



# Year One: **It's working.**

On January 6, 2015, Gina M. Raimondo was sworn in as the first woman governor of Rhode Island. In her inaugural address, she laid out a vision to stop our state's decline and ignite its comeback. Governor Raimondo is on a mission to create opportunities so everyone can "make it in Rhode Island".

During her first year, Governor Raimondo launched our comeback with three key priorities: building skills, attracting business and innovating in government. These priorities - and an unwavering focus on putting people back to work and expanding opportunity - guide her every decision.



**Build Skills**  
Helping Rhode Islanders compete in the 21st century



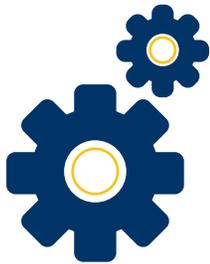
**Attract**  
Encouraging entrepreneurs and growing existing businesses to put people back to work and stimulate the economy



**Innovate**  
Improving efficiency across state government to deliver the services taxpayers deserve



## BUILD SKILLS



It is time to position Rhode Islanders to succeed in the 21st Century global economy. Companies want to invest in places with a pipeline of well-educated, well-trained, ready-to-compete talent.

Governor Raimondo's Jobs Plan makes investments in early childhood education through adult workforce training, to help Rhode Islanders build the skills they need to compete.

**Early Childhood:** *Tripling the number of state-sponsored pre-K classrooms* by 2019, and - finally - fully funding universal all-day kindergarten.

**K-12:** *Reimagining high school* by empowering every qualifying public high school student to take college courses for free. The Prepare RI program will help students move more quickly and affordably toward completing college or starting a career.

**College:** Making college more affordable by providing scholarships to *close the gap* between a student's financial aid package and the actual costs at Rhode Island institutions. The Rhode Island's Promise program helps students focus on studying and graduating.

**Schools:** *Fixing our crumbling schools* through the new School Building Authority, to make them places where kids and teachers want to be, while putting people to work now.

**Graduates:** Creating a new pilot project to *stop the brain drain* by helping some students who work in priority fields (science, technology, engineering, math, or design) pay back their loans, and offering assistance to recent grads who are first time home buyers.

**Job Training:** Improving workforce development *for jobs that are open now* through Real Jobs Rhode Island, a demand-driven program that is collaborative, flexible and business-led.

# ATTRACT



Governor Raimondo's economic development strategy will change perceptions, and position Rhode Island to attract new jobs and businesses.

**Economic Tools:** A new suite of economic tools will:

- Help attract new companies to invest and create jobs here.
- Encourage existing businesses to expand and grow.
- Spur construction by reducing companies' tax burden.

**Predictability:** Governor Raimondo has made significant strides to provide certainty and predictability to Rhode Island businesses by controlling costs.

The pension reform settlement ended all of the state's major litigation, and locked in more than \$391 million in annual savings, all while providing retirement security for thousands of public employees and retirees.

The Reinventing Medicaid effort achieved about \$70 million in savings this year. And in years to come, additional structural changes will generate even more savings by focusing on providing a coordinated system of care that delivers better outcomes, and better value for Rhode Islanders.

**Cutting taxes:** Lowering costs is important too, and while there's clearly more work to do, Rhode Island has now:

- Reduced the income tax to the lowest in the Northeast.
- Eliminated the commercial sales tax on energy.
- Lowered taxes on small businesses by reducing the corporate minimum tax.

**Regulations:** In an effort to streamline the regulatory process, the Office of Regulatory Reform completed a thorough review of all existing executive branch regulations and instituted a process to review all new regulations to ensure they do not impose unnecessary burdens on businesses and residents. This work has already resulted in productive outcomes, including the repeal of dozens of professional licenses identified as duplicative or burdensome.

# INNOVATE



Governor Raimondo knows state government needs to operate at the speed of business. By reinvigorating government with fresh ideas and new approaches, more cost-effective and customer-friendly results we will achieve.

**Lean Management:** State employees need the tools and resources to think strategically and make state government more customer service-oriented, predictable, and efficient for taxpayers.

By using Lean methodology throughout state government, we're encouraging creative problem solving and innovation in the workplace.

**Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank** will put Rhode Islanders back to work and create a sustainable source of funding for energy efficiency and sustainability upgrades across all of our cities and towns.

**Agencies in Distress:** Governor Raimondo inherited several agencies with significant challenges. From restructuring the Department of Transportation to implementing turnarounds at the Department of Children Youth & Families and the Eleanor Slater Hospital, she is leading the charge to provide the high quality, cost-effective services Rhode Islanders deserve.



# Making it **in Rhode Island**

## Creating Opportunity Now

As Rhode Island's turnaround takes hold, Governor Raimondo *is moving swiftly* to help people who are struggling right now. Some of the steps taken to put money in people's pockets include:

- Raising the minimum wage to \$9.60 an hour, to make work pay.
- Expanding the earned income tax credit, to encourage hard work, and help put more money into working families' pockets.
- Eliminating state taxes on Social Security benefits for low and middle income seniors.
- Increasing funding for Meals on Wheels.
- Increasing funding for foster families.
- Providing \$3 million to finance more affordable housing projects, encouraging more than \$20 million in additional spending.

## THANK YOU

So many of these accomplishments happened because you rolled up your sleeves and got down to the work to spark Rhode Island's economic comeback. Our accomplishments are proof that we can get things done together. Our efforts are working.

Thank you for your support. Now, let's build on our success and continue to restore optimism and confidence. Together, we will make Rhode Island a place of opportunity, where everyone who works hard has a chance to make it.

# **itsworking**  
f /GinaMRaimondo  
t @GinaRaimondo



For more information on these programs, please visit [www.governor.ri.gov](http://www.governor.ri.gov) and follow **#itsworking**.