



BUILDING AMERICA

THE MERIT SHOP SCORECARD

A Review & Ranking of State Construction Environments

Rhode Island

Project Labor Agreements

No state policy.; however, local government entities have implemented PLA requirements.

Prevailing Wage

Yes; \$1,000.

Right to Work

No.

Public-Private Partnerships

No statute authorizes or prohibits P3s on public construction projects.

Workforce Development Incentives

Job Training Tax Credit – Companies are eligible for a tax credit of 50 percent of actual training expenses for new and current employees, up to \$5,000 per employee, over three years, for investments in retraining or upgrading the skills of their employees. Training programs must be pre-approved by the Human Resource Investment Council. Employees must work at least 30 hours per week at the time of the training, make 150 percent of the Rhode Island minimum wage at completion and be retained for 18 months for the company to qualify. Employers must confirm that employees are “qualified” working a minimum of 30 hours per week and at the completion of training are earning no less than 150 percent of the hourly RI minimum wage. The training programs are approved based on requirements in law and as required by HRIC regulation.

Adult Education Tax Credit – Grants a credit against the corporate income tax (or the insurance premium tax) equal to 50% of eligible training expenditures for new or existing employees, in accordance with an approved training plan. Employees must be full-time, and after training, the employee must earn at least 150% of the Rhode Island minimum wage.

OVERALL RANK 38

Project Labor Agreements D

Prevailing Wage D

Right to Work F

Public-Private Partnerships F

Workforce Development Incentives A

Career & Technical Education A

Job Growth Rate B

Compared to the National Average

RHODE ISLAND		NATIONAL
D	PLA	B
F	PPP	C
A	WDI	C
A	CTE	B
B	JGR	C

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Training plans must be filed with the Rhode Island Human Resources Investment Council for prior written approval. The credit is capped at \$5,000 per employee over a three-year period.

Incumbent Worker Training Grant- Funded by the Job Development Fund and provides matching grants to businesses to increase the skills of current employees and increase the competitiveness and productivity of RI businesses and workers. Businesses may receive up to \$50,000 in matching funds in a 12-month period and are capped at a per-trainee amount of \$3,500. Businesses are limited to two grants in a 12 month period and no less than 50% employer match is required. Businesses must pay into the Job Development Fund to be eligible.

Career and Technical Education

95% of CTE high school graduates are placed in colleges or careers.

Rhode Island recognizes NCCER as an approved curriculum for CTE programs.

Job Growth Rate

4.9%.

Industry Overview

Prompt Pay	<p><u>Private</u>: No law in place. <u>Public</u>: All bills shall be paid within 30 working days of receipt of a proper invoice. <u>Subs</u>: - Private: No law in place. - Public: Prime to sub within ten days of receipt of payment by the state. No law for subs to lower tiers.</p>
Immigration/E-Verify Mandate	An Executive Order requiring state agencies, grantees, contractors and their subcontractors to use E-Verify was rescinded in 2011. Currently, there is no law in place.
Percentage of State GDP From Nonresidential Construction	3.8%
Incidence Rate	No data available.
Occupational Safety & Health Oversight (State vs. Federal)	Federal oversight.
Percentage of Union Membership in Private Construction	21%
Marijuana Legalization Status	Legalized for medicinal use, decriminalized for personal use.

Business Facts

Minimum Wage	10.5
Percentage of Pensions Funded	54%
Effective Real-Estate Tax Rate	1.65%
Corporate Income Tax Rate(s)	7.00%
State and Local Public Construction Expenditures (in millions)	488

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