RHODE ISLAND SUPPORTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES AMONG LOWEST IN NEW ENGLAND

Rhode Islanders who work full-time should be able to afford housing, food, and health care. Yet far too many jobs pay wages that are too low for families to meet their most basic needs. Many working families would not be able to get by if not for government funded work and income supports that help close the gap between earnings and expenses.

Contrary to the oft-cited claim that Rhode Island has among the most generous public benefits, working families' eligibility for child care assistance and health care coverage is lower than for residents in other New England states. Families in three other New England states also receive a larger refund through the state's Earned Income Tax Credit than families in the Ocean State. While families in all states who need to rely on welfare (TANF) cash assistance receive benefits that are well below the federal poverty level, Rhode Island's monthly benefit (which has not been adjusted in more than 30 years) is the second lowest in the region.*

Supports for Working Families

MEDICAID (RIte Care) PARENT ELIGIBILITY LIMITS*

CT	$39,778
NH	$27,310
VT	$27,310
MA	$27,310
RI	**$27,310**
ME	$20,780

MEDICAID (RIte Care) CHILD ELIGIBILITY LIMITS*

CT	$63,922
NH	$63,922
VT	$62,932
MA	$60,360
RI	**$52,641**
ME	$42,153

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY LIMITS*

NH	$49,475
ME	$48,828
MA	$43,909 *(Exit limit $74,645)*
CT	$43,770
VT	$39,576
RI	**$35,622** *(Exit limit $44,528)*

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT*

VT	32%
CT	27.5%
MA	15%
RI	**10%**
ME	5%**
NH	none***

** All state credits are refundable except for Maine's.
*** New Hampshire does not have an income tax

Supports for Underemployed or Unemployed Families

WELFARE (RI Works) MONTHLY BENEFITS

CT	$698
NH	$675
VT	$640
MA	$618
RI	**$554**
ME	$485

WELFARE (RI Works) LIFETIME LIMITS

MA	none
VT	60 months
ME	60 months
NH	60 months
RI	**48 months**
CT	21 months

* All data is for yearly 2014 income. Calculations for the Medicaid, Child Care Assistance and Welfare programs are based on a family size of three.