

The Agency

Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission is the state office for historic preservation and for sponsorship of state heritage activities. It is Rhode Island's only statewide preservation program to identify and protect historic buildings, districts, and archeological sites. The commission is responsible for developing a state historical preservation plan, and for survey and planning activities which provide for in-depth studies of each city and town to identify, evaluate, and record sites, structures, districts, and objects of historical, architectural, cultural, or archeological significance to the State.

The commission sponsors and/or coordinates heritage festivals, heritage seminars, conferences, and symposia, and publishes scholarly and popular works relating to the social, political, and cultural development of the State. It also coordinates programs with other private or public groups or agencies which will meet the cultural needs of Rhode Island's citizens. The commission also operates the Eisenhower House at Fort Adams State Park in Newport.

The commission develops and implements programs for the preservation of historic resources. Federal and state projects are reviewed by the commission to assess their effect on specific cultural resources. The commission administers programs of financial assistance, which include grants, loans, and tax credits for restoration projects. A wide range of information and technical assistance is provided to citizens who own historic properties or are interested in preserving the heritage of their neighborhood and community. The commission certifies municipal historic district zoning programs, which meet minimum standards, and annually administers funds to these "certified local governments."

Agency Objectives

Identify and protect historic and prehistoric sites, buildings, and districts throughout the State of Rhode Island and commemorate the history and culture of the State; promote and preserve the State's ethnic and cultural traditions; and provide a better understanding of the various ethnic cultures, which comprise the State's population.

Statutory History

Title 42, Chapter 45 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and defined the duties of the Executive Director and commission members. Executive Order Number 10, issued July 1, 1977, initially created the Heritage Commission. In 1981, the General Assembly enacted Title 42, Chapter 79 of the Rhode Island establishing the commission as a permanent state agency. In the 1994 legislative session the General Assembly repealed Title 42, Chapter 79 and amended Title 42, Chapter 45 to add Heritage Commission responsibilities creating the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.

The Budget

Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	1,448,737	1,484,797	1,509,926	1,514,463	1,570,194
Operating Supplies and Expenses	105,677	96,418	111,262	129,241	96,166
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	650,278	613,965	681,426	1,001,787	949,908
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$2,204,692	\$2,195,180	\$2,302,614	\$2,645,491	\$2,616,268
Capital Purchases and Equipment	5,251	-	20,500	15,500	10,500
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$2,209,943	\$2,195,180	\$2,323,114	\$2,660,991	\$2,626,768
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	1,615,594	1,494,562	1,348,825	1,297,516	1,298,364
Federal Funds	508,937	509,240	479,640	845,462	819,367
Restricted Receipts	85,412	191,378	494,649	518,013	509,037
Total Expenditures	\$2,209,943	\$2,195,180	\$2,323,114	\$2,660,991	\$2,626,768
FTE Authorization	17.6	17.6	16.6	16.6	16.6
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.8%	11.8%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	66.6%	66.6%	66.7%	66.7%	70.6%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-	-
Program Measures					
Cumulative Percentage of the Estimated 2,500 Historic Properties Nominated to the National Registry Annually	197.2%	235.0%	279.0%	279.0%	280.0%
Public Attendance at Heritage Program Assisted Events Stated as a Percentage of the Base Year	106.7%	112.0%	110.0%	110.0%	110.0%
Percentage of Projects Reviewed Within Fifteen Business Days of Review Request	79.7%	57.0%	60.0%	60.0%	80.0%
Percentage of Completed Tax Credit Applications Reviewed within Thirty Business Days from Time of Submission	52.1%	38.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%