



Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless

1070 Main St, Suite 304, Pawtucket, RI 02860
www.rhomeless.org (401) 721-5685

Overview

The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless works collaboratively to create and advance last solutions to prevent and end homelessness in Rhode Island. This includes advocating for a robust policy agenda in the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Pay for Success

This upcoming legislative session our main priority will be to advance Pay for Success, a social impact bond providing 125 Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers to support Rhode Islanders in need. Providing stable housing and supportive services can give our neighbors with the best possible path to rebuilding their lives and exit homelessness in a far more cost-effective way.

Funding for Affordable Housing

Access to safe, secure, affordable housing ends homelessness. Housing, and even interim resources like shelter, remains virtually unavailable to many Rhode Islanders. Families experiencing homelessness must wait 37 days on average to get into shelter; the wait for housing can take literal years. Preserving and increasing our stock of affordable housing will help ensure Rhode Islanders get the resource most vital for stability and self-sufficiency: a safe and secure home. Our state must make this investment on a consistent and appropriate basis.

Removing Barriers and Preventing Homelessness

We support policies that address the root causes of homelessness and help prevent our neighbors from experiencing homelessness in the first place. Removing barriers and fighting discrimination are of the utmost importance. Therefore, we support the following bills:

- **Residential Landlord and Tenant Act:** Eviction is one of the most common causes of homelessness. Many landlords will outright refuse to rent to a tenant with an eviction, regardless of the outcome. This bill will seal eviction court records if the verdict/judgement is found in favor of the tenant.
- **Fair Housing Practices:** so many Rhode Islanders find an available unit, have the money to pay rent, yet get dismissed as potential tenants simply because of *how* they will be paying. This bill would ban discrimination in housing based on source of legal income, including Housing Choice Vouchers.
- **Fair Chance Licensing:** a criminal conviction, regardless of time served, creates a nearly impassable barrier for previously incarcerated Rhode Islanders. 32% of all adults involved in RI's Correctional System experience chronic homelessness. Good jobs that pay a living wage and benefits helps prevent homelessness. This bill would ensure no person can be denied an occupational license solely or in part because of a prior conviction unless the underlying crime is directly related to the occupation.

For more information, please contact Kristina Contreras Fox, Policy Analyst:
kristina@rhomeless.org | (401) 424-1635