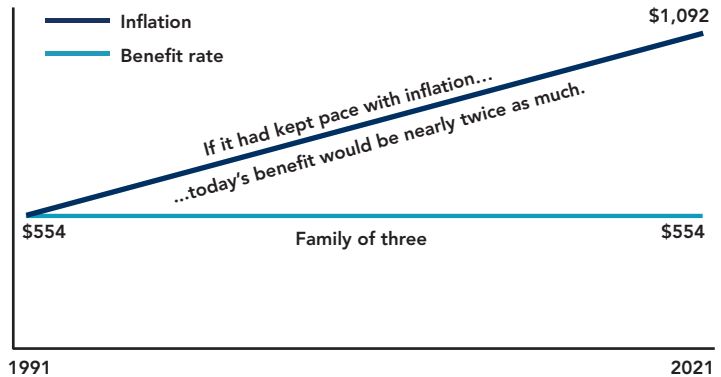




The cash assistance paid to 2,500 families receiving RI Works benefits has not been raised in 30 years and is 30% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).



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

State	Mo. Benefit for Family of 3
New Hampshire	\$1,086
Vermont	\$699
Connecticut	\$698
Massachusetts	\$652*
Maine	\$610
Rhode Island	\$554*

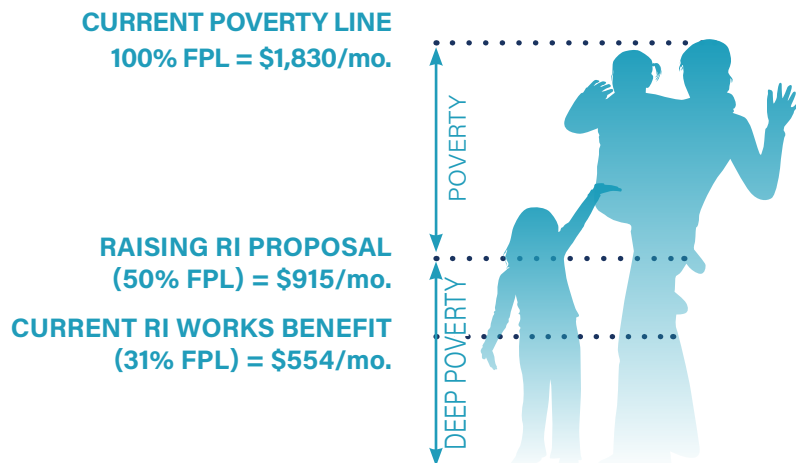
\*The benefit rate is \$50 lower for families living in public or subsidized housing.

Rhode Island is the only state in New England that has not adjusted the benefit since 1991 and the payment is the lowest in the region.

Massachusetts recently increased the benefit by 10%.

New Hampshire and Maine adjust the benefit annually.

**Rhode Island Works Families Are Living In Deep Poverty**



In 1996, the monthly benefit payment covered about 87% of HUD fair market rent.



In 2020, the payment covered only 50% of HUD fair market rent.

The RI Works benefit leaves families well below the Federal Poverty Line.

A family of 3 lives on \$6/person/day.

(Fair market rent for a 2 bedroom apartment. Benefit payment for single parent with 2 children.)

## It's Time to Raise the Rhode Island Works Benefit



### For Our Children

- Just over  $\frac{3}{4}$  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 Redress the Impact of Institutional Racism

- The poverty rate for Black Rhode Islanders (21.5%) is more than twice as high as the rate for White Rhode Islanders (9.0%). The rate for Latinx Rhode Islanders (27.1%) is three times as high and for Asian Rhode Islanders (15.9%) the rate is not quite twice as high compared to White residents.
- 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 Show that Children are a Priority - Target TANF funds for Kids

### Invest \$10M of the \$96M federal block grant funds

- RI Works is the state's cash assistance and work readiness program established under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant.
- The state receives \$96 million each year in federal TANF funds to support low-income families with children under 18, especially to assist needy families so children can live with their parents or relatives.
- Federal funds can be used to pay for the estimated \$10M cost to increase the benefit. This would increase the share of the federal block grant used to support children and their families from 20% to 34%
- The share of the federal block grant spent on cash assistance has significantly declined since the program was started (from 65% in 1997 to 20% in 2021) and since 2010, no general revenue funds have been spent to support children.

Join the Campaign for Our Kids and Families. Help Us Pass S-226 (Murray) / H-5683 (Handy) to Increase the Benefit Amount\* and Lift Families Out of Deep Poverty.

**VISIT: [WWW.RAISINGRI.ORG](http://WWW.RAISINGRI.ORG)**