

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 organizes the operation of 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,264,330	1,388,166	1,475,059	1,575,354
Operating Supplies and Expenses	294,315	347,292	501,781	503,601
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	383,821	535,712	774,917	559,917
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,942,466	\$2,271,170	\$2,751,757	\$2,638,872
Capital Purchases and Equipment	22,816	12,935	22,500	20,300
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,965,282	\$2,284,105	\$2,774,257	\$2,659,172
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,221,109	1,395,338	1,677,924	1,633,800
Federal Funds	569,714	581,658	605,186	529,078
Restricted Receipts	174,459	307,109	491,147	496,294
Total Expenditures	\$1,965,282	\$2,284,105	\$2,774,257	\$2,659,172
FTE Authorization	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	-
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	66.6%	66.6%	66.6%	62.5%
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	90.9%	191.2%	216.0%	226.0%
Public Attendance at Heritage Program Assisted Events Stated as a Percentage of the Base Year	116.5%	132.1%	113.2%	132.0%
Percentage of Projects Reviewed Within Fifteen Business Days of Review Request	81.6%	80.7%	80.0%	80.0%
Percentage of Completed Tax Credit Applications Reviewed within Thirty Business Days from Time of Submission	43.0%	31.0%	30.0%	30.0%