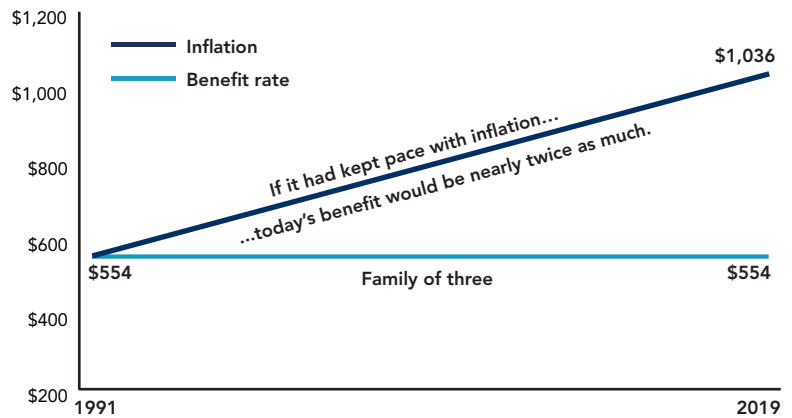




The cash assistance paid to 4,000 families receiving Rhode Island Works benefits has not been raised in close to 30 years and is 31 % of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).



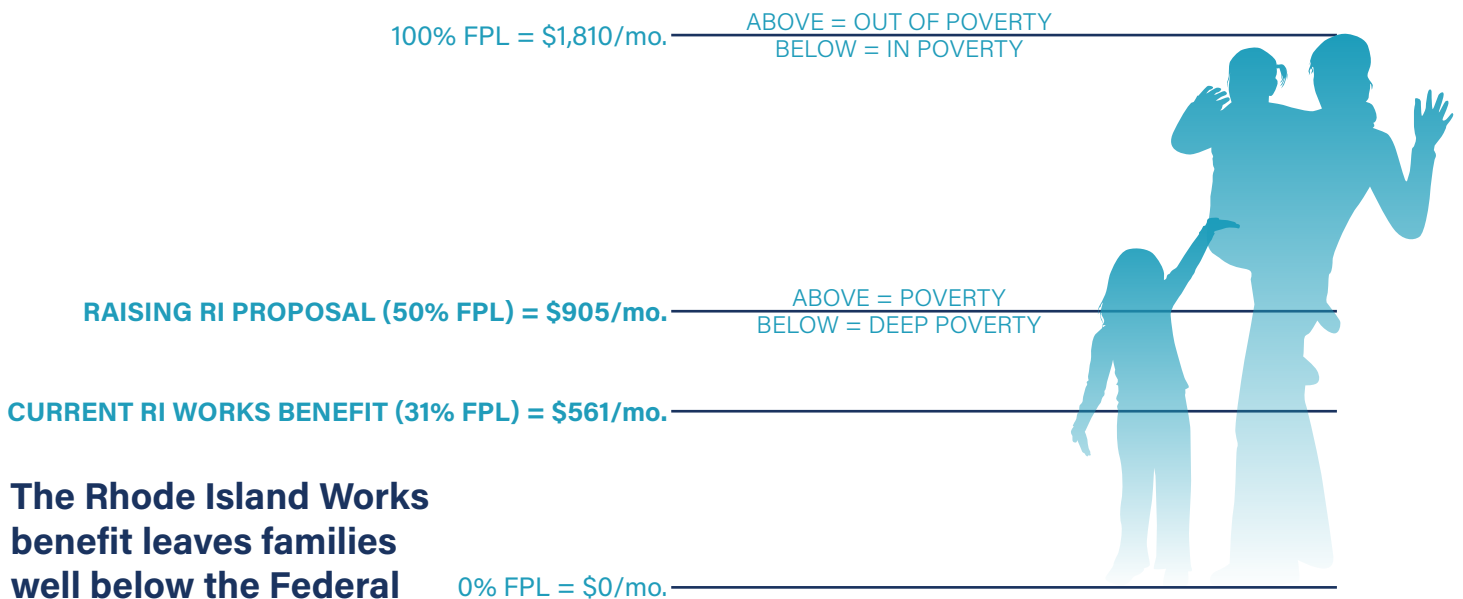
Source: CPI Inflation Calculator, Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

State	Benefit Amount
New Hampshire	\$1,066
Connecticut	\$698
Vermont	\$640
Massachusetts	\$633*
Maine	\$594
Rhode Island	\$554*

*The benefit rate is \$50 lower for families living in public or subsidized housing.

Rhode Island is the only state in New England that has not adjusted the benefit since early 1990s and the benefit is the lowest in the region. A family of 3 lives on \$6/person/day.

Rhode Island Works Families Are Living In Deep Poverty



The Rhode Island Works benefit leaves families well below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)*

* All numbers are based on a family size of three in 2020.

It's Time to Raise the Rhode Island Works Benefit



For Our Children

- Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of RI Works recipients are children, 43% of whom are under age 6.
- Children experiencing poverty are more likely to enter school behind their peers, score lower on achievement tests, work less and earn less as adults, and have worse health outcomes over their lifetime.



For Women

- 87% of adults enrolled in the RI Works program are women.
- Women with more employment and income are less vulnerable to abuse and better able to make choices concerning marriage.

To Ensure That We Address the Impact of Racism

- The poverty rate in Rhode Island is roughly 4 times higher for Latinx families, more than 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ times higher for Black or African American families, and nearly 2 times higher for Asian families, when compared to White families.
- While White recipients are the single largest racial group (40.4%) of RI Works families, the majority of recipients (59.6%) are people of color, including 31.4% who identify as Latinx and 24.1% who identify as Black.

To Ensure That We Show That Children Are a Budget Priority

- Since 2010, Rhode Island has not spent a penny of general revenue dollars on cash assistance for families.
- Of the \$96M of annual federal TANF block grant funds, Rhode Island spends less than $\frac{1}{4}$ (\$23M) on cash assistance for families.

Join the Campaign for Our Kids and Families. Help Us Pass Legislation* to Increase the Benefit Amount and Lift Families Out of Deep Poverty.**

VISIT: WWW.RAISINGRI.ORG

* Legislation will be sponsored by Senator Melissa Murray and Representative Michael Morin

** Benefits would increase from 31 Percent To 50 Percent of the Federal Poverty Level over two years. The monthly benefit for a family of 3 would rise from \$554 to \$711 in the 1st year and to \$889 in the second year. Benefits then would be adjusted to keep pace with inflation.