

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
AMENDED 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: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: November 26, 2024

End of Public Comment: December 26, 2024

Rulemaking Authority:

Title XIX of the Social Security Act

R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-5.2-1 et seq.

FY 2025 State Budget

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Department is amending this regulation to enact changes made to the RI Works Program with the approval of the FY 2025 budget, as well as clarify and simplify policy language to reduce barriers and provide supports to our families.

Amendments to the rule include the following:

Changes to gender-neutral wording and pronouns throughout this regulation.

Made technical changes throughout.

Removal of effective dates associated with pilot programs that have become permanent.

Removal of COVID language.

Removal to SNAP references.

Added clarifying definitions under § 2.2.

Included fleeing felons as excluded from assistance unit under § 2.4.3 as per TANF regulations.

Provided additional clarification of school training of children 18-19 under § 2.5.2 Eligibility Factor of Age as well as the addition for verification requirements;

Removed OCSS procedural language.

Removed the need for an affidavit as verification under § 2.5.3.

Added COFA as qualified non-citizens per Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024, Pub. Law 118-42, in accordance with section § 141 of the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

Removed Full Family Sanction language under § 2.7.8 per Governor's budget.

Added assessment development language under § 2.10.1

Clarified Non-core Activities, Required Activities, and Exemptions under § 2.11.2;

Increased earned income disregard per Governor's budget.

Removal of Income In-kind chart.

Increase to standards of assistance § 2.18.

Increase in catastrophic assistance from \$123 to \$200 in § 2.18.10.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until December 26, 2024 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

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In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

The RI Works Program provides a cash grant to families to stabilize the household as education, training, and employment is sought. This enables children to remain in the home as the family seeks to increase earning potential to maintain the family without assistance.

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