Positively impact isolation due to COVID-19 by connecting people to each other virtually



# Opportunities to engage federal and/or state level partnerships and funding

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## **Partnership/Funding Source 1**

RI Office of Healthy  
Aging (State funding)

## **Partnership/Funding Source 2**

AARP (private funding)  
United Way (private  
funding)

## **Partnership/Funding Source 3**

Cyber Seniors (URI)  
Age Friendly RI



# Budget



## Estimated Budget

Transportation Needs – Senior Services Bus & Senior RIPTA Passes	\$75,000
Emergency Housing Support & Home Repairs	\$75,000
Essential Needs	\$50,000
Emergency Food Insecurity Programming – Meal Boxes	\$50,000
Education & Cyber Support	\$150,000
Total Budget	\$400,000



# Questions?

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# American Rescue Plan Act

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## Revenue Recovery

*Sara Silveria, Finance Director*

*Krystle Lindberg, Deputy Finance Director & Budget Officer*



# Provision for Revenue Loss

## Final Rule

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The Final Rule confirms the Interim Final Rule which states:

*“Recipients may use payment from the Fiscal Recovery funds for the provision of government services”*

- Revenue loss is calculated based on formula which compares actual revenues received against pre-pandemic level revenues plus an assumed growth rate.
- Growth rate is the greater of average revenue growth in the 3 years preceding the pandemic or 5.2%

# General Revenues

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- Treasury's Final Rule confirms presumption that all general revenue loss is due to pandemic
- General Revenue for calculation is defined as revenues received from all revenue streams except for:
  - Refunds/correcting transactions, Proceeds from debt issuance or sale of investments, agency or private trust transactions, payments from Federal Government
- Treasury has recommended this approach to:
  - Minimize administrative burden
  - Provide greater consistency
  - Present a more accurate overall representation of impact

# Use of Revenue Loss

- Revenue Loss available to maintain general government services
  - Includes, but not limited to: Maintenance or pay-go funded building of infrastructure, health services, environmental remediation, school or educational services, and public safety
- Excluded Uses:
  - Offset net reduction in tax revenue
  - Deposits into pension funds
  - Debt service & replenishing reserves
  - Settlements & judgements

# Immediate & Future Needs

	Anticipated Need
FY2022	\$ 19,457,352.00
FY2023	\$ 16,513,280.00
FY2024	\$ 11,486,158.00
Total ARPA Funding to General Fund	\$ 47,456,790.00
Amount Approved - ARPA Ordinance I	\$ (19,457,352.00)
Current Request - ARPA Ordinance II	\$ 27,999,438.00





# Questions?

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