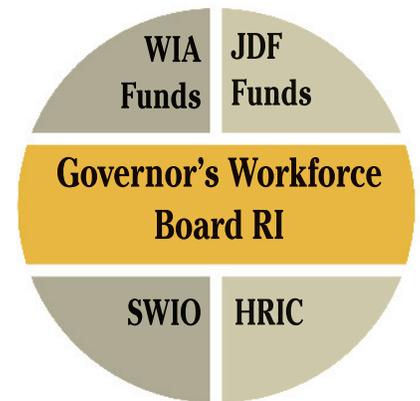




The policy-making body known as the Governor's Workforce Board RI (GWB) supports strategies to improve the existing skill base of the Rhode Island workforce and to anticipate the future needs of business. A hybrid of the State Workforce Investment Board and the Human Resource Investment Council, the GWB is comprised of 17 members from the public and private sectors, and is chaired by Joseph MarcAurele, president of the Washington Trust Company. Funded by both the state Job Development Fund and the federal Workforce Investment Act, GWB has made more than \$46 million in Job Development Fund investments since the board's creation in 2005. In 2009, the board released a five-year plan that outlines its investment strategy, with priority given to the state's workforce development system, the employer community, the adult workforce and the emerging workforce.



Worker Training

Since FY06, The Governor's Workforce Board has awarded \$11.4 million of Job Development Fund dollars to companies investing in worker training. These matching grants have resulted in a total investment of \$22.8 million in Rhode Island's workforce. As a result, more than 20,000 Rhode Island workers received training that enhanced their skills and improved their productivity.

Youth Strategies

To date, GWB has invested more than \$12 million of Job Development Fund dollars in a unified Youth Workforce Development System for youth ages 14-24. By leveraging this investment with more than \$22 million in federal dollars, the youth system in Rhode Island was able to serve 10,000 youth in FY09, and is projecting a service level of more than 11,000 in FY10.

Industry Partnerships

Central to the GWB mission are Industry Partnerships, powerful alliances among key stakeholders in high-growth, high-wage areas that seek to identify and eliminate skill gaps in the current workforce. To date, the board has invested more than \$7 million of Job Development Fund dollars in Industry Partnerships and their companion training program, the Industry Skills Development Initiative. These partners include:

- Building Futures/Providence Plan
- Hospital Association of RI
- RI Marine Trades Association
- Quality Partners of RI
- RI Green Technology Consortium
- RI Hospitality Education Foundation
- RI Manufacturing Extension Service
- Tech Collective/IT
- Tech Collective/BioTech

Adult Education

Since its inception, GWB has supported adult education in Rhode Island with Job Development Fund dollars. However, in FY08, this investment increased dramatically to support the state's campaign to improve adult education and literacy rates. In each of its FY08, FY09 and FY10 budgets, GWB allocated \$4.6 million to the Rhode Island Department of Education in support of community-based adult education and literacy programs.

Workforce Expansion

Over the past five years, GWB, in collaboration with the RI Economic Development Corporation, has awarded \$2.8 million in Job Development Fund dollars to companies expanding their workforce. These matching grants have resulted in a total investment of \$5.6 million in training for more than 1,000 new hires.