



# Rhode Island Commerce Climate Communications & Business Outreach

*EC4 Advisory Council*

*Wednesday, January 28, 2026*

**RHODE  
ISLAND**  
COMMERCE

# Rhode Island Commerce - Resiliency Manager

The 2024 EC4 Spending Plan allocated \$200,000 to Rhode Island Commerce to support the following activities:



**Provide direct outreach and technical support to the business community**



**Assist businesses in navigating and accessing available incentive programs**



**Support the implementation of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience**



# Small Business Resiliency Resources

## Small Business Resiliency Resource Hub



### Small Business Resiliency

#### Help Us Improve Resiliency Resources for Rhode Island Small Businesses

We want to hear from you! Take our quick [Business Resiliency Survey](#) to share your feedback on the tools and resources provided here. Your input will help improve what's available, guide future programs, and ensure small businesses across the state have the support they need to prepare for and recover from challenges.

#### Why It Matters

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy. Taking steps today to prepare ensures

## Small Business Resiliency Tri-fold



## Ready, Set, Rhody Project



### Ready, Set, Rhody

An Initiative to Identify Flood Risks and Establish Strategies for Addressing Flood Vulnerabilities in Main Street Districts Across RI

December 23, 2025

# Small Business Survey Results

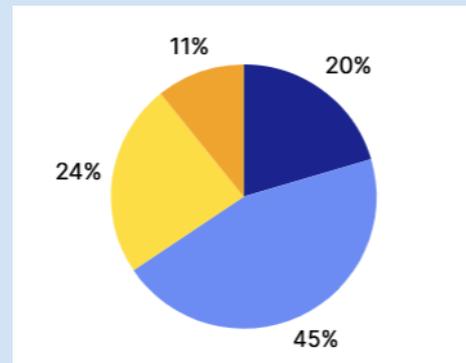
Small business owners across Rhode Island shared their feedback on resiliency tools and resources. Their input will help shape future programs, improve available supports, and better equip businesses to prepare for and recover from challenges.

[Visit the Dashboard](#)



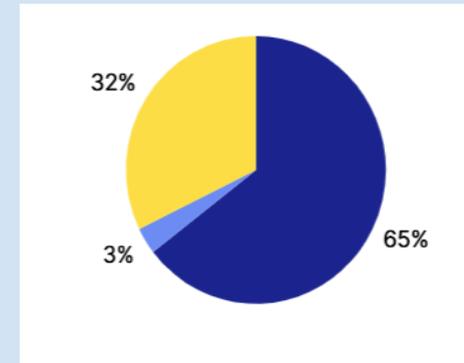
93 businesses surveyed across 17 municipalities

## Business Preparedness Sentiment



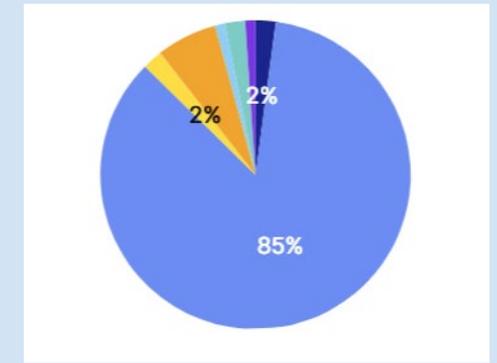
45% of businesses do not feel prepared at all for a business disruption related to a natural disaster

## Experienced Business Disruption



65% of small businesses have experienced disruption due to inclement weather or natural disaster

## Received Business Assistance



85% of small businesses have never accessed an assistance program after an extreme weather event/ natural disaster

# 2026 Priorities

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Our top priorities for 2026 to keep the work moving forward and strengthen support for Rhode Island businesses.

01

## 2026 Energy Efficiency Grant Program

The grant program will provide grants of up to \$20,000 to help small businesses implement energy efficiency upgrades and reduce operating costs. [Applications open on February 17, 2026](#)

02

## Website & Collateral

Expand website content and outreach materials to ensure information is current, accessible, and aligned with evolving programs and business needs.

03

## Business Community Outreach

Expand distribution of the business resiliency survey through multiple channels, including newsletters and partner networks. Find creative approaches to increase engagement and participation.

04

## Ready, Set, Rhody: Next Steps

Support municipalities in identifying and accessing funding opportunities by advancing next steps for the Ready, Set, Rhody initiative and strengthening connections to available resources.