



Community Opportunities January 2026

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**Rhode Island
Foundation**

2026 Community Opportunities Agenda

What we will review today:

- Grantmaking & Community Investment Programs
- Capacity Building Opportunities
- Leadership Development Offerings
- Scholarships & Fellowships
- Planned Giving for Nonprofit Organizations

Fast Facts

01

The Rhode Island Foundation is the state's only community foundation.

02

Founded in 1916 – it's one of the oldest in the country.

03

~\$1.6B pooled endowment
2,000+ funds

04

More than two dozen Foundation-directed grant programs

05

55 Rhode Island Foundation team members ready to help

06

Over 150 Scholarship and Fellowship opportunities

What We Do



The Foundation's work is guided by our Five-Year Action Plan.

Grantmaking & Community Investment Programs

Core Grant Programs

- Support organizations advancing community priorities and related focus areas, as described in the Foundation's Five-Year Action Plan.
 - Community Priority Grants
 - Capacity Building Grants
 - Catalyst Grants (*Next grantmaking cycle anticipated in 2027*)

Topic & Geography Specific Programs

- Grants from our programs that are topic and geography-specific, for example:
 - Newport County Fund Grants
 - Program for Animal Welfare Grants
 - Basic Human Needs
 - Neighborhood Grants
 - and many more

Impact Investing

- Provides investment capital for opportunities that may not move forward without our support.
- We look to invest in organizations and initiatives that are local, place-based, and will yield a direct impact in Rhode Island, primarily in the areas aligned with the Foundation's six Community Priorities.

Core Grant Programs

- A simple application process
 - Simple pre-application that will allow applicants to submit a brief online form to help us assess if there is a funding opportunity that is a good match for their work
- Predictable timelines
 - Core grant program deadlines for pre-application and second stage application submission
- Clear communication
 - Clear timeframes and expectations for pre-applicants who will move on to a second stage application, and a clear timeframe for award or denial notifications
- What we **don't fund**...

Community Priority Grants

- A core Foundation grant program providing general operating or programmatic support to organizations addressing one or more of the community priorities, and related focus areas, in the Foundation's Five-Year Action Plan.
- Grants for this program are offered twice a year, with an average grant size of \$60,000.
- Organizations are eligible to be awarded one Community Priority Grant within a 12-month period.

Pre-Application: Community Priority Grant

Organizational Info:

- ☐ Name, EIN, mission statement, address, email address, website link, fiscal sponsor

Please indicate which type of funding you are requesting:

- ☐ Program support (funding for a specific program or initiative) or general operating
- ☐ Identify the leading Community Priority and Focus Area with which the proposal best aligns

Amount of funding requested

- ☐ Community Priority grants average \$60,000

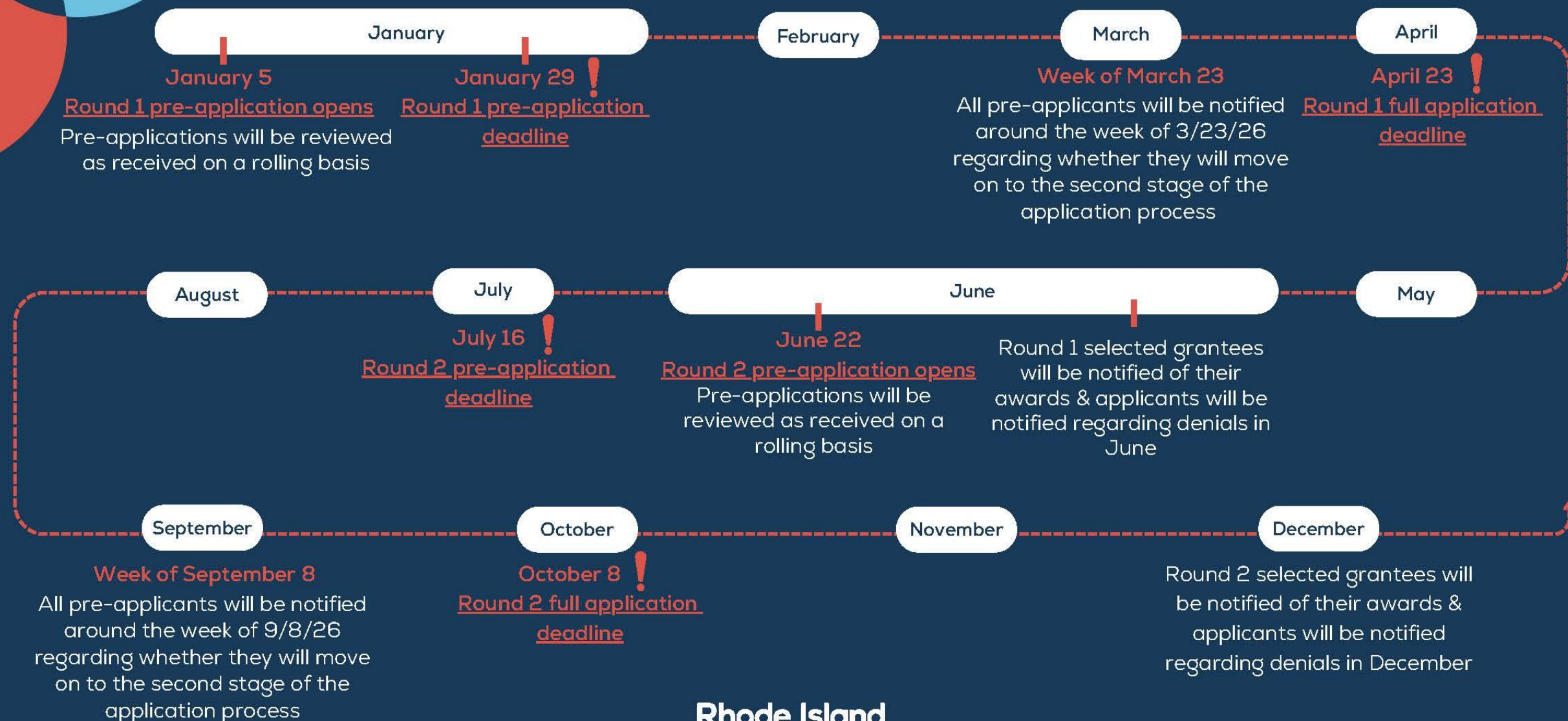
Five-Year Action Plan & Community Priorities

(250 word limit for each question below)

- ☐ Please provide a summary of your grant proposal.
- ☐ Please describe how your organization and grant proposal respond to one or more of the community priorities, and related focus areas, in the Foundation's Five-Year Action Plan.
- ☐ Please briefly describe your past work in this area, gaps in the field you are addressing, and how your organization and proposal would help address inequities and support thriving communities.
- ☐ Please describe the geographic area(s) and demographics of the population(s) served by your organization and the work supported through your grant proposal.

2026 Grant Application & Award Timeline

● Community Priority Grants



Capacity Building Grants

- A core Foundation grant program providing funding to support the infrastructure and/or technical assistance needs of organizations and programs that respond to one or more of the community priorities, and related focus areas in the Foundation's Five-Year Action Plan.
- Grants for this program are offered twice a year for up to \$15,000.
- Organizations are eligible to be awarded one Capacity Building Grant within a 12-month period.

Pre-Application: Capacity Building Grant

Organizational Info:

- ☐ Name, EIN, mission statement, address, email address, website

Amount of funding requested and primary purpose:

- ☐ Capacity Building grant requests may be up to \$15,000
- ☐ Identify the leading Community Priority and Focus Area with which the proposal best aligns
- ☐ Identifying primary capacity building need(s)
- ☐ Identifying use of consultant or temporary staffing

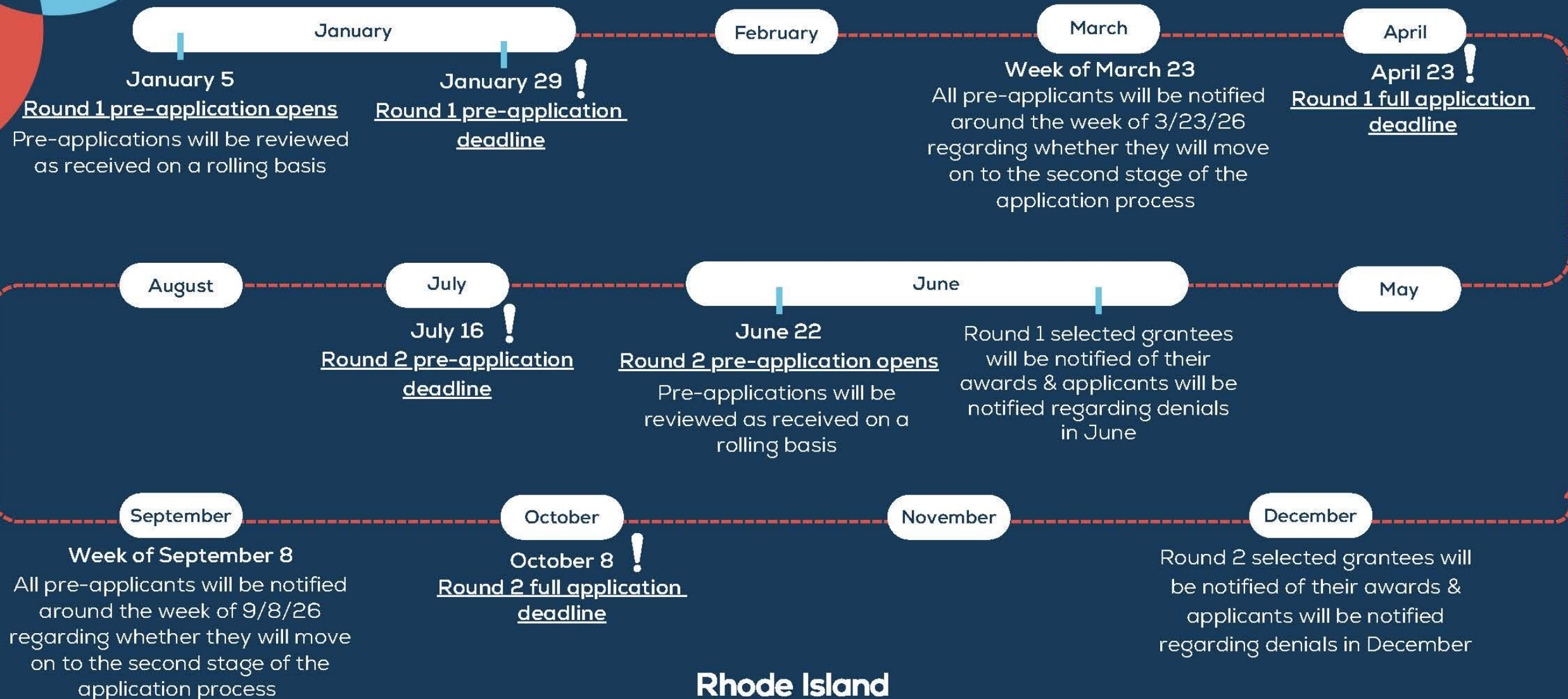
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2026 Grant Application & Award Timeline

● Capacity Building Grants



**Rhode Island
Foundation**

Topic and geography-specific grant programs

The Foundation continue to offer a range of both topic- and geography-specific grant programs, including:

- Basic Human Needs Grants
- Black Philanthropy Bannister Fund Grants
- Bliss, Gross, Horowitz Fund Grants
- Juanita Sánchez Community Fund
- Equity Action Grants
- Medical Research
- Newport County Funds
- Neighborhood Grants
- Program for Animal Welfare
- Specialized Health Funds

Impact Investing

- Provides capital that is otherwise not available in the community, and to invest in opportunities that may not move forward without our support
- Invests in organizations and initiatives that are local, place-based, and will yield a direct impact in Rhode Island
- Offers capital at well below market rates, with an overall portfolio target return of 3%
- Investments range between \$200,000 and \$2,000,000
- Terms generally no longer than 10 years

25 Years of Impact Investing



1. Affordable housing units that have been constructed or are scheduled for construction across six of the Foundation's impact investments.
2. Includes investments in Neighborworks Blackstone River Valley, Providence Revolving Fund, and the new construction of Urban Greens Co-op Market.
3. Four of the Foundation's impact investments supported construction of new community spaces, including Community MusicWorks and Farm Fresh Rhode Island.
4. Two Foundation investments are supporting consumer loans at affordable rates.
5. Across the Foundation's five-year investment, an estimated 8,000 pounds of produce will be donated to hunger relief efforts, with 4,000 pounds delivered at the time of this publishing.
6. These investments are assisting four organizations to leverage support for more than 20 construction projects focused on affordable housing, commercial development, and community spaces across Rhode Island.

We are looking for partners who:

- Have a strong track record of operating in our state.
- Have strong financials with a history of operating surpluses.
- Have demonstrated an engaged and competent governance structure and management team.
- Have a track record of achieving social outcomes benefiting Rhode Islanders.
- Impact investing opportunities must demonstrate a viable path for repayment, and investments must demonstrate social impact with measurable outcomes.

To apply and/or learn more:

- Contact Ricky Bogert, Director of Impact Investing and Housing, at (401) 427-4011 or rbogert@rifoundation.org

We are here to help

The Foundation's Grants and Community Investments team will continue to connect closely with grantees – providing support for learning and impact evaluation, technical assistance, capacity building, and more.

Please feel free to reach out to us at (401) 427-4041 or by emailing grants@rifoundation.org.

www.rifoundation.org

Capacity Building

Capacity Building Grants

- One of our core grant programs, primarily providing funding to support the infrastructure and/or technical assistance needs of organizations and programs that respond to one or more community priorities, and related focus areas, in the Foundation's Five-Year Action Plan.

Technical Assistance

- Opportunity for nonprofit organizations to receive technical support and guidance around certain capacity building topics, to include, among others, board governance, fundraising, succession planning, and strategic planning.

Cohort Programs & Workshops

- Free learning and leadership development opportunities that strengthen the capabilities of individuals, organizations, and the social impact sector in Rhode Island.

2026 Cohort Programs & Workshops

Board Bootcamp

Saturday, June 6, 9:00am-3:00pm

Fund Development Cohort

Meets monthly on Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00am

Sept 22nd to January 12, 2027

Virtual Workshops:

Successful Board Engagement: Strategies for a Fundraising Board

April 23, 5:30-7pm

Successful Fundraising Strategies: Knowing Your Donors and How to Ask Them for Support

May 7, 5:30-7pm

Executive Director Succession Planning

Sept 17, 5:30-7pm

Intro to Board Service

Oct 15, 5:30-7pm

Leadership Development Offerings

RIF offers Comprehensive leadership development programs. One is offered in partnership with the Institute for Nonprofit Practice (INP), designed for professionals in the nonprofit, public and social enterprise sectors.

The overall programs help practitioners develop:

- adaptive leadership
- nonprofit governance
- organizational management
- fundraising skills
- critical thinking
- public speaking

Equity Leadership Program +

Who Should Apply

Mid-level professionals and managers working in Rhode Island's social impact sector (nonprofit, public sector, social enterprise).

Program Schedule

- Six in-person learning sessions during Summer 2026
- Dual enrollment in INP Core from September 2026–May 2027
- Expected time commitment: **~185 hours over 10 months**

Cohort Size

- ELI+ cohort: **Up to 15 participants**
- INP Core cohort (including ELI+ participants): **24–36 students total**
- RISE program (10)

ELI+ curriculum topics

- Introduction to philanthropy
- Management style and behavior awareness
- Emotional intelligence and navigating others' emotions
- Critical thinking and information analysis
- Public speaking and confident communication
- Personal branding and articulating personal value

INP Core curriculum topics

- Financial management
- Strategy, growth, and evaluation
- Team development and leadership
- Organizational culture and change management
- Strategic marketing and communications
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Governance and leveraging your board
- Development and executing fundraising strategies
- Self-care, mindfulness, and healing

We are here to help

For more information about capacity building opportunities contact:

Keith Tavares

Director, Capacity Building

(401) 427-4054

ktavares@rifoundation.org

For more information on ELI+ and INP, please contact:

Lisa Maddox

Equity and Inclusion Officer

(401) 427-4030

lmaddox@rifoundation.org

Scholarships & Fellowships

Scholarships & Fellowships

More than 150 scholarship and fellowship funds for Rhode Islanders offering:

- Assistance for elementary school to post-graduate levels, certificate programs, and a variety of fields of study and interest areas
- Funding for students attending technical or trade schools or pursuing certifications
- Awards for study abroad, jewelry design, nursing, and students who are looking to achieve personal growth through travel and public service

Planned Giving Opportunities

Organizational Endowments

- Offer a permanent source of income and help to attract new contributions including planned giving assistance
- More than 200 nonprofits in Rhode Island are benefitting from organization endowments at the Foundation
- Complimentary planned giving technical assistance provided by the Foundation to all endowment fund holders
- Offer “traditional” and “flexible” endowment fund options
- Provide access to top investment managers through the Foundation’s pooled endowment

We are here to help

For more information about scholarship and fellowship opportunities contact:

Monica Benson

Scholarship and Special Funds Administrator

(401) 427-4017

mbenson@rifoundation.org

For more information on planned giving and organizational endowments contact:

Colleen Donham

Coordinator and Assistant to the Vice President of Development

(401) 427-4040

cdonham@rifoundation.org



Q&A



Thank you!