

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Rhode Island Works Program Rules and Regulations (218-RICR-20-00-2)

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-20-00-2

Rulemaking Action: Direct Final Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: October 12, 2022

End of Public Comment: November 11, 2022

Rulemaking Authority:

Title XIX of the Social Security Act

R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-5.2-1 et seq.

2023 RI State Budget - H7123A

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Rhode Island Works Program (R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 40-5.2-1 et seq.) establishes the legal basis for a welfare to work program to assist needy families to prepare for, accept and retain employment with necessary supports, as quickly as possible, and is the law through which the Federal assistance program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is available to families in Rhode Island who meet program eligibility criteria. This Direct Final Amendment is being filed to finalize the Emergency Rule that is currently in place which implements the Legislative changes that were signed by the Governor with the 2023 Rhode Island State Budget. These changes were effective July 1st, 2022.

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before November 11, 2022, the Department of Human Services will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

Mary Beth Slinko

Department of Human Services

DHS Policy Office

Hazard Bldg, West Road

Cranston, RI 02920

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Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

The passage of the 2023 RI State Budget [H7123Aaa.pdf (rilegislature.gov)] includes the following changes:

- Include "rebate" to Earned Income Tax Credit or "Rebate",
 - Extend Vocational Educational Training an additional twelve months if the participant successfully completes their first year of education at the Community College of Rhode Island,
 - Extend RIW time limit from forty-eight months to sixty months,
 - Increase RIW resource limit from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and allow self-attestation of resources less than \$3,000,
 - Increase the RIW Earned Income Disregard from \$170 to \$300, and
 - Clarified the applicant's ability to choose telephonic application and signature.
- Additional changes include the removal of COVID language, removal of duplicative language, and the reformatting of sections to accommodate for deletions and additions.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.