



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Governor's Workforce Board - Rhode Island

## Over One Million Dollars in Grants Awarded to Improve Workforce

CRANSTON – Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Governor's Workforce Board – Rhode Island (GWB-RI) awarded \$1.1 million dollars in Workforce Improvement Grants to over 50 employers and organizations. Grants of up to \$30,000 per company match organizational funding for incumbent worker training. Proposals were approved by an independent review committee. The 2006 Workforce Improvement Grant Program was designed for profit and not-for-profit employers, with training programs tailor-made to address the specific needs of the organization. Improving an employer's existing workforce enables that organization to perform more efficiently and be more competitive.

"Through the grant awards, these employers are making important investments in their organizations and in their employees," Governor Donald L. Carcieri said. "Workers in all fields must continually hone their skills if they and their organizations are to succeed. These grants from the Governor's Workforce Board – Rhode Island are helping to keep our businesses competitive and move our state forward."

Joe MarcAurele, Board Chairman, offered his congratulations to the successful applicants, stating, "These awards represent the Board's strong commitment to invest in improving the skill base of the state's workforce, thus ensuring the edge Rhode Island's businesses need to succeed in our competitive economic climate."

Workforce Improvement Grant recipients include: Econotel Business Services; EVAS; Family Service of RI, Inc.; Gripnail Corporation; Hasbro; Hope Global; International Institute; International Packaging Corp.; Item New Product Development; Kenney Manufacturing Co.; Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi and DeRienzo; Lighthouse Computer Services, Inc.; RI Health Center Association; RI Urological Specialties; Rite-Solutions, Inc.; Rolling Frito-Lay Sales, LP; Sansiveri, Kimball and McNamee, LLP; Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center; SQA Global Resources, LLC; The Hinkley Group; The INSCO Group; Tri-Town Community Action Agency; Wardwell Braiding Machine Co.; and Warren Electric.

A second round of funding is slated for the summer. A Request for Proposals was issued April 4<sup>th</sup> and proposals will be due May 16, 2006. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact GWB-RI at [www.rihric.com](http://www.rihric.com) or (401) 462-8862 to learn more about the second round of Workforce Improvement Grants.

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*The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training offers a wide array of employment and training services to both the general public and to individuals with unusual barriers to employment. DLT is ready to assist any job seeker, whether the goal is a first job, a better job, or a career change. Rhode Island's workforce is protected through the enforcement of labor laws, prevailing wage rates, and workplace health and safety standards. Temporary income support is available to unemployed, sick, or injured workers and a comprehensive rehabilitation program is available to those injured on the job.*

*DLT is dedicated to the growth and competitiveness of Rhode Island industry, administering a variety of training grants, tax credits, and apprenticeship programs to help employers. Economic indicators and labor market information are available for long-range planning. The Agency engages in active outreach, helping large and small employers retain their best workers or retrain their existing work force. At no cost to the employer, DLT will also screen job applicants, post job vacancies, and help businesses institute cost-sharing programs that can avert layoffs.*

*For more information on the innovative programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders at the Department of Labor and Training, please call (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov).*

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Governor Donald L. Carcieri  Director Adelita S. Orefice