

EC4 Spending Plan – Budget Year FY2027

Approved 9-24-2026

Agency	Award	Project Title	Project Description
RI Commerce	\$100,000	Resiliency Manager Position	RI Commerce is seeking continued funding to sustain and expand the Resiliency Manager role, which has become a key connection between Rhode Island businesses, state agencies, and community partners on climate resilience and economic preparedness. The Resiliency Manager advances statewide climate resilience through business outreach, technical assistance, grant administration, stakeholder engagement, and coordination with emergency management and climate planning efforts. By helping businesses prepare for extreme weather, improve energy efficiency, and access resilience resources, the position strengthens Rhode Island's economy while reducing climate vulnerabilities, supports greenhouse gas reduction efforts through clean energy and efficiency initiatives, and improves public health and economic stability. <i>(Partial award)</i>
Coastal Resources Management Council	\$68,000	Structural Shoreline Inventory & Climate Readiness Assessment	The existing digitized geospatial data for structural shoreline protection systems (SSPs) was last completed in 1996 and is geographically restricted to the waters of Narragansett Bay, excluding the south shore, salt ponds, and Block Island. Proposed funds will be used to create a comprehensive geospatial dataset of existing SSPs for the entire length of the RI coast and the watersheds of Narragansett Bay. Mapping will be conducted from available remote sensing data. In addition to linear mapping of SSPs, elevations of SSPs will be compared to predicted sea level and coastal storm inundation scenarios to evaluate their resilience. This will create a comprehensive baseline inventory of SSPs and coastal habitats across RI and will be made publicly available through the RIGIS clearing house.
Public Utilities Commission	\$35,000	PUC Policy Analyst Position	The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is requesting a continuation of funding for a contract employee who will work on key topics including, but not limited to, energy efficiency, the ConnectedSolutions program, the Renewable Energy Growth program, demand side management and other ongoing dockets open with the PUC. The analyst will continue to serve as a liaison to the EC4. The proposed decrease in funding relative to previous requests is the result of a review of cumulative allocation and expenses. Will allow the position to be funded through 2027.
Department of Education	\$165,000 (funding for Phase 1)	Learning Environments Advancing Decarbonization (LEAD)	LEAD aims to establish a coordinated roadmap supporting resilient, low-carbon, high-performance school infrastructure throughout Rhode Island. Key objectives include: •Transitioning Rhode Island's school construction framework from NE-CHPS to LEED aligned resilience and sustainability standards •Embedding resilience/decarbonization principles into school modernization efforts •Supporting reduced greenhouse gas emissions and long-term energy consumption •Strengthening operational stewardship and lifecycle building performance •Improving indoor environmental quality and occupant wellness

			• Supporting continuity of operations and community resilience during events • Aligning school modernization investments with Rhode Island climate and resilience goals • Developing implementation guidance, technical resources, and policy recommendations • Establishing a replicable framework supporting future generations of resilient, healthy, and high-performing public-school facilities <i>(Partial Award to Support Phase I)</i>
Department of Environmental Management (Land Conservation Program)	\$30,688	Habitat Resilience Hub Implementation (Phase 2)	RI's online Habitat Resilience Hub (HRH) will house state/federal data about high-quality forest habitats, including forested wetlands, marshes, and other key habitats. The HRH brings together multiple data sets to make it easy for natural resource professionals and others to quickly access key information about Rhode Island's natural landscapes and threats to those resources. The HRH was funded by the Forest Legacy Program and supported by \$35K in EC4 funds in 2025. The Habitat Resilience Hub was always envisioned as a two-phase project. Phase I involved compiling existing datasets, identifying data gaps, and creating new data models. Phase II will enlist stakeholders in using and evaluating the HRH tools. Outreach will ensure the HRH tool is integrated into local decision making. The Hub is intended to be utilized by multiple stakeholder groups that are responsible for natural resources/land management decision-making within their purview (the State, land trusts, conservation commissions, municipalities, nonprofits, etc.). <i>(Partial award)</i>
EC4 Science & Technical Advisory Board (STAB)	\$80,000	Contractual Support for EC4 STAB Activities	This project will allow the EC4 STAB to continue utilizing the expertise of technical consultant support for evaluation of implementation actions related to the RI 2025 Climate Action Strategy, Resilient Rhody 2025 and related responsibilities assigned to the STAB. The consultant will facilitate expertise from academic institutions to support statewide mitigation and resilience monitoring, technical, and legal assistance. This funding will help ensure the STAB has the capacity to fulfill its statutorily assigned duties. <i>(Partial award)</i>
Department of Environmental Management (Agriculture)	\$50,000	Expanding Regenerative Agriculture through LASA Grant Program	The Division of Agriculture & Forestry within DEM will establish Rhode Island's first dedicated state funding source for regenerative agriculture through DEM's Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) Grants Program. Based on recent LASA award sizes, this investment is expected to support approximately 4-6 regenerative agriculture projects across Rhode Island farms. This investment will support Rhode Island farmers in adopting and expanding regenerative agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, improve soil health, reduce nutrient runoff, strengthen farm resilience, and enhance the long-term sustainability of the state's agricultural sector. <i>(Partial award)</i>
RI Public Transit Authority	\$300,000	Drive Less RI Challenge + Free Wave Cards for Cash Riders + Wave Fare Incentives	This funding will support three projects across RIPTA: • <i>(\$100,000)</i> RIPTA is looking to continue its Drive Less RI Challenge to encourage mode shift from single occupancy vehicles to transit. • <i>(\$100,000)</i> Provide free smart Wave Cards preloaded with \$6 in transit value to riders who currently pay their fares with cash. Funding will support the purchase and distribution of cards through community partners and outreach events, introducing new riders to RIPTA's account-based fare collection system.

			• <i>(\$100,000)</i> Provide funding for RIPTA's Wave fare incentive programs, supporting reduced or fare-free transit for targeted populations, including seniors, youth, seasonal riders, residential partners, and visitors. Funding will offset the cost of managing these fare programs, making public transportation more affordable and attractive while encouraging increased transit use across Rhode Island. <i>(Partial award)</i>
Division of Statewide Planning	\$95,000	Statewide Municipal Climate Resilience Ordinance Toolkit	This project will help develop a Statewide Municipal Climate Resilience Ordinance Toolkit (Action 18.02 (Model Ordinances) from Resilient Rhody 2025). Delivered through a publicly accessible, web-based platform, the toolkit will provide RI municipalities with practical resources for modernizing local land use regulations to strengthen resilience to climate hazards while supporting GHG reduction through more sustainable patterns of development. It will include model land use regulations, a municipal resilience implementation playbook, and supporting technical resources.
Department of Transportation	\$100,000	Low Carbon Materials Program for Transportation	This funding will help establish the technical, procurement, and administrative foundation needed for the RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to begin tracking embodied carbon, prepare for Low Carbon Transportation Materials implementation, and position the agency for related future funding opportunities. The grant will fund foundational program elements, including: Roadmap → Supplier Readiness → Environmental Product Declarations Guidance → Carbon Calculation → Specifications → Pilot Testing → Implementation Support. <i>(Partial Award)</i>
University of Rhode Island (Sea Grant)	\$165,000	Accelerate Energy Resilience in Rhode Island Municipalities	The initiative will: 1) Advance energy resilience implementation on Aquidneck Island; and 2) Strengthen municipal capacity/learning exchange statewide on topics related to energy resilience. RI Sea Grant will serve as the community implementation partner, working directly with the municipalities while facilitating knowledge exchange across our statewide municipal networks. Sea Grant will also ensure strong coordination, alignment with State priorities, and broader dissemination of successful approaches by serving as an intentional liaison between this project and existing programs + state agencies. The City of Newport's Department of Resilience & Sustainability expects to be a strong partner in this project.
University of Rhode Island (Cooperative Extension)	\$136,312	Energy Navigator Program Expansion	This funding would support the URI Cooperative Extension Energy Literacy Initiative (CEELI) to expand the Energy Navigator Program, which trains and empowers community-based workers to share information about energy efficiency programs and support residents through the weatherization process. Currently, CEELI is developing the curriculum for an Energy Navigator Training pilot program in Central Falls in collaboration with the RI Office of Energy Resources, RI Energy, the City of Central Falls, and CBOs in Central Falls. This pilot is being funded by the RI Energy Efficiency Council and supported through technical assistance from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). The scope of the program expansion in 2027 will be defined in part by the evidence gathered during the Energy Navigator Training pilot; however, logical next steps would involve offering the program to community-based health workers statewide.

University of Rhode Island (Environmental Education)	\$175,000	Advancing Climate Education Across Rhode Island	This project will focus on strengthening Rhode Island's climate education infrastructure through four interconnected strategies: expanding pathways into climate education careers through paid internships, supporting mentors, curriculum resources, and public-facing educational experiences, conducting a statewide climate education asset and gap assessment, and convening environmental education leaders. Key deliverables include a climate education asset and gap assessment report, developing approximately 15 climate action plans for individual organizations, paid internships for URI students, and building an online portal for climate teaching and learning materials. Organizations, educators, and community partners will convene three times throughout the year.
TOTAL	\$1,500,000		