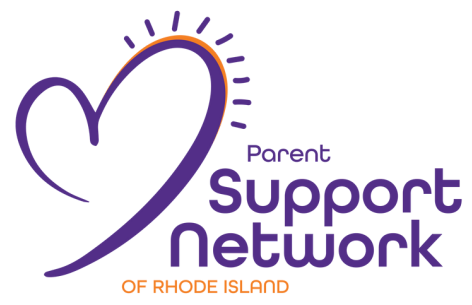


# Support RI Families FY2024 State Budget Legislative Session



We are a group of families and peers with behavioral health lived experience who provide family and peer support services. We educate and raise awareness about prevention, treatment, and recovery.

*We are Health Equity Advocates!*

**401-467-6855 and [info@psnri.org](mailto:info@psnri.org)**



## 1 Housing Shortage & Homelessness

RI Families and pregnant women are homeless and struggling to find affordable housing and or any rental assistance or relief. These numbers continue to grow weekly and there are close to 3,000 children homeless at this time. The Governor's FY2024 proposed budget has federal and state appropriated funds budgeted, though there is a need to voice the need for immediate need for housing, reinstate rental relief, and to develop more availability of affordable subsidized housing.

## State Health Coverage Renewals

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RI Families and Individuals who depend on the state health care coverage are at risk of losing eligibility for 100% coverage starting April 1st as re-determination starts to take place April 1st. As this re-determination process starts, parents will need to start to cost share or pay for health care coverage through their employer.

## 3 Workforce Shortage - CRISIS

There is a health and human service workforce shortage, and this is creating a crisis for families and individuals trying to access needed services to support child development and parental capacity; mental health and substance use; and services for our most vulnerable at risk or children and youth involved with child welfare. There is a need for better wages, hiring incentives, and ongoing investment in education - with workforce training and college funding. Rhode Island's First Connections program is designed to reach at least 60% of newborns but only reached 34% in 2021 due to a staffing crisis.

## Child Care is Essential Act

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**Pass the RI Child Care is Essential Act (H-5672/S-378)** to make the increased rates for the Child Care Assistance Program permanent, to promote children's access to high-quality programs, and help providers meet minimum wage requirements. Safe, healthy, and high-quality child care options are essential for working parents and for children to learn and grow. Voice the need to family-income eligibility, lift need for paternity to office of child support for child care,

## 5 FMLA - Temporary Caregivers Act

**Improve our state's paid family leave program (Temporary Caregivers Insurance, H-5789/S-436)** to match national benchmarks by increasing wage replacement rates and extending the number of weeks. We need to improve Rhode Island's paid family leave policy so all parents, and especially lower-wage earning parents, can have adequate income to remain at home with newborns, adoptive, and foster children for at least 12 weeks.

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