

043 - RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

Program: 20043 - RI Ethics Commission

Online Filing of Financial Disclosure - PM4301

The Ethics Commission is Constitutionally mandated to adopt provisions relating to financial disclosure of public officials. Approximately 4,000 elected and appointed public officials, candidates for elective office, and some public employees file annual financial statements with the Ethics Commission. Such statements are available for public inspection. In 2012, the Commission implemented an online financial disclosure filing system, which benefits both the filer and the Commission through cost savings, ease of filing, and greater efficiency. Filers may choose either to file online or to continue filing a hard copy form. The figures below represent the percentage of financial disclosures submitted online. [Notes: 2017 data is as of 8/31/2017. Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

Frequency: Annual

Reporting Period: Calendar Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	75.0%	80.0%	80.0%	85.0%	85.0%
Actual	75.1%	79.3%	82.3%		

Ethics Education Training Attendance - PM4302

The Ethics Commission is statutorily authorized to educate public officials, employees and citizens about the State Code of Ethics. This education occurs through the Commission's website and educational publications, as well as via a public contact system whereby one member of the Commission staff is always on call to speak with members of the public having questions or concerns. The primary method of education is seminars, trainings and workshops provided to public officials, employees and members of the public. Sessions vary in duration and content depending upon the needs and goals of the agency or group receiving training. The figures below represent the number of ethics education training attendees. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

Frequency: Annual

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	1,650	1,650	1,500	1,500	1,500
Actual	1,269	1,016	1,479		

Timeliness of Response to Access to Public Records Act Requests - PM4303

The Ethics Commission is the repository for various public documents filed by, and concerning, public officials and employees. Such documents include yearly financial statements, conflict of interest statements ("recusal forms"), advisory opinions and request letters and complaint materials. Public access to these documents is crucial to fostering and maintaining openness and accountability in public service. RI's Access to Public Records Act (APRA) requires that public documents be made available within 10 business days of a request, unless an extension is necessary. Because of the importance of honoring these requests in a timely fashion, the Ethics Commission has committed to completing the majority of requests within a single business day. Records are made available electronically in most cases to avoid any cost to the person making the request. The figures below represent the percentage of APRA requests completed within one business day. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

Frequency: Annual

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	95.0%
Actual	93.6%	95.5%	95.0%		