

HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Higher Education

General Revenue for Higher Education: Although the large majority of funding for Rhode Island's public colleges and university come from tuition placed in restricted receipts funds, general revenue allocated in the budget plays an important role. The FY2023 budget recommends increasing general revenue funding by \$12.5M, from \$233.0M to \$245.5M. This includes net increases for the three institutions as follows: \$6.4M for URI; \$3.1M for RIC; and \$3.1M for CCRI.

Higher Education Academies: The budget uses \$6.5M in SFRF funds for the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to establish three new academies to support, each year, 1,000 students ages 16 and above (including high school seniors and recent graduates) to continue their education. Services would include coaching, college readiness coursework, summer course enrollment, transition from high school to postsecondary education or workforce training.

Workers and Workforce Development

The Department of Labor and Training, the Governor's Workforce Board and the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult Education are the primary agencies responsible for the range of workforce development services for adults. The proposed FY2023 budget includes the following funding:

- **Department of Labor and Training (DLT):** A total of \$20M to DLT, the bulk of which (\$19M) is from federal funds from the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), with a small general revenue appropriation of \$900K.
- **Governor's Workforce Board:** A total of \$34.5M. This includes \$6M in general revenue funds, of which \$600K must be used for enhanced training for direct care and support services staff to improve resident quality of care and address the changing needs of nursing facility residents due to higher acuity and increased cognitive impairments. There is an additional \$10.0M in ARPA funds for "enhanced real jobs" and \$18.4M in restricted receipts, which is primarily from the Job Development Fund.
- **Inmate Apprenticeship, Training, and Employment:** The budget includes \$500K in general revenue for a Real Jobs program that provides training and post-release employment opportunities for incarcerated individuals.
- **Adult Education Services:** A total of \$9.1M to the RI Department of Education to fund the network of community-based organizations that provide foundational skills (literacy, digital literacy, English language services) and workforce preparation services to low skilled adults as well as GED preparation and testing. Total funds include 2.2M in general revenue, \$3.5M from the Job Development Fund, \$2.4M in federal WIOA funds and \$1M from the TANF block grant.
- **Wages for Direct Support Professionals:** The Governor's budget includes a wage increase from \$15.75 to \$18.00 per hour for direct support professionals working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The budget appropriates for this purpose \$16.1M general revenue (\$35.1M all funds). There are no wage increases proposed for direct support professionals who provide care for people with other disabilities and for seniors. EOHHS had proposed wage increases for home health aides, independent care providers, and personal choice providers for inclusion in the 2023 budget. The supplement FY2022 budget enacted in early 2022 allocated \$12.5M in SFRF to support the direct care staff of community-based providers under contract with DCYF to serve children and families. The proposed FY2023 budget does not include additional ARPA funds or other funds for a wage increase for these providers.