

The Agency

Rhode Island Commission on Women

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Commission on Women is a state agency established by the General Assembly to improve opportunities for women and girls to achieve equity in all areas of life. The commission studies and makes recommendations for improvements, including legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions and issues related to equal rights for women. In carrying out its responsibilities, the commission works in cooperation with other governmental and private organizations to promote equity in areas including, but not limited to education, health, economic development, employment, legal rights, political participation and the quality of individual and family.

The commission consists of 26 members, including three each from the House and Senate, 12 public members appointed by the Governor, and eight members appointed by the state agency directors. State agency participation may vary from year to year, depending on identification of priorities by the Commissioners. The commission carries out its responsibilities through standing and ad hoc committees, the membership of which consists of appointed commissioners and numerous volunteers dedicated to the rights of women and girls.

Agency Objectives

To advise and submit recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on issues relating to women and girls;

To gather and disseminate information to women and girls and/or the general public on issues relating to women and girls;

To develop and/or support programs or services for women and girls consistent with the purpose of the commission;

To collaborate with concerned organizations, groups and state departments and agencies on issues of common concern;

To educate and encourage women to exercise the right to vote. To encourage candidacy for public office and promote the appointment of qualified women to boards, commissions and governmental positions at all levels;

To advise legislators by evaluating, monitoring and proposing federal and state legislation promoting equity for women and girls.

Statutory History

In 1970 the General Assembly established a nonpartisan organization designated the Permanent Advisory Commission on Women in Rhode Island. After 22 years of status as an advisory commission, in 1992 the General Assembly amended the General Laws of Rhode Island (Title 42, Chapter 119) to restructure the membership of the commission and to change its status from an advisory body to an agency of Rhode Island Government charged with policy and action responsibilities.

The Budget

Rhode Island Commission on Women

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	109,444	50,220	67,606	72,400
Other State Operations	18,958	14,964	14,270	12,157
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	2,000	2,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$128,402	\$65,184	\$83,876	\$86,557
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$128,402	\$65,184	\$83,876	\$86,557
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	128,402	65,184	83,876	86,557
Total Expenditures	\$128,402	\$65,184	\$83,876	\$86,557
FTE Authorization	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Program Measures				
Annual Increase of Community Outreach Work Products as a Percentage of Baseline Year	358.0%	125.0%	125.0%	125.0%
Contacts Made to the RI Comm on Women's Website as a Percentage of Baseline Year	126.0%	155.9%	160.0%	160.0%