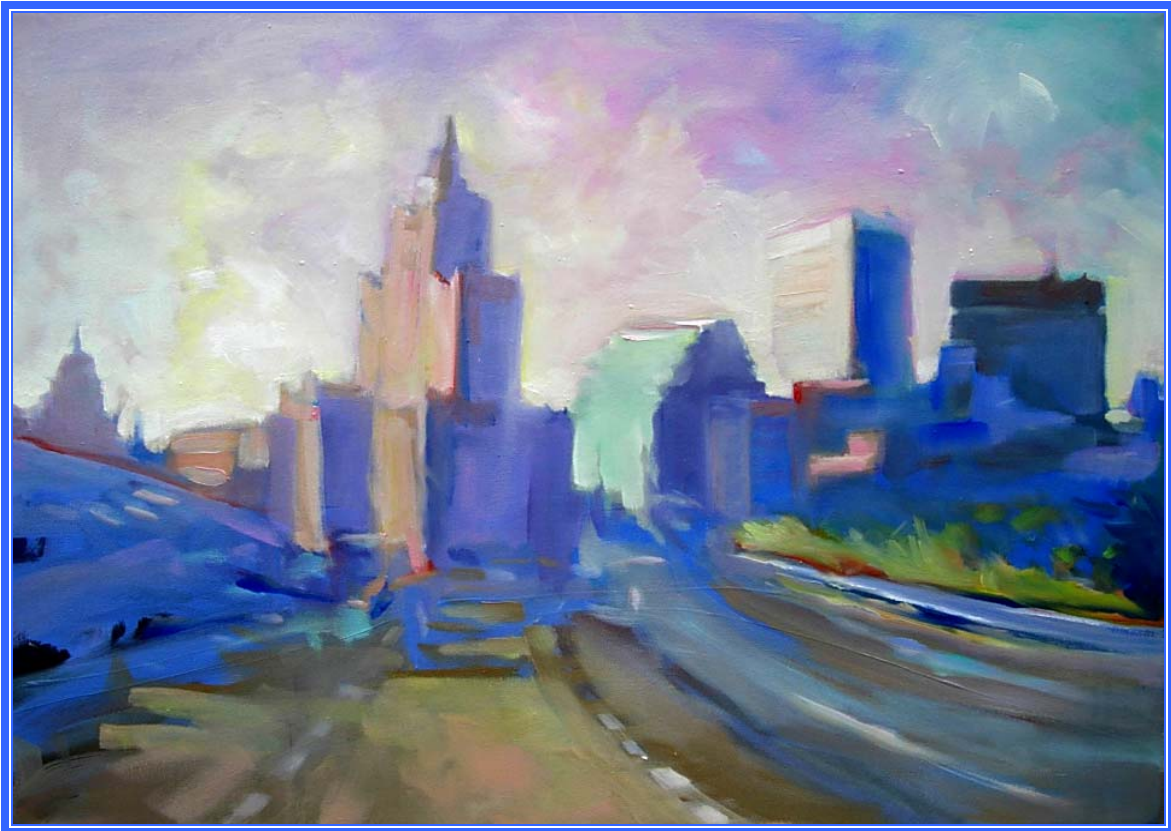


State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2009

Donald L. Carcieri, Governor

The Agency

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy

Agency Operations

The department is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based care for persons sixty years of age and older, and for advocating and coordinating the promotion of an environment in which deaf and hard of hearing persons in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives, advocating on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities so that they have access to a comprehensive, coordinated system that offers a variety of services, and promoting and increasing opportunities and alternatives for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The department has four programs: 1) elderly affairs, 2) deaf and hard of hearing, 3) developmental disabilities, and 4) commission on disabilities.

Agency Objectives

1) To provide services that are consumer focused, high quality and easily accessible; 2) To enhance and implement a comprehensive coordinated system that expands the options for community based care for all older Rhode Islanders, their families, caregivers and persons with disabilities; 3) To strengthen programs and services that enable older Rhode Islanders and persons with disabilities to live an independent, healthy and dignified lifestyle while continuing to make meaningful contributions in the community; and 4) To continue to serve as the statewide advocate agency for the needs of adults with disabilities through the Aging and Disability Resource Center (The Point) once completed.

Statutory History

Section 11, Article 3 (Relating to Reorganization) of the FY 2008 Budget Act, R.I. Public Law Chapter 73, H5300Aam) provided for the following:

SECTION 11. The general assembly hereby requires the governor to submit, as part of his FY 2009 budget, necessary legislation to create a department of advocacy, with an effective date of no sooner than July 1, 2008, and no later than January 1, 2009.

The governor shall consult with the child advocate, mental health advocate, commission on the deaf and hard of hearing, developmental disabilities council, and the commission on disabilities in developing the department.

The department shall include the child advocate, mental health advocate, commission on the deaf and hard of hearing, developmental disabilities council, and the commission on disabilities.

The governor with advice and consent of the senate shall appoint the child advocate and the mental health advocate, as detailed in existing statutes. All agencies combined into this new department shall maintain existing duties as set forth in current law.

The Governor has reviewed the proposed composition of the department and recommended only three of the five agencies be merged into the existing Department of Elderly Affairs and be called the Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy. Under the leadership of an existing cabinet director, the functions of these agencies would be best integrated within the Health and Human Services Secretariat. It is recommended that the Office of the Child Advocate and Office of the Mental Health Advocate remain independent. Article 43 of the FY 2009 Budget Bill as recommended by the Governor, provides for the establishment of the Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2008 Revised	FY 2009 Recommended
Expenditures By Program					
Elderly Affairs	44,439,521	35,951,871	37,036,136	36,306,048	33,569,723
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	300,389	306,372	387,654	326,595	368,807
Developmental Disabilities	468,398	421,932	461,111	405,702	450,543
Commission on Disabilities	792,815	845,947	968,079	780,912	911,985
Total Expenditures	\$46,001,123	\$37,526,122	\$38,852,980	\$37,819,257	\$35,301,058
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	5,447,737	5,097,115	5,838,191	4,941,363	4,727,696
Operating Supplies and Expenses	9,350,485	847,637	3,026,749	2,341,854	2,252,252
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	23,354,779	27,190,356	21,424,686	21,511,135	19,554,832
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$38,153,001	\$33,135,108	\$30,289,626	\$28,794,352	\$26,534,780
Capital Purchases and Equipment	199,861	127,683	300,870	339,421	399,870
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	7,648,261	4,263,331	8,262,484	8,685,484	8,366,408
Total Expenditures	\$46,001,123	\$37,526,122	\$38,852,980	\$37,819,257	\$35,301,058
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	22,963,972	19,630,145	19,510,134	18,062,670	16,789,244
Federal Funds	15,736,403	12,646,234	13,717,234	13,490,681	12,898,249
Restricted Receipts	2,429,412	742,692	740,612	1,344,355	628,565
Other Funds	4,871,336	4,507,051	4,885,000	4,921,551	4,985,000
Total Expenditures	\$46,001,123	\$37,526,122	\$38,852,980	\$37,819,257	\$35,301,058
FTE Authorization	63.6	59.6	56.6	54.6	44.6
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.9%	14.5%	16.5%	16.5%	16.5%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	74.7%	74.0%	79.8%	79.8%	82.7%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.9%	14.5%	16.5%	16.5%	16.5%

The Program

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Elderly Affairs

Program Operations

This program develops and implements a comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based care for persons sixty years of age and older, and is the designated agency on aging for Rhode Island. Program responsibilities include developing and implementing a State Plan on Aging under the Federal Older Americans Act (OAA); and serving as the state's Single Planning and Service Area on Aging under the Older Americans Act. The primary focus of the program is to preserve the independence, dignity and capacity for choice of seniors, their families and caregivers. It seeks to protect and preserve the rights of older individuals; operates services designed to assist seniors in remaining independent in the community and administers and funds a wide range of community programs, activities and services. These include: customer information referral and assistance services designed to empower the best choices to ensure a senior's health and well-being; a Community Information Specialist network, which assists elders and adults with disabilities access a wide range of long term care services; pharmaceutical assistance; health promotion/disease prevention; health insurance counseling; protective services for community elders; ombudsman program for elders living in nursing homes or assisted living facilities; a volunteer guardianship program; legal counseling; heating assistance; housing planning; advocacy and security assistance; home based care; Senior Companion Program; case management services; respite care; a National Family Caregiver Support Program; Alzheimer support programs; Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), where volunteers counsel older persons and adults with disabilities about health insurance and healthcare benefits; and Rhode Island Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), which educates seniors and adults with disabilities to recognize and report Medicare and Medicare fraud, waste and abuse.

The Governor recommends the Department of Elderly Affairs be incorporated into a new Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy, beginning in FY 2009.

Program Objectives

1) To provide services that are consumer focused, high quality and easily accessible; 2) To enhance and implement a comprehensive coordinated system that expands the options for community based care for all older Rhode Islanders, their families, caregivers and adults with disabilities; 3) To strengthen programs and services that enable older Rhode Islanders to live an independent, healthy and dignified lifestyle while continuing to make meaningful contributions in the community; and 4) To continue to serve as the statewide advocate agency for the needs of adults with disabilities through the Aging and Disability Resource Center (The Point) once completed.

Statutory History

The Department of Elderly Affairs was created in 1977. R.I.G.L. 42-66 established and provides for the organization and functions of the department. Federal authority rests under the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended. The Governor's FY 2009 budget proposes to change the name of the department based upon the inclusion of advocacy agency that served persons with disabilities. Program authorization is defined in Article 43 of the FY 2009 budget bill as recommended by the Governor.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Elderly Affairs

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2008 Revised	FY 2009 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram					
Administrative Services	1,376,297	1,723,591	1,537,593	1,296,386	1,239,580
Program Services	34,206,044	32,350,223	32,726,889	32,541,252	30,278,489
RIPAE	8,857,180	1,878,057	2,771,654	2,468,410	2,051,654
Total Expenditures	\$44,439,521	\$35,951,871	\$37,036,136	\$36,306,048	\$33,569,723
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	4,301,867	4,009,355	4,590,658	4,048,990	3,652,854
Operating Supplies and Expenses	9,254,865	778,108	2,910,455	2,269,388	2,201,578
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	23,148,484	26,939,724	21,174,550	21,201,197	19,250,894
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$36,705,216	\$31,727,187	\$28,675,663	\$27,519,575	\$25,105,326
Capital Purchases and Equipment	86,044	2,142	97,989	100,989	97,989
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	7,648,261	4,222,542	8,262,484	8,685,484	8,366,408
Total Expenditures	\$44,439,521	\$35,951,871	\$37,036,136	\$36,306,048	\$33,569,723
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	22,123,917	18,809,664	18,604,205	17,385,449	16,006,786
Federal Funds	15,196,097	12,057,605	13,056,931	12,905,599	12,257,937
Restricted Receipts	2,362,357	741,000	690,000	1,330,000	620,000
Other Funds	4,757,150	4,343,602	4,685,000	4,685,000	4,685,000
Total Expenditures	\$44,439,521	\$35,951,871	\$37,036,136	\$36,306,048	\$33,569,723
Program Measures					
Percentage of Elderly Abuse Involving the Same Victim	38.5%	43.0%	48.1%	48.1%	53.7%
Self-Neglect Percentage of Reports Involving the Same Victim	28.2%	30.6%	33.2%	33.2%	36.8%

The Program

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Program Operations

The Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing advocates and coordinates the promotion of an environment in which deaf and hard of hearing persons in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives. The commission develops policy and recommends appropriate programs and legislation to enhance cooperation and coordination among agencies and organizations now serving, or having the potential to serve, the deaf and hard of hearing. The commission also provides direct services in its operation of the Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service, and general information and referrals. Beginning in FY 2006, it also administers an Emergency Interpreter Referral Service for hours when the commission is closed. The commission is composed of 13 members, of whom nine are deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

The Governor recommends the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing be incorporated into a new Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy, beginning in FY 2009.

Program Objectives

To promote greater accessibility to services for the deaf and hard of hearing by developing awareness programs; and to conduct an ongoing needs assessment to identify and prioritize the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing populations in Rhode Island.

To provide centralized sign language interpreter referral services, including emergency referrals.

To advocate for the enactment of legislation that will promote accessibility of services.

To develop a statewide coordinating council to implement the comprehensive statewide strategic plan for children who are deaf or have hearing loss.

To oversee state agency compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations related to deaf and hard of hearing access issues through monitoring, training, teletypewriters, and interpreters; and to work with federal, state, and local organizations and agencies to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing persons in Rhode Island. To coordinate sign language and equipment interpreter services between agencies and organizations with the goal of centralizing services.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 23-1.8 includes provisions relating to the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The current commission results from the 1992 restructure of the former Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, originally established in 1977. Program authorization is defined in Article 43 of the FY 2009 budget bill as recommended by the Governor.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Deaf and Hard of Hearing

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2008 Revised	FY 2009 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	270,799	293,874	367,839	315,707	355,726
Operating Supplies and Expenses	29,590	12,498	18,815	10,888	13,081
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$300,389	\$306,372	\$386,654	\$326,595	\$368,807
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	1,000	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$300,389	\$306,372	\$387,654	\$326,595	\$368,807
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	300,389	301,850	370,154	326,595	368,807
Federal Funds	-	4,522	17,500	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$300,389	\$306,372	\$387,654	\$326,595	\$368,807
Program Measures					
Percentage of Interpreter Requests Filled with at Least 72 Hours Notice	88.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Percentage of Information Requests Responded to with Relevant Information or Referral within One Week	97.0%	97.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%
Percentage of Legislation Affecting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Citizens Favorably Disposed	67.0%	80.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

The Program

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Developmental Disabilities Council

Program Operations

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council is the official planning and advisory body created to promote and increase opportunities and alternatives for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The overall purpose of the council is to advocate on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities so that they have access to a comprehensive, coordinated system that offers a variety of services. Through a comprehensive planning process, the council develops a five-year state plan with annual goals and objectives. The activities of the council are designed to improve the quality of life of individuals, thus enabling them to become more independent, productive, and integrated into community life. The council is made up of 24 voting members who are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year terms. The majority of the members are individuals with developmental disabilities, their relatives or guardians. Other members include representatives of state and private service agencies. Each state and territory has a Developmental Disabilities Council. Councils are fully funded each year by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

The Governor recommends the Developmental Disabilities Council be incorporated into a new Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy, beginning in FY 2009.

Program Objectives

Develop and initiate methods to identify needs and to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the service system for persons with developmental disabilities and their families; and develop policy and/or program design recommendations based on needs assessment information and service system analyses/evaluation.

Develop and implement public education activities that illustrate and promote valued social roles for persons with developmental disabilities; and provide and evaluate human rights training, employment training, leadership training, and educational opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families so that they will become effective advocates in influencing public policy at the state and national level.

Promote paid work opportunities with appropriate support within community businesses and organizations to reduce reliance on segregated vocational options; and develop opportunities for inclusion and interdependent relationships between people with disabilities and their neighbors, co-workers and schoolmates to reduce social isolation.

Statutory History

Title 40.1, Chapter 1 of the Rhode Island General Laws charges the council with sole responsibility for developing a plan which addresses the care, treatment, diagnosis, rehabilitation, training or related services for individuals with developmental disabilities. The plan is now or may hereafter be required as a condition to eligibility for benefits pursuant to the provisions of an act entitled "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act" (42 U.S.C. section 6000 et seq.). Program authorization is defined in Article 43 of the FY 2009 budget bill as recommended by the Governor.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Developmental Disabilities Council

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2008 Revised	FY 2009 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	228,936	198,707	255,486	169,827	235,868
Operating Supplies and Expenses	36,017	31,656	42,927	34,875	13,675
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	203,445	191,569	162,698	201,000	201,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$468,398	\$421,932	\$461,111	\$405,702	\$450,543
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$468,398	\$421,932	\$461,111	\$405,702	\$450,543
Expenditures By Funds					
Federal Funds	468,398	421,932	461,111	405,702	450,543
Total Expenditures	\$468,398	\$421,932	\$461,111	\$405,702	\$450,543
Program Measures					
Cumulative Percentage Increase in the Number of Persons or Organizations Receiving Council Newsletter from FY 1997 Levels	62.9%	64.4%	65.9%	65.9%	67.9%

The Program

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Commission on Disabilities

Program Operations

The commission advocates for the concerns of people with disabilities, expands economic opportunities for businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities, increases the general awareness of the rights and concerns of individuals with disabilities and their families, and ensures that people with disabilities have access to their government.

The commission is responsible for coordinating compliance by state agencies with federal and state disability rights laws. It also approves or modifies state and local government agency's Open Meeting Accessibility for persons with disabilities transition plans. The commission assists local boards of canvassers to ensure all polling places are accessible and approves or rejects requests to waive the state building code's standards for accessibility at facilities to be leased by state agencies. The agency investigates disability discrimination complaints involving physical barriers at public or private facilities and ordering corrective action. Small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities or where sixty percent (60%) of the employees are persons with disabilities, or non-profit rehabilitation facilities with state funded and state-directed public construction contracts and state contracts for goods and services are assisted. Recommendations are made for improvements for enhancing enforcement of disability parking laws.

The Commission consists of 24 gubernatorial appointed Commissioners, a staff of 5.6 persons, several college fellows and many volunteers. The Commission's Mary Brennan Fellowship Program for college students with disabilities provides career experiences for students including editing the "Legislative Letter," (a weekly newsletter on legislation affecting people with disabilities), developing and updating the Commission's website: www.disabilities.ri.gov, and providing information regarding rights and services.

The Governor recommends the Commission on Disabilities be incorporated into a new Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy, beginning in FY 2009.

Program Objectives

The Commission's objective is to ensure that all people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state and each person with a disability is able to reach his/her maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity and self-sufficiency.

Statutory History

The Commission's responsibilities are defined in RI General Laws: 42-51; 42-87; 37-8-15 & 15.1; 42-46-13(f); 23-6-22; 37-2.2; 30-15-6; 28-5.1-9; 31-28-7.3; 42-102-2(e) and 17-9.1-31, Article I § 2, RI Constitution and federal laws: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (29 USC 794); the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12101 et. seq.); and Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act, Election Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities (42 USC 15461). Program authorization is defined in Article 43 of the FY 2009 budget bill as recommended by the Governor.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs and Advocacy Commission on Disabilities

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2008 Revised	FY 2009 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	646,135	595,179	624,208	406,839	483,248
Operating Supplies and Expenses	30,013	25,375	54,552	26,703	23,918
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	2,850	59,063	87,438	108,938	102,938
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$678,998	\$679,617	\$766,198	\$542,480	\$610,104
Capital Purchases and Equipment	113,817	125,541	201,881	238,432	301,881
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	40,789	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$792,815	\$845,947	\$968,079	\$780,912	\$911,985
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	539,666	518,631	535,775	350,626	413,651
Federal Funds	71,908	162,175	181,692	179,380	189,769
Restricted Receipts	67,055	1,692	50,612	14,355	8,565
Operating Transfers	114,186	163,449	200,000	236,551	300,000
Total Expenditures	\$792,815	\$845,947	\$968,079	\$780,912	\$911,985
Program Measures					
Percentage of State Legislation Affecting Persons with Disabilities that is Favorably Disposed	70.8%	54.5%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Number of Certified Disability Business Enterprises	9	9	10	10	11
Number of Certified Rehabilitation Facilities	11	11	12	12	13