



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Rhode Island Works (RI Works)

What is Rhode Island Works (RIW)?

Rhode Island Works (RI Works) is a cash assistance program for families with children ages 18 and under, or children who live with their caretaker relatives. Families are eligible for a maximum of 60 months of benefits (lifetime limit). Eligibility may be extended additional months if families experience hardship.

Families receiving RI Works receive food assistance (through the SNAP program), health insurance coverage through Rite Care, child care assistance and bus passes, for eligible family members. Additionally, RI Works gives individualized and family support services, job readiness, job placement, employment training and retention services as well as educational services to help the parent identify their path to family stabilization.

What do I need to qualify for RI Works benefits?

- You must have a child under age 18 (or, if 18, in high school/GED) in the home of a parent, caretaker relative, or legal guardian
 - Pregnant individuals may be eligible with doctor confirmation of pregnancy.
- You must meet the income limits, unless you are a caretaker relative or legal guardian (see chart below)
 - If all income is unearned, the total must be less than the payment amount in the chart
- You must have less than \$5,000 in cash resources
 - One car per adult is not counted
- You must live in Rhode Island and be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (Lawful Permanent Residents of five years)
 - Refugees and persons granted asylum have no waiting period
- Cooperate with the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) to identify your children’s non-custodial parent and seek a support order
 - You may be excused from this requirement if you fear physical or emotional harm
- Most families must meet work requirements

Eligibility is based on the number of people in your household, household income, amount of income not counted in eligibility determination, resources, cooperation with OCSS, and the signing of an employment plan. Parents must have an employment plan that lays out activities in support of successful employment. The required number of hours worked or participation in an approved job-preparedness activity will depend on the age of children and the availability of one or both parents if they are at home. Below are examples of some approved activities that may help the parent get on a pathway to a well-paying job:

Approved Activities

Adult Education

English language, literacy services, GED

Training

Post-secondary education; access to behavioral health services, addressing homelessness or other services needed to be ready for work preparation or work*

**Parents may be excused from having an employment plan if they are disabled or have other qualifying reasons.*

Participation plans must include . . .

- 20 hours per week for single parents with children under age 6
- 30 hours per week for single parents with children age 6 and older
- 35-55 hours for households with two parents (hours can be shared)

Have More Questions?

Visit our website: www.dhs.ri.gov

Call: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, except holidays, from 8:30AM-3:00PM

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Customer Service: 1-888-979-9939

Last updated 3.2024

How do I apply?

- **ONLINE:** Submit application via the [Customer Portal \(https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/\)](https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/)
- **BY MAIL:** Complete the DHS-2 Application for Assistance (available on the DHS website: www.dhs.ri.gov) and put the filled out form in a secure drop box at any of DHS's offices OR mail to:

RI Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 8709
Cranston, RI 02920-8787

After submitting an application, you will also need to participate in an interview and verify your identity, residency, income, resources, and provide any other information needed to determine eligibility.

How much cash assistance can I get if I'm eligible?

One half of the monthly cash benefit is issued to eligible families twice a month through an Electronic Benefits Transfer card (EBT). With your EBT card, you can withdraw cash at bank ATMs and supermarkets like you would a debit card. Cash assistance ranges from \$510 for a child only case and it increases with the size of the family.

If determined ineligible...

The applicant has the right to appeal the decision by requesting a fair hearing. The appeal instructions and required forms are available on the DHS website [Appeals Process page](#).

Your benefit information is also available by logging into your account at <http://healthyrhode.ri.gov>
Having trouble? The Tech Resources page on our DHS website has resources that can help and can be accessed online at: <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/TechHelp/index.php>

If you don't meet work requirements...

If you do not meet work requirements that are defined in your individual employment plan, you will be notified in writing that you may be subject to a financial penalty. You can avoid this penalty by contacting DHS immediately and providing a good cause for not participating.

Still not sure if you qualify?

If you're still not sure whether you are eligible for RIW, you can look at our separate screening document for assistance making that determination. This tool should only be used as a quick reference. **Only DHS can determine whether you'll be able to receive cash assistance.**

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