



PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE

RI DHS Provides Update on 20% Increase in RI Works Benefits Upcoming Changes Highlighted

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) today is providing an important update to beneficiaries regarding upcoming changes to their Rhode Island Works (RI Works) benefits. As part of the Governor's FY25 Enacted Budget, the changes will provide additional cash assistance for approximately 8,700 RI Works beneficiaries.

Benefit decision notices will be mailed to households detailing RI Works changes below. These notices will contain important information regarding your individual case.

Current RI Works recipients will receive their increases in two phases in August and September. New benefit decision notices will be mailed in these months explaining the changes in detail. Customers will receive notices regarding the August one-time payments and for the permanent increases. Customers are advised to be on the lookout for these notices. The increase in monetary amounts is based on household circumstances including family size and current amount of household income received through employment, equaling an average increase of about 20% for RI Works beneficiaries.

"This is an important opportunity to provide additional means of support for Rhode Islanders in need," said DHS Director Kimberly Merolla-Brito. "I want to encourage RI Works beneficiaries to carefully review your information to fully understand how it will impact your household."

Customers are reminded monetary amounts are determined through personal circumstances and will vary by household. Below, please find the schedule of upcoming RI Works updates to be reflected on EBT cards:

August – One-time payments

- **One-time payments for each month, July and August (when benefits were approved), will appear on customer EBT cards equal to an extra 20% in cash assistance.**
- **Customers will also see a one-time payment of up to \$112.50, per month, due to customers being able to keep a larger share of earned income for the months of July and August.**
- **A clothing allowance of \$100 will be issued around August 3, 2024, for each eligible child in your household. This is a one-time per year benefit. It will not be provided monthly.**

September – Permanent Increases

- **There will be a 20% benefit increase to monthly cash assistance. This is a new, permanent monthly increase.**
- **Working families receiving RI Works benefits may see an increase of up to an additional \$112.50 because customers will be keeping a larger share of earned income. This will be a permanent increase starting in September.**

Additionally, Benefit Decision Notices will contain important information relating to any adjustments to benefits received through other programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), based on the RI Works benefit increase. Some households may see a decrease in other benefits, however, the overall increase in RI Works benefits will be greater for all households.

For case specific questions, customers may contact their RI Works caseworker. Additional information about this RI Works update is available here: <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/ri-works-program>

RI Works is a financial and employment assistance program for parents and families with little to no income, who have children high school age or younger. It gives individualized and family supportive services, job readiness, preparation and placement, employment or vocational training and retention services. Recipients can also receive child care, transportation and educational services towards the goal of improved long-term stabilization. Kinship caregivers (e.g., a grandparent raising their grandchildren) can also apply for RI Works to support the children for whom they have taken on the responsibility and the role of primary caregiver.