

Business, Workforce & Funding Resources

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GWBRI Incumbent Worker Training Express Grants | RI DLT Business Workforce Center | EmployRI | US SBA - RI Office
RI STAC | SBIR/STTR | Grants.gov

Tech Collective's goal as your industry association is to get you connected. Sometimes that connection might not always be to us, and if not, we will always work to refer you to the right contact so you can get your job done and get on with business. Below, we have compiled a few of the most pertinent resources our members ask for. If what you are looking for is not listed, or if you have suggested to be added to this page, always feel free to contact us about it! Contact: Giselle Mahoney

Manager of Communications & Media Relations

(401) 521-7805 x 101

gmahoney@tech-collective.org _____ GWBRI Incumbent Worker Training Express Grants

The Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island is pleased to announce that funding is available for Incumbent Worker Training Express Grants to support the competitiveness and growth of Rhode Island businesses. Eligible employers may apply for up to \$45,000 in matching funds to invest in incumbent worker training that builds and retains a high-skilled, high-performance workforce. Grants proposals can be submitted on-line and will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

View/Apply: [GWBRI Incumbent Worker Training Express Grants](#)

[GWBRI Career Pathways](#)

For job seekers and career explorers:

- Click here to learn about jobs within four Rhode Island High-Growth, High-Demand Industries and Sectors.
- Visit your local netWORKri center, which can provide you with employment programs and services for free.
- Click here to find the location near you.
- Visit the EmployRI website, a free, online database that contains links to thousands of job opportunities. Users can post resumes, research career options, and find training. For workforce development professionals:
- Visit the Workforce3One website sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- Visit the Career Pathways Catalog of Toolkits website sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- View the Workforce On-Ramps Career Overviews of Four Rhode Island High-Growth, High-Demand Industries

RI Department of Labor and Training - Business Workforce Center
Job Matching

As part of the free services offered by the Business Workforce Center, our representatives can help you craft job descriptions and screen applicants. You can also search through our résumé database yourself and post your own job openings directly to our job board through our new job searching system, EmployRI.org. Through the EmployRI virtual recruiter function, candidates with matching skill sets can be automatically referred to you as soon as they post their résumés to our system. Skills Assessment

Recently, the Business Workforce Center and netWORKri have invested in a new online tool entitled Prove It!. Prove It! assesses the specific skills a candidate must possess—such as math, computer or customer service skills—in order to perform the job for which he or she is applying. Not only does it help an employer verify a candidate's competencies, but it can also illuminate skill gaps that a candidate could address through training. Customized Recruiting

Our representatives can create a unique recruiting strategy to meet your company's needs. We can arrange small-scale recruitments at any of our netWORKri career centers, or we can plan a large-scale job fair for your business, your industry or your geographic area. Alternatively, if you are planning your own recruitment event, our staff can assist with intake, traffic management and other related tasks. Publicizing

Once you place a job order with the Business Workforce Center, our representatives can help publicize your opening or recruitment through local media outlets. We can also create promotional materials for display at netWORKri and other local community-based organizations. If you choose, we can feature your job opening in our weekly listing of “Hot

Jobs, which is available on our web site and through a special Hot Jobs RSS feed. Tax Credits Representatives of the Business Workforce Center can help you determine which tax credits may apply to a particular company. State tax credits include: - RI Jobs Training Tax Credit - Work Opportunity Tax Credit - RI New Employment Tax Credit - Jobs Training Tax Credits for Apprenticeships - Jobs Growth Act Tax Credit (with RIEDC) - Investment Tax Credit (with RIEDC)

They may also help you connect to federal tax credits that encourage small business workforce expansion and the hiring of disadvantaged groups. Training

Training improves worker retention and productivity, and can keep your business competitive in a global environment. The Business Workforce Center can connect you with a number of Governor's Workforce Board matching grant opportunities for new and existing workers that can help you skill up your workforce. They can also connect you to On-the-Job Training (OJT) and customized training options offered through your local workforce investment board. Help in Hard Times

Business Workforce Center representatives can also help your business navigate through economic downturns, reductions in workforce or company closures. The Department of Labor and Training's WorkShare program can help you retain valuable employees during a temporary (non-seasonal) slowdown through a combining reduced work hours with partial unemployment insurance benefits for affected employees. Or, if your company is experiencing large-scale layoffs, the department's Rapid Response Unit can provide timely, comprehensive services to affected workers.

View/Download: RI DLT Business Workforce Center Brochure

EmployRI

State resource for employers and job seekers:

Employers: Find a candidate by résumé; Post a job / internship opening; Business Workforce Center

Job Seekers: Search for jobs / internships; Analyze your skills; Match your skills to job openings; Instructional EmployRI Videos; netWORKri Career Centers - a proud partner of the American Job Center Network

Labor Market Data: Check wage rates; Frequently Asked Questions

Resources: Featured Jobs (as seen on TV); Job Fairs and Workshops

Search/More Info: EmployRI

US Small Business Administration (SBA) -
Rhode Island District Office

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides financial, technical and management assistance to help entrepreneurs start, run, and grow their businesses, and is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses.

Last year the SBA approved 447 loans to Rhode Island small businesses totaling more than \$126.5 million.

- Counseling, training and information about starting, better operating, or expanding small business through a network of SBA resource partners including SCORE, the Rhode Island Small Business Development center at Johnson & Wales University, and the Center for Women & Enterprise.

- A certification program to assist businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals through the 7(a) Business Development Program.

- Assistance to small businesses seeking opportunities in government contracting.

- Exporting assistance to small firms that want to take their business global.

View/Download: Rhode Island SBA Small Business Resource Guide

Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC)

Innovate Rhode Island Small Business Fund

In 2013, to foster job creation, facilitate small business development and enhance the workforce pipeline, the Rhode Island General Assembly created the Innovate Rhode Island Small Business Fund (IRISBF). Through a variety of programming supported by the Fund, eligible Rhode Island small businesses may apply for grants and loans to defray the cost of applying for SBIR/STTR awards, match SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II awards and hire interns.

The goals of the program are to:

- Leverage state funds to encourage and support Rhode Island entrepreneurial participation in the federal SBIR/STTR programs
- Increase the amount of federal research dollars received by Rhode Island firms
- Sustain companies through the early stages of product development
- Encourage the establishment of high potential, high quality, high growth ventures in Rhode Island
- Enhance the talent pipeline in the life sciences and engineering fields

View/Apply: [Innovate Rhode Island Fund](#)

Collaborative Research Grants

Collaborative Research Grants support teams that are expanding RI's research capacity and pioneering our future through new ideas, technologies and innovations.

The Collaborative Research Grant program provides funding to projects that focus on building research capacity across institutions and advancing the competitiveness of RI researchers to secure additional funding. Grants are also awarded to projects that contribute to current or future economic development of the state through technology development and commercialization or demonstrate strong translational components.

View/Apply: [STAC Collaborative Research Grants](#)

Find Grant and Funding Opportunities

Search opportunities across all agencies – view all or select relevant criteria.

View/Apply: [Grant and Funding Opportunities](#)

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) & Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)

SBIR

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

SBIR-Participating Agencies

Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$100 million are required to allocate 2.51 percent of their extramural R&D budget to these programs (1.5% of Federal R&D budget).

Currently, eleven Federal agencies participate in the program:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

Each agency administers its own individual program within guidelines established by Congress. These agencies designate R&D topics in their solicitations and accept proposals from small businesses. Awards are made on a competitive basis after proposal evaluation.

STTR
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) is another program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development (R&D) arena. Central to the program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. The unique feature of the STTR program is the requirement for the small business to formally collaborate with a not-for-profit research institution in Phase I and Phase II. STTR's most important role is to bridge the gap between performance of basic science and commercialization of resulting innovations.

STTR-Participating Agencies
Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$1 billion are required to reserve 0.35% of the extramural research budget for STTR awards to small businesses. These agencies designate R&D topics and accept proposals. Currently, five agencies participate in the STTR program:

- Department of Defense
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Health and Human Services
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - National Science Foundation
- Each agency administers its own individual program within guidelines established by Congress. These agencies designate R&D topics in their solicitations and accept proposals from small businesses. Awards are made on a competitive basis after proposal evaluation. View/Apply: [Open SBIR & STTR Solicitations](#) _____

[Grants.gov](#)

Grants.gov is your source to FIND and APPLY for federal grants. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proud to be the managing partner for Grants.gov, an initiative that is having an unparalleled impact on the grant community. Learn more about Grants.gov and determine if you are eligible for grant opportunities offered on this site.

View/Apply: [Search and Apply for Grants](#)

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