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Socio-Economic Factors Impacting Women's Health in Rhode Island

Women's Health Council of Rhode Island
3rd Annual Women's Health Quality Conference
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Linda Katz
Policy Director



The Economic
Progress Institute



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Poverty

Lower socioeconomic status is associated with higher risk for many diseases including cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cervical cancer, as well as for frequent mental distress

- 2012 RI Women's Report Card: Socioeconomic Determinants of Health, Women's Health Council of RI

Poverty in Rhode Island

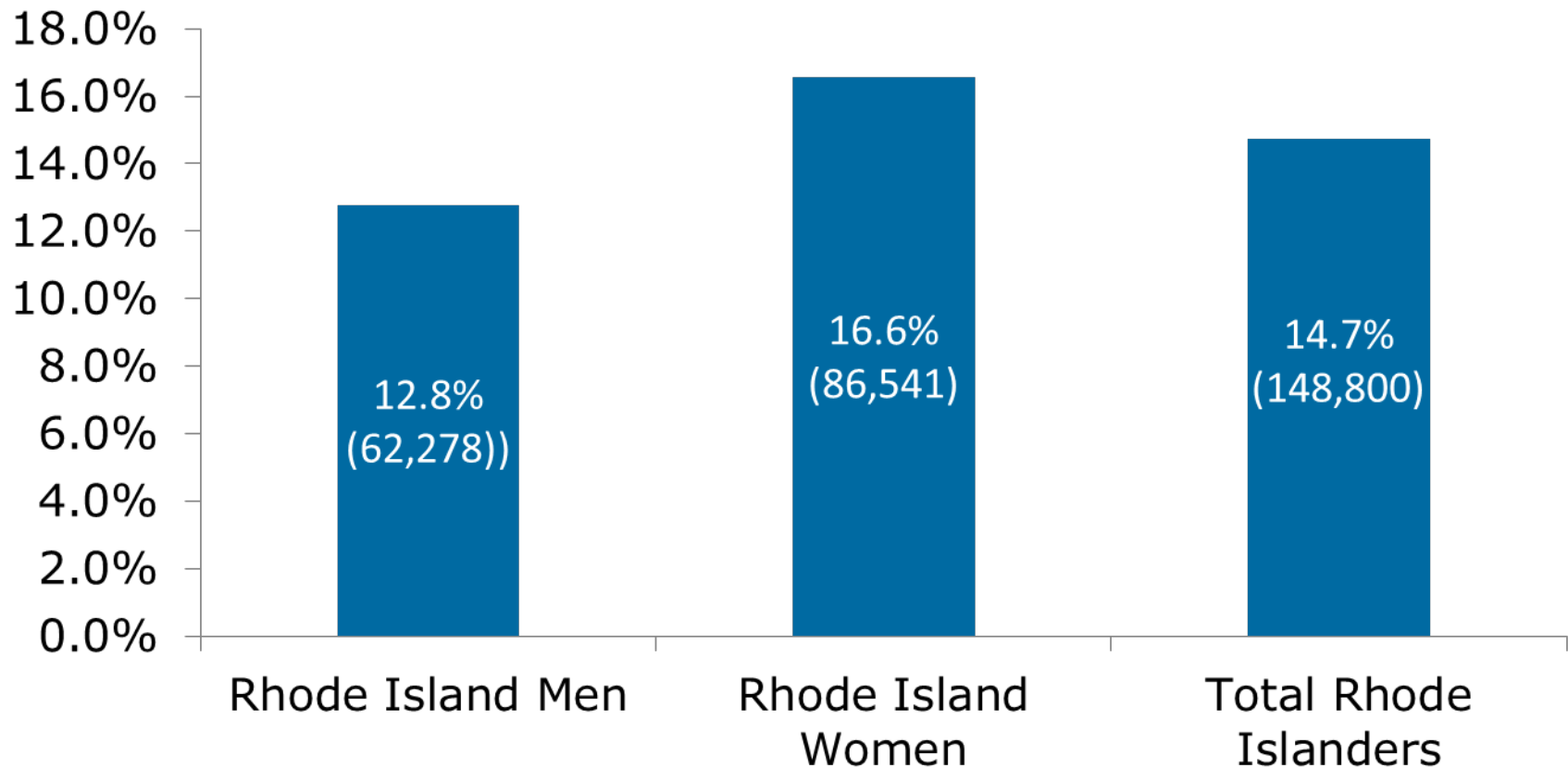
2012 Federal Poverty Level

- Single Adult: \$11,170
- Single parent and 2 children: \$19,090
- Two parents and 2 children: \$23,050



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Poverty in Rhode Island (2011)

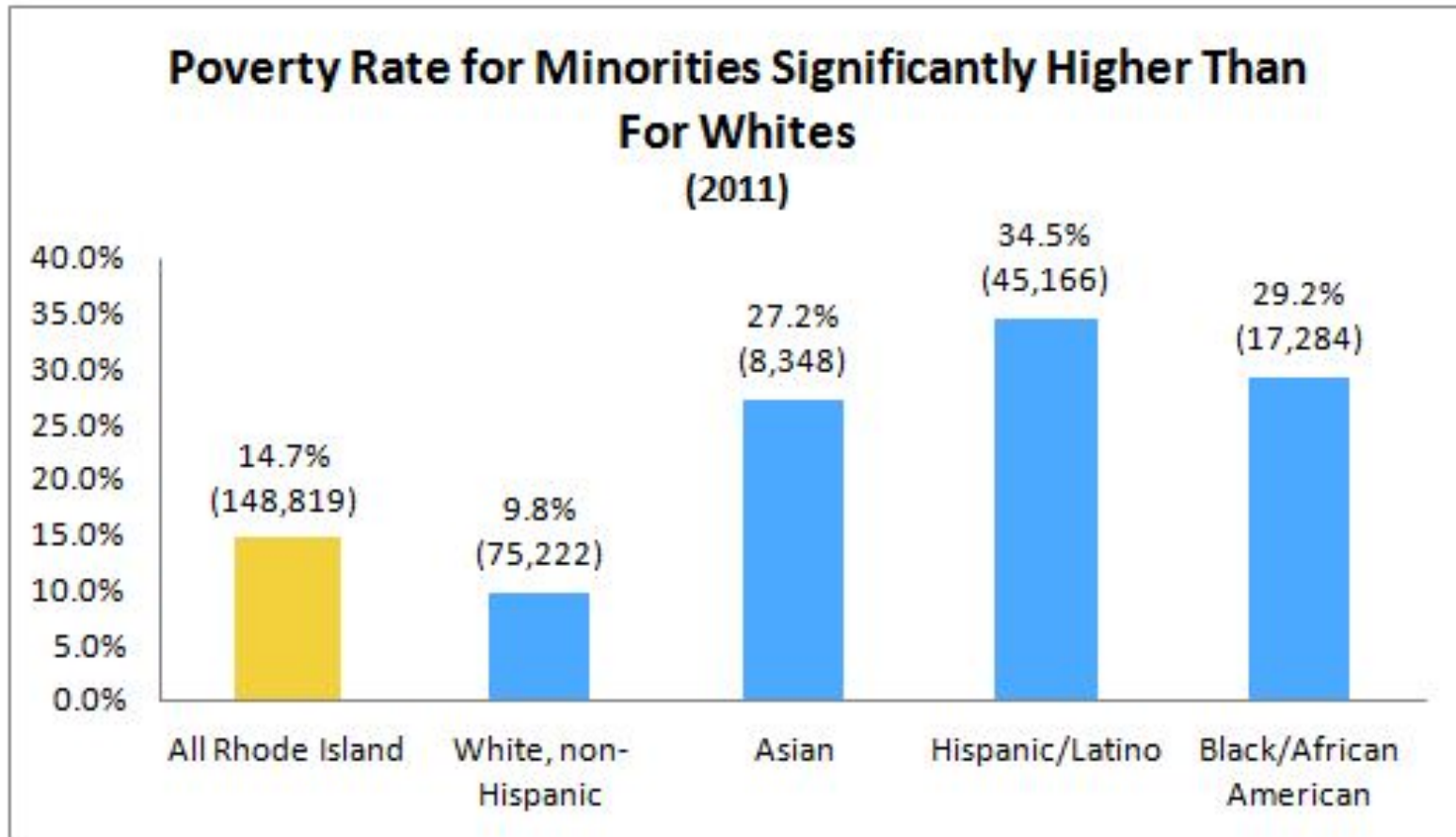


Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012



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Poverty in Rhode Island (2011)

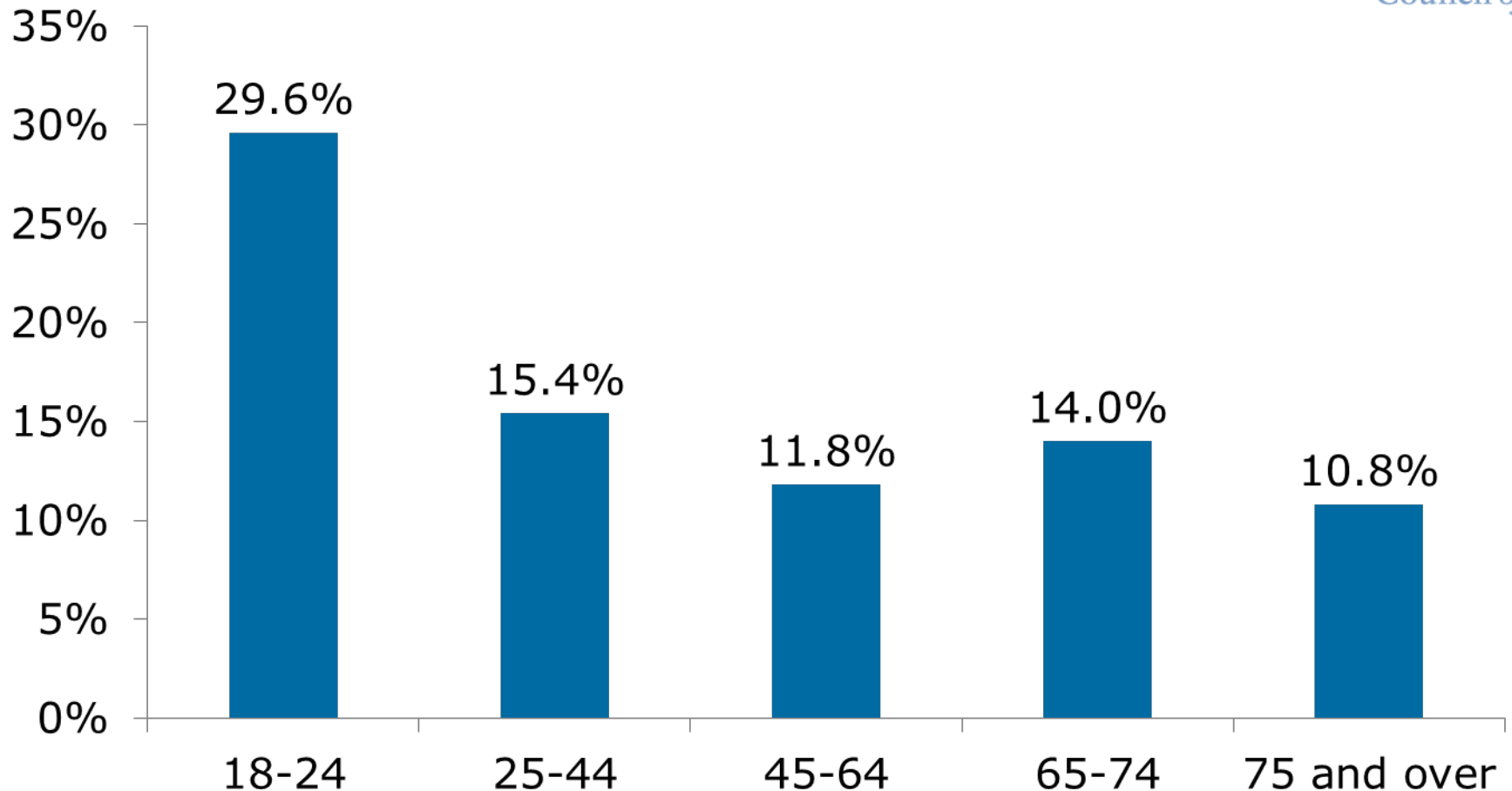


Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012



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Around 63,000 Women age 18 + Lived in Poverty - 2011

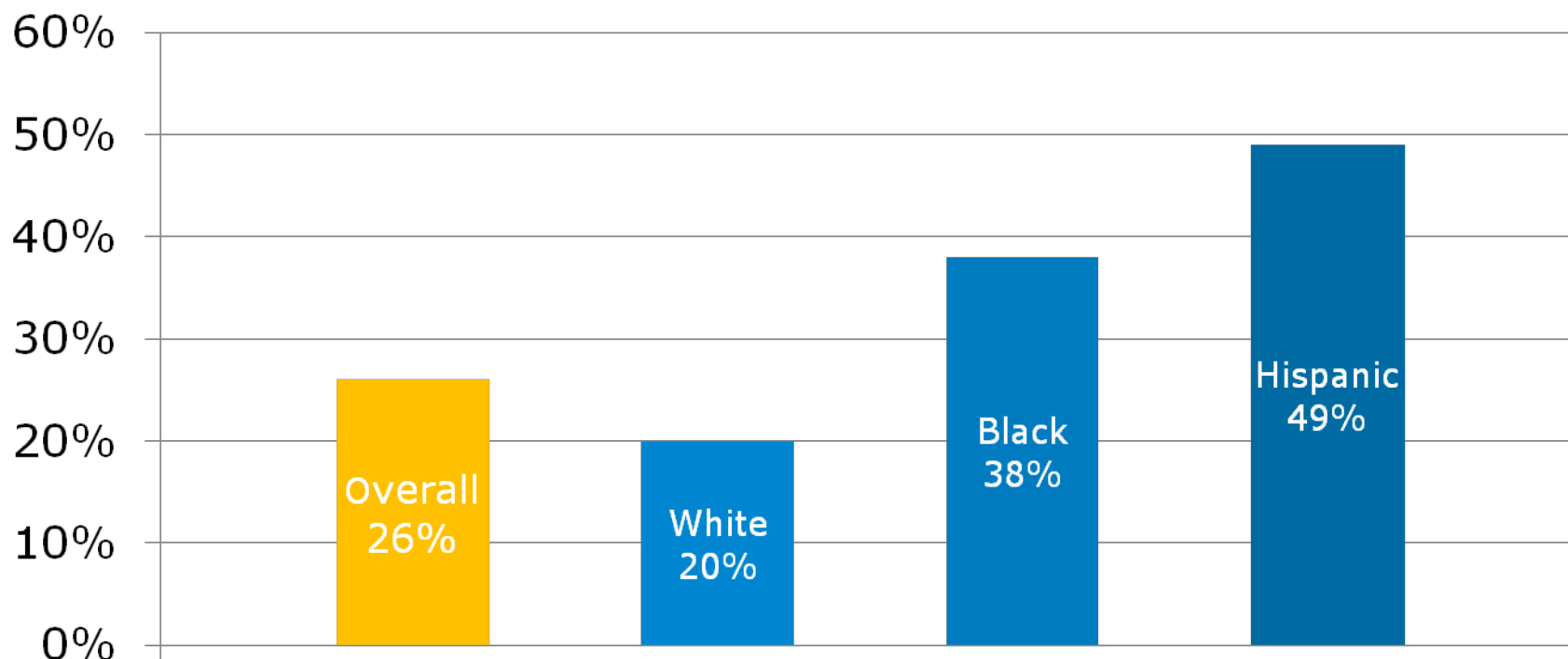


Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

Poverty Rates for Families headed by Single Moms Higher than State Average



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Poverty Rates for Rhode Island Families Headed By
Single Mothers

Source: American Community Survey, 3 yr estimates, 2008-2010

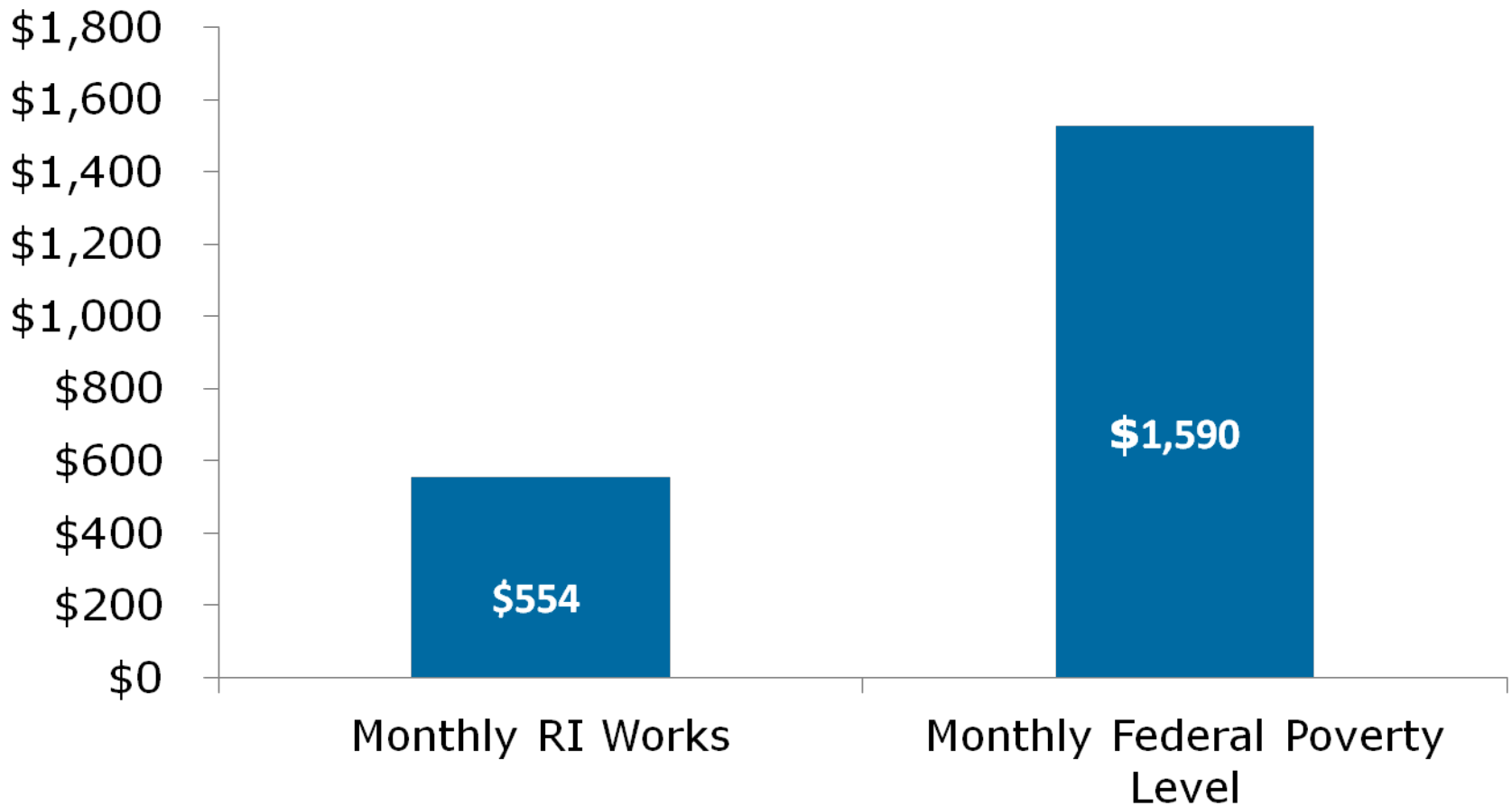
Rhode Island Works

- Rhode Island Works: State program for children and their parents/caretaker relatives
- Cash benefit for families; work readiness services for parents
- 7,100 families receive benefits
 - Over ¼ are families in which only the children receive benefits



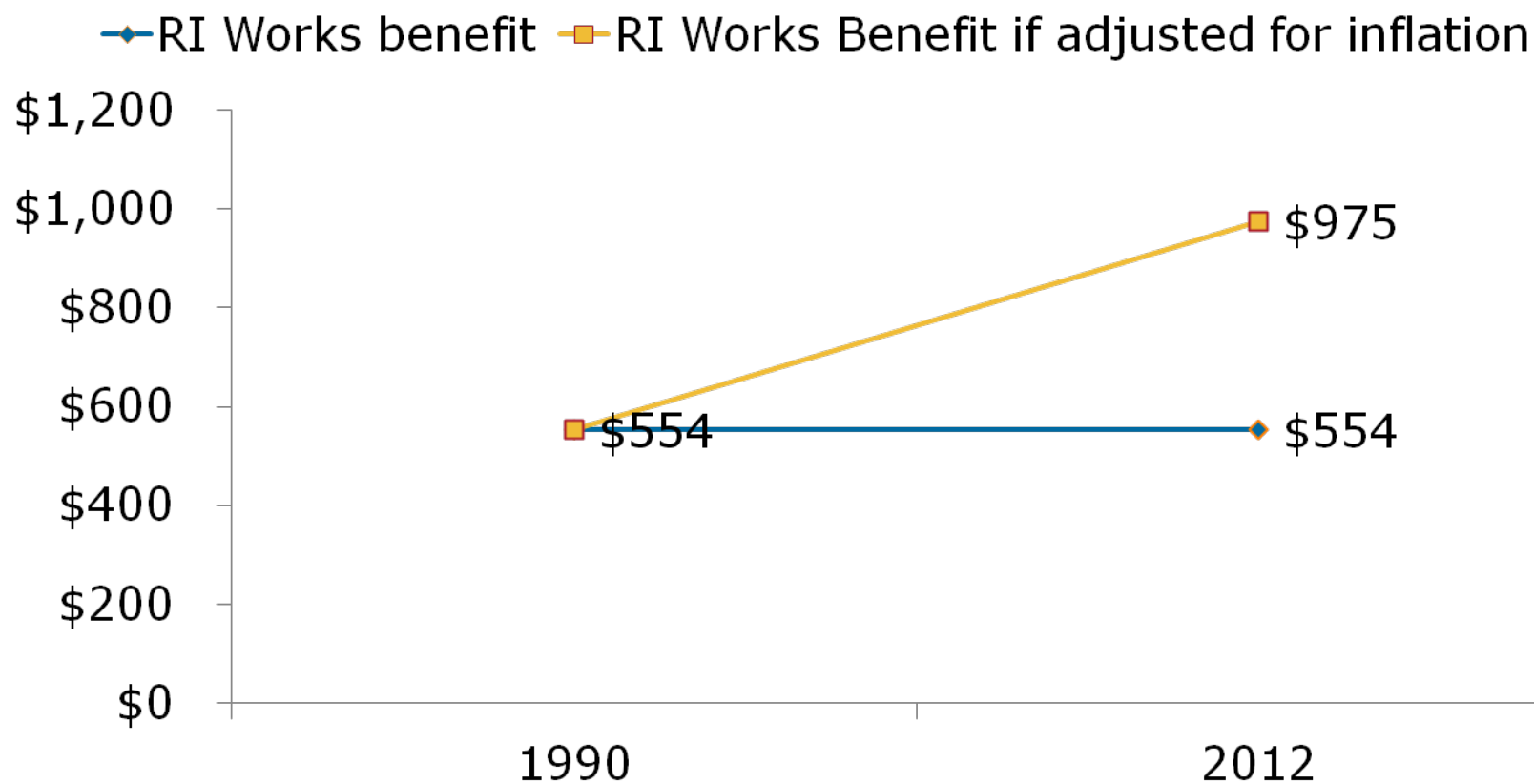
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RI Works Benefit: 65% Below FPL



The Value of RI Works Benefit has Declined by 76% since 1990

US Inflation Calculator



Housing Costs



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Unaffordable housing costs affect health by reducing the income that a household has available for nutritious food and necessary health expenses, as well as by causing stress, residential instability and crowding. ... Crowding also has a negative impact on mental health and may increase susceptibility to disease.

Housing and Health: New Opportunities for Dialogues and Action, National Center for Housing Policy, 2012

High Housing Costs – Limited Assistance



- Housing is considered affordable if it costs less than 30% of income
- 50% of renters in Rhode Island pay more than 30% of income for housing
- 25% of renters pay more than 50% of income for housing
- Rhode Island is one of only 9 states without a dedicated funding source for affordable housing

Educational Attainment



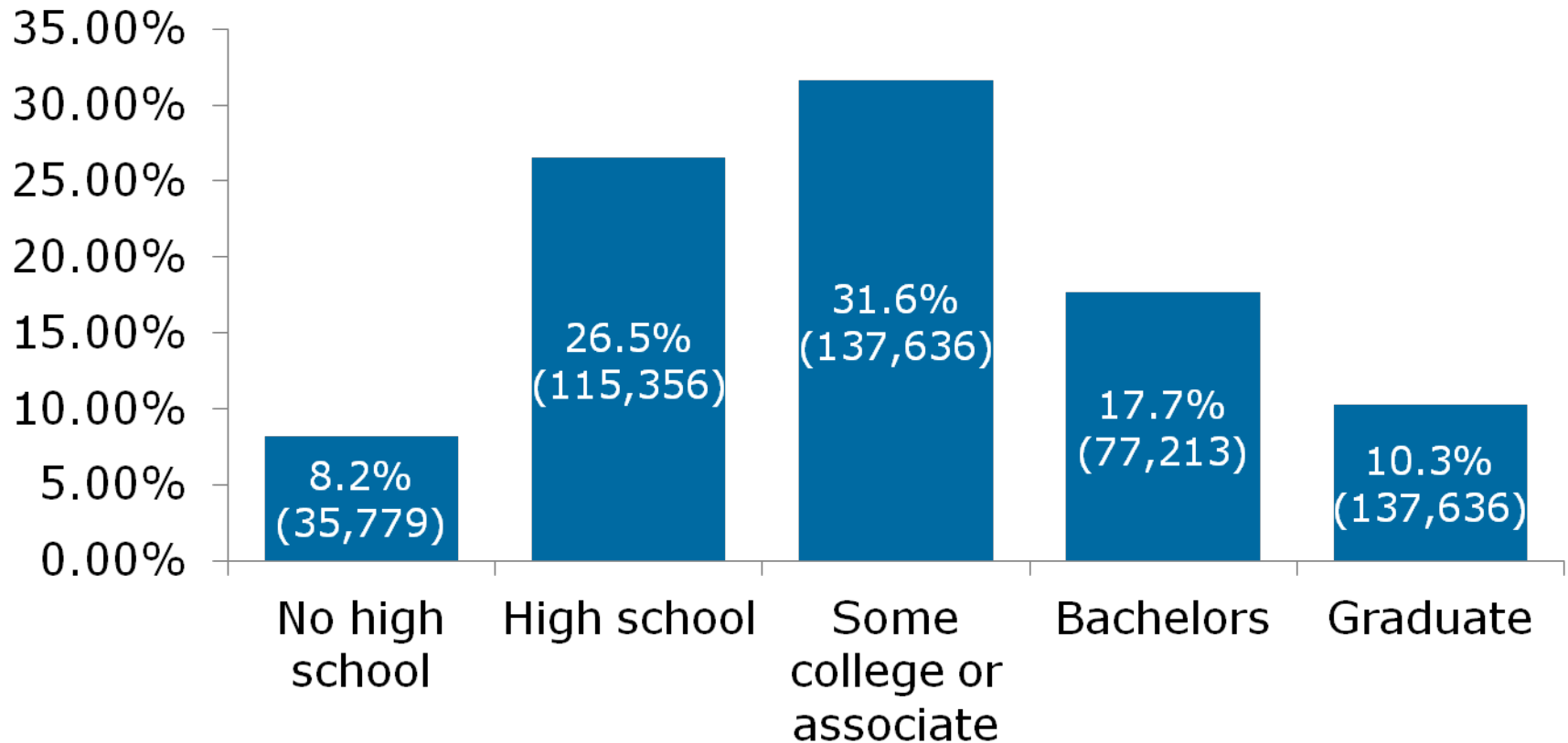
Female adults with lower educational attainment face poorer health outcomes, lower life expectancy, and worse health for their children.

2012 Women's Report Card: Socioeconomic Determinants of Health

Education Level of Rhode Island Women (2011)



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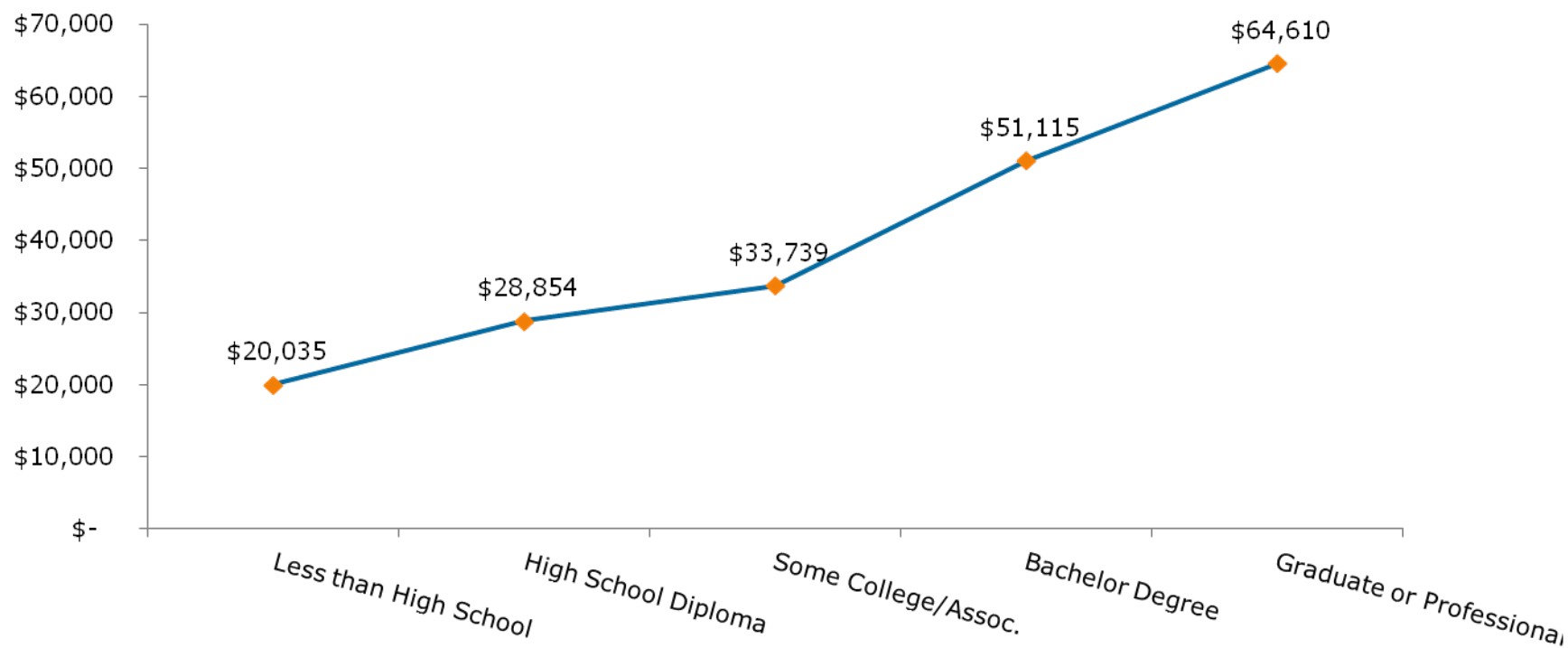
Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

Increased Education = Increased Earnings



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Median Earnings in RI by Education (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) Median Annual Income



Health Insurance



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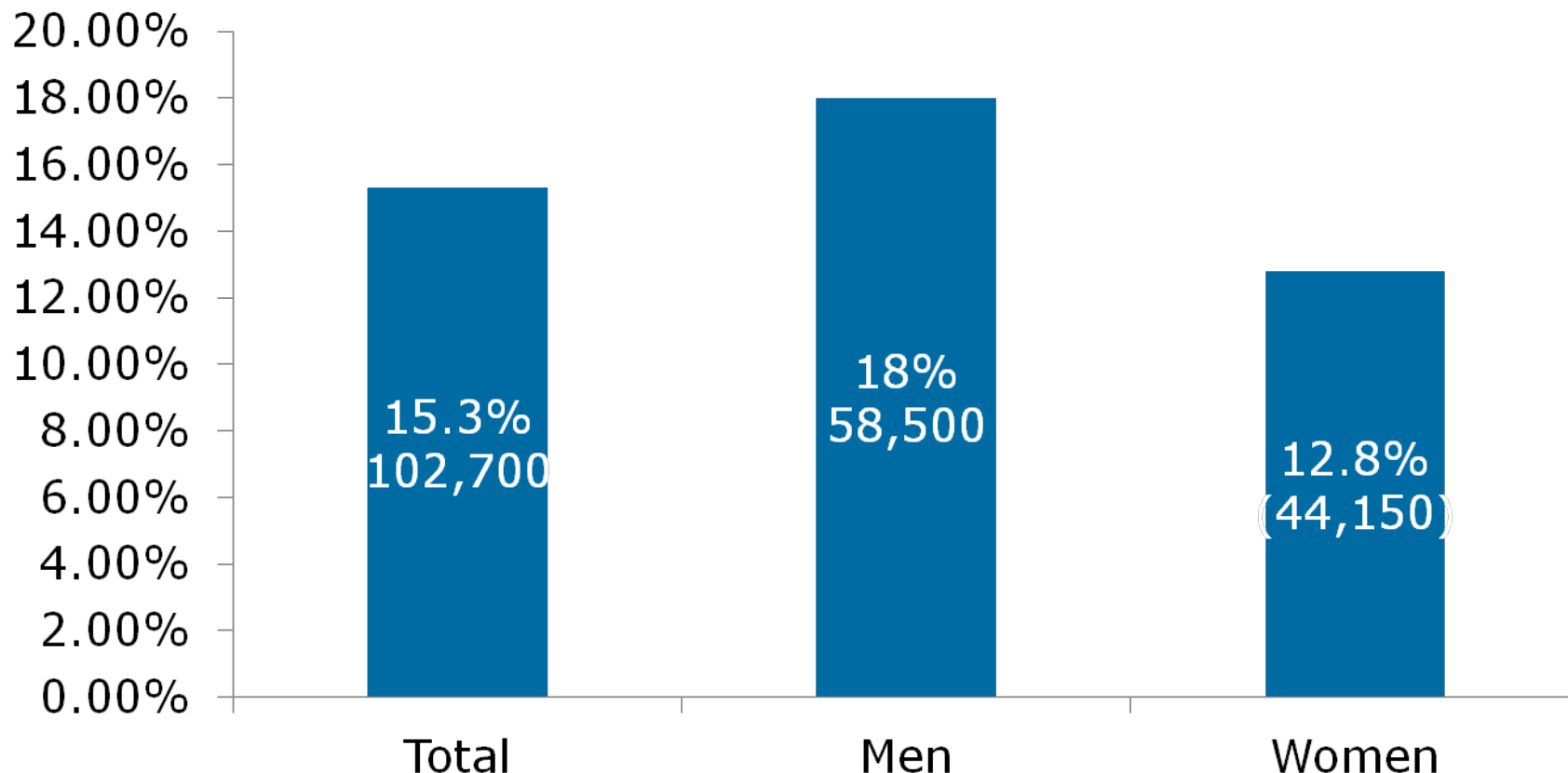
A robust body of well-designed, high-quality research provides compelling findings about the harms of being uninsured and the benefits of gaining health insurance,... there is a chasm between the health care needs of people without health insurance and access to effective health care services. This gap results in needless illness, suffering, and even death.

“America’s Uninsured Crisis: Consequences for Health and Health Care”
Institute of Medicine, 2009

Percent of Rhode Islanders (18-64) Without Health Insurance (2011)



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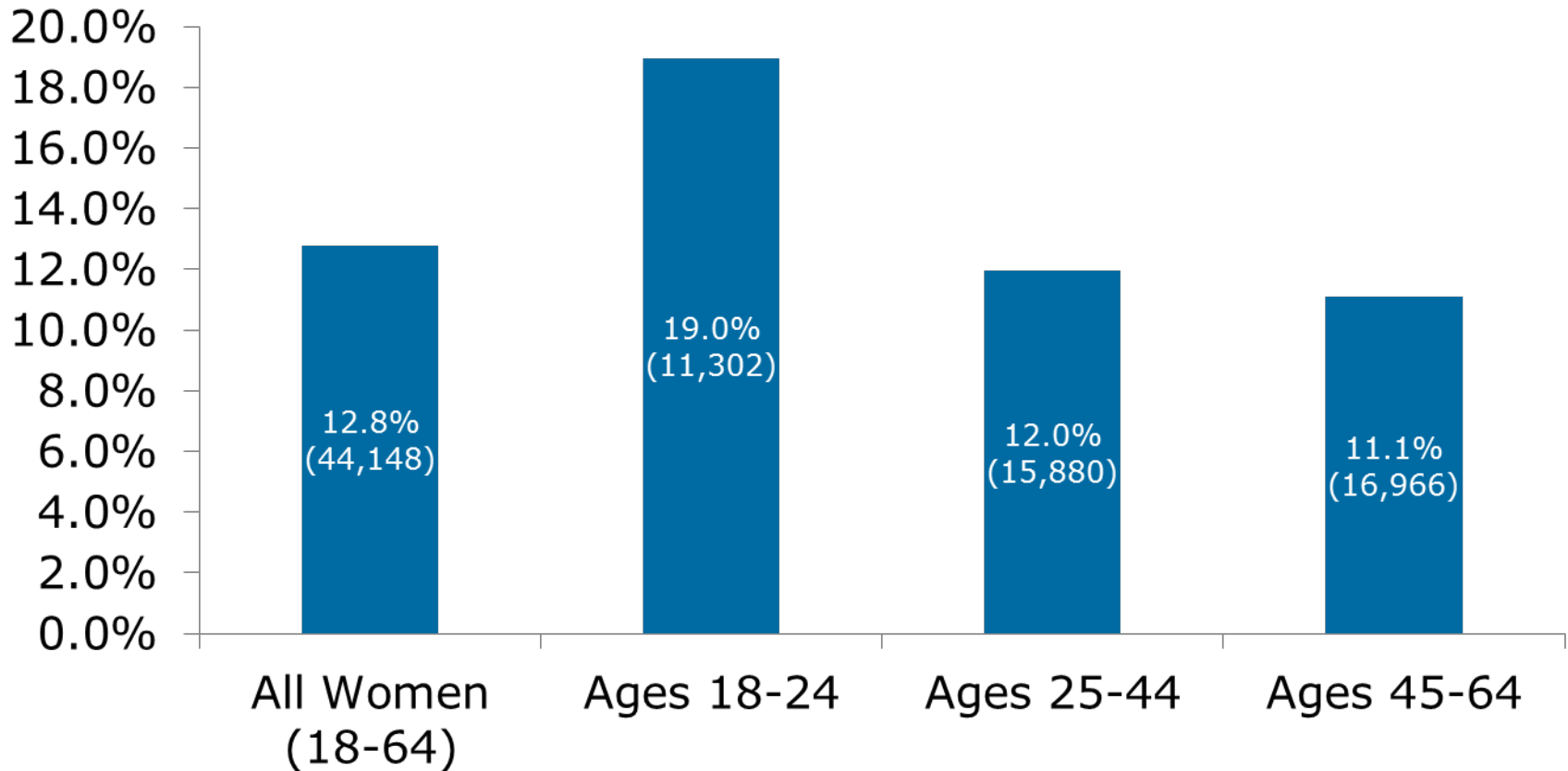


Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012



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Rhode Island Women Without Health Insurance (2011)



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012



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AN EXAMPLE OF HOW CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE AND RITE CARE HELP FAMILIES MEET BASIC NEEDS

Meredith: A Single Parent with Two Children with Gross Earnings of \$32,043 (175% FPL)

	WITH SUBSIDIES	WITHOUT SUBSIDIES
HOUSING	\$963	\$963
FOOD	\$594	\$594
TRANSPORTATION	\$426	\$426
CHILD CARE	\$214	\$1,321
MEDICAL	\$61	\$359
MISC. & SALES TAX	\$385	\$385
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,643	\$4,048
INCOME*	\$2,864	\$2,864
Difference Between Total Monthly Income & Expenses	\$221	– \$1,184

* Income includes food assistance and tax credits.



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Getting Involved....

Affordable Housing – RI Coalition for the Homeless

Anti-Poverty – The Economic Progress Institute

Affordable Health Insurance – The Health Coverage Project

Workforce Skills – The RI Workforce Alliance



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