

Does RIC offer these courses currently? If so, great foundation.

2 Courses with a focus on:

- Careers in Politics & Public Policy
- Disaster Management
- Earth's Physical Environments
- Economics of Climate Change & Sustainability
- Environmental Policy & Law
- Field Experience in the Public Sector
- Foundations of Public Administration
- Geographic Information Systems
- Internship in Geography
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Policy Analysis
- Political Geography of Cities
- Power & Community
- Public Sector Management
- State & Local Government
- Urban Economics
- Urban Geography
- Urban Politics



... and other, longer-term possibilities:



- Two dedicated faculty lines in Community Planning & Sustainable Development
- Minor in Community Planning & Sustainable Development
- Major in Community Planning & Sustainable Development
- Adjunct professors, drawn from Rhode Island's professional planning community, who would be willing to teach or co-teach existing and prospective undergraduate planning courses



American Planning Association

Creating Great Communities for All

Planning Technician

TYPICAL SKILLS

- Oral communication and interpersonal skills to explain rules and procedures clearly to the public
- Problem-solving skills to gather relevant information to solve practical problems and address citizen inquiries and concerns
- Ability to review plans and apply provisions of the ordinances and codes to determine compliance with such regulations and to apply regulations to field conditions
- Ability to work on several projects or issues simultaneously
- Ability to work independently or in a team environment as needed

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

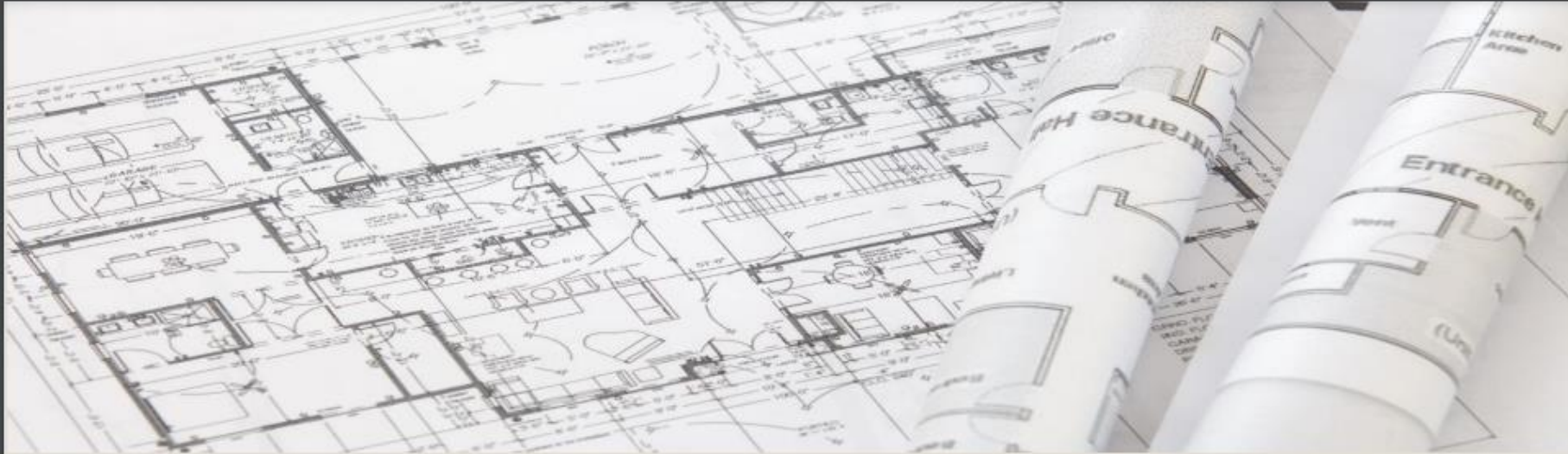
The Planning Technician level generally requires, at a minimum, the completion of an associate's degree in urban planning, architecture, construction management, social sciences or related field. Two years of experience in plans review, zoning administration, building code issuance or surveying is also required. A bachelor's degree is preferred and may substitute for two years of experience.



NEW ENGLAND TECH

Recommendations:

- Cities and Towns establish **internships** with NEIT AS and BS degree students in architecture and construction management. Interns are often hired upon graduation.
- Create **articulation agreements between CCRI and NEIT** for students wishing to pursue a bachelor degree/career in architectural & building engineering or construction management.
- Develop **pathway from NEIT to URI grad certificate programs** in Planning.
Or RIC
- NEIT offers **industry training** in a variety of technologies utilized by municipal officials (i.e., CAD, BIM, Project Management, Scheduling, Estimating, OSHA). Upskill your current employees!



harette High School

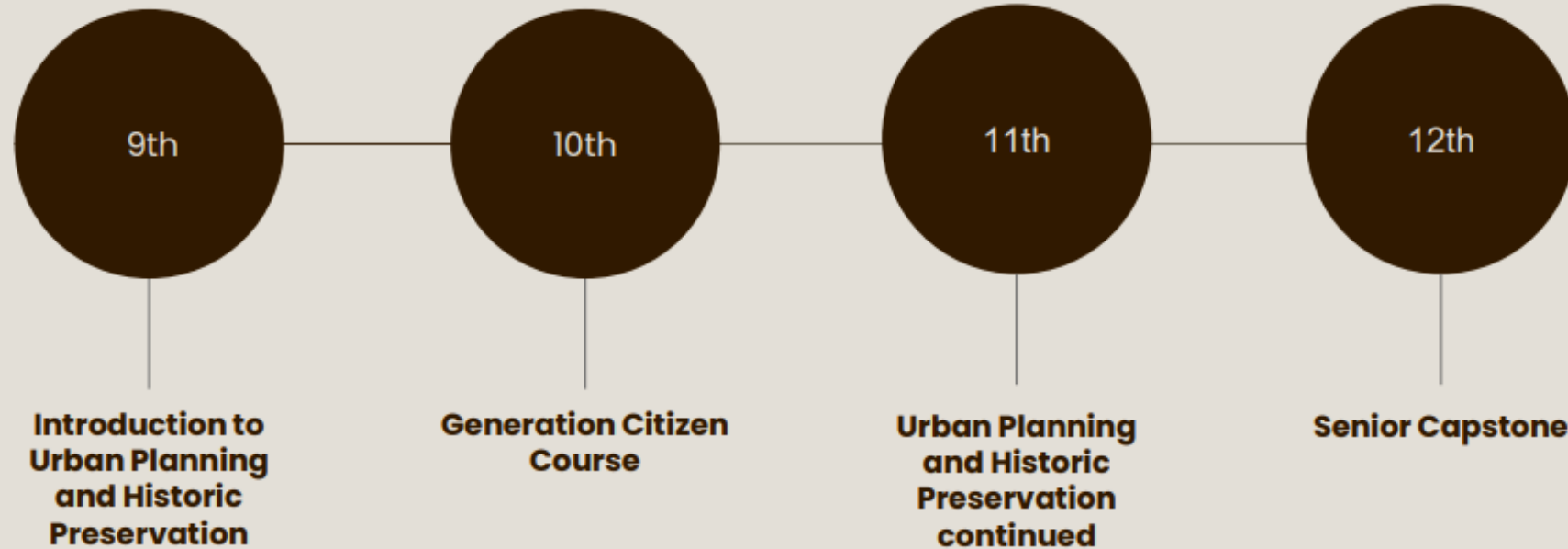
An Urban Planning and Historic
Preservation High School

Est. 2018

Inspiring students to create a city in which they would love to live.

Four Year Curriculum

3



Community Planning at URI

The accredited Masters in Community Planning began in 1963.

There were 4 specializations offered:

- Environmental and land use planning
- Urban design and physical planning
- Housing and community development
- Social policy planning

The Accredited Masters was part of the Department of Community Planning and Area Development (CPAD).

The Program also offered a Minor in Urban Studies.



Graduate Certificate in Community Planning Curriculum (Fall 2015- current)

Required: CPL 410 (or 501): Fundamentals of Community Planning Practice (3 cr)

Plus 6 credits from the following core courses:

CPL 539: Introduction to Environmental Law (3cr)	CPL 450: Urban Design (3cr)
CPL 483: Land Development (3cr)	CPL 485: Environmental Planning (3cr)
CPL/MAF 516: Seminar on the Urban Waterfront (3cr)	PSC 505: Public Program Evaluation (3cr)

Plus 6 or 7 credits from the following elective courses:

CPL 538: Site Planning (3 cr.)	MAF 465: GIS Applications in Coastal & Marine Management (3cr)
CPL 549: Ecological Planning Seminar (3cr)	MAF 475: Human Responses to Coastal Hazards & Disasters (3cr)
LAR 444: Landscape Architecture Design Studio III: Sustainable Design (4cr)	MAF 564: Port Planning and Policy (3cr)
LAR 445: Landscape Architecture Design Studio IV (4cr)	PSC 524: Seminar in Public Policy Problems (3cr)

Graduate Certificate in Community Planning (continued)

Between May 2016 and now a total of 48 graduate students have completed the CPL graduate certificate.

Do we know where these graduates went?

Most of these students were enrolled in other graduate programs at URI:

- Masters of Environmental Science and Management (MESM): 28 students
- Master of Public Administration: 11 students
- Master of Marine Affairs: 5 students
- MESM & Master of Marine Affairs: 1 student
- Community Planning Certificate alone: 3 students

Future Plans in 3 steps

Step 1: To begin Fall of 2025

People skills are still important...training on the job

Graduate Online Certificate in Community Planning

Offered through URI Online

7-week intensive online classes

The CPL online Certificate can be combined with other online certificates (e.g., Master of Public Administration) to create a masters degree.

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

A 12-credit online Graduate Certificate in Community Planning (CPL).

Composed of three required classes:

- CPL 501: Introduction to Community Planning Practice
- CPL 585: Environmental Planning
- CPL 538: Site Planning

and one Elective:

- CPL 550: Urban Design
- PSC 583 Policy Analysis
- PSC 508: Policy and Grant Writing
- PSC 524: Seminar in Public Policy Planning
- PSC 505: Public Program Evaluation
- AFS/EVS 505: Environmental Leadership in Practice
- DSP 552: Computer Based Data Exploration

What Can CCRI Do Now?

Like NEIT – ready to promote the notion of planning technician.

- **Geospatial Technology Certificate**

- Provides skills in GIS

- **Environmental Science Programs**

Understanding of sustainability, land use, and environmental policy

- **Business and Public Administration**

Foundational knowledge for managing local governance projects

What Could CCRI Contribute?

(Non-academic)

All helpful / valuable.

- Promote awareness of community planning as a career path
- Collaborate with APA-RI and RILCT to design/ implement professional development opps for municipal planning staff (upskilling)
- Collaborate with APA-RI, and RILCT to design/implement education and training programs for Planning Board members

What Could CCRI Contribute?

(Academic, long-range)

- **Associate of Science in Community Planning & Development**

- applied, professional degree program to educate and train planning technicians
- most required courses available now
- faculty line for CPD specialization to develop and teach CPD-specific courses
- work-based learning component
- entry-level salary range for Planning Technicians in RI = \$45,000 – \$55,000

Likely not
addressing an
angry crowd
but that's okay.

- **Civic Analytics Certificate**

- professional credential combines civic technology and data analytics for government and non-profit sector professionals
- coursework includes applied statistics, geospatial applications, data visualization, core public affairs courses
- necessary courses currently offered, need to be organized as certificate

- **JAA (and JAA+ I)**

- requires programs + articulation agreements with URI/RIC

Addresses
duplication? JAA?

Next Steps

All helpful / valuable.

- Align CCRI's current offerings with Municipal Planning Needs
- Develop and promote Planning Internships in local government offices
- Promote existing Certificate and Degree Programs
- Collaborate with RI-APA and RILCT to Build New Workforce and Academic Offerings

Why This Matters to Cities and Towns



- **Challenges Local Governments Face:**

- Growing complexity of municipal planning needs (land use, housing, infrastructure).
- Shortage of skilled planning professionals within many municipalities.
- Limited capacity to recruit or retain qualified planning staff

- **The Role of Education:**

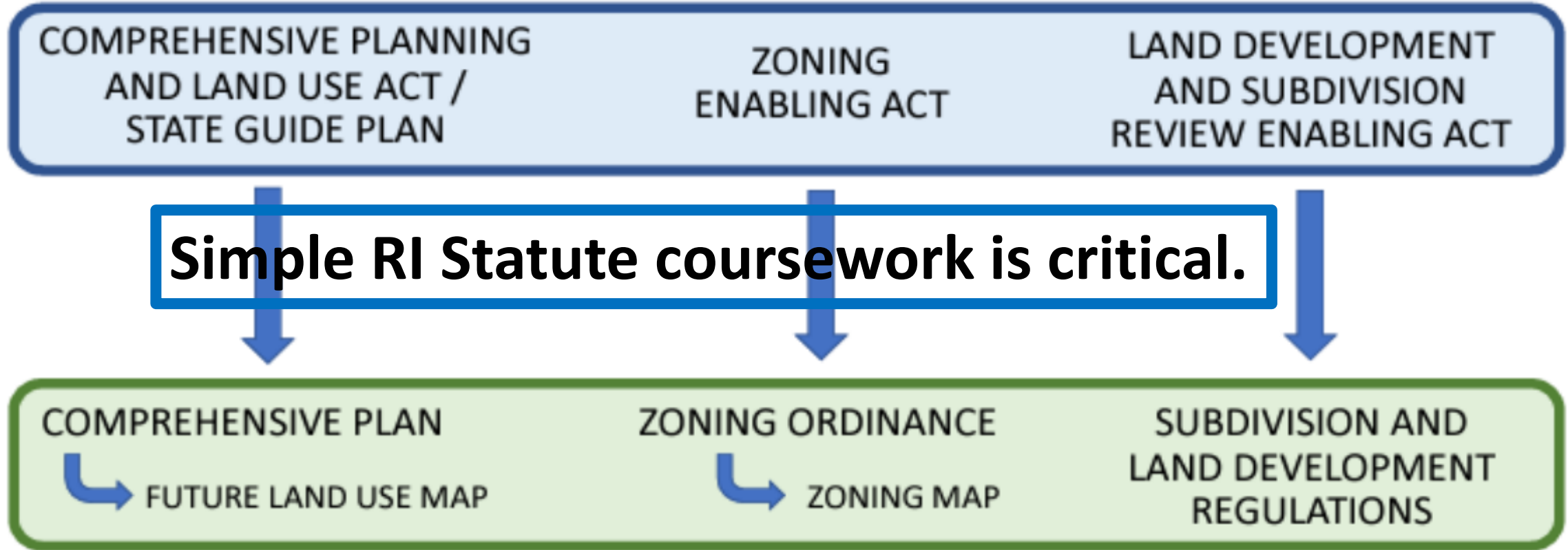
- Local governments rely on well-trained professionals to manage growth, sustainability, and community development effectively.

Recommendations for Strengthening Municipal Capacity



- **Education Recommendations:**
 - Develop or expand programs in state institutions focused on municipal and regional planning.
 - Promote internships and partnerships between educational institutions and local governments.
 - Offer certificate programs for mid-career professionals to upgrade planning skills.

HOW DO WE PLAN? IN RHODE ISLAND...

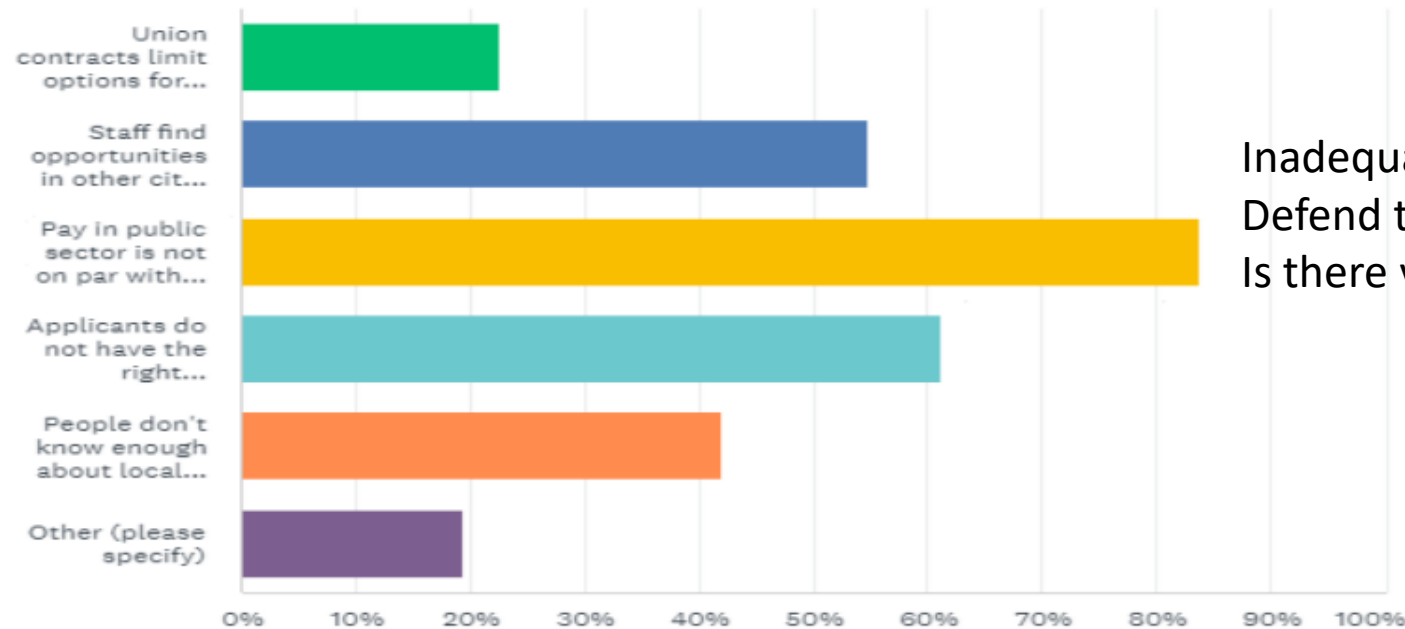


Challenges Communities Face in Recruiting and Retaining Employees



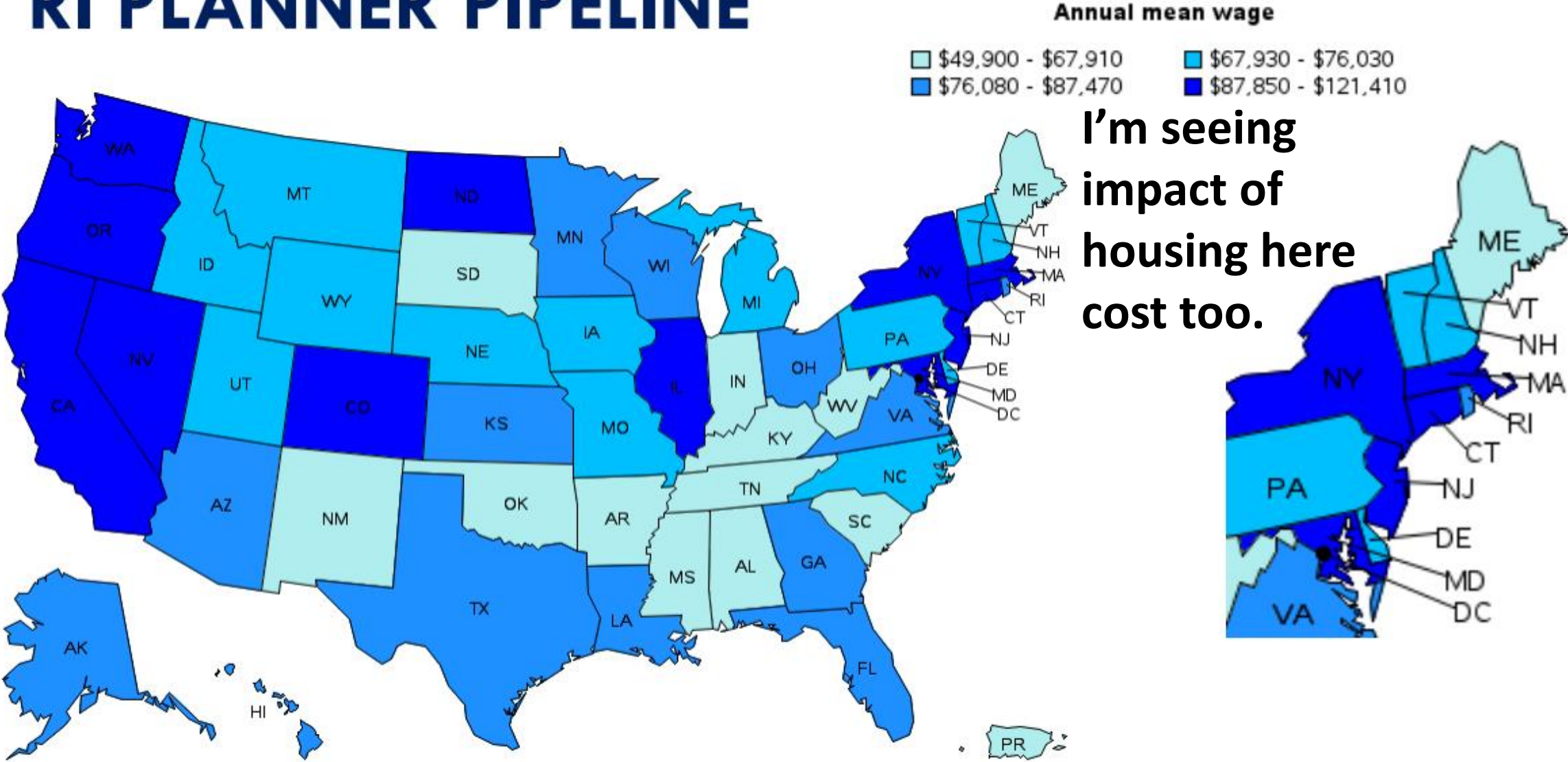
Which key challenges does your community encounter in recruiting and retaining employees? Check all that apply.

Answered: 31 Skipped: 1



Inadequate compensation.
Defend the profession.
Is there value?

RI PLANNER PIPELINE



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

RI PLANNER PIPELINE CONSIDERATIONS

- Is there enough demand to support a full-time graduate planning program in RI, now and in the future?
- Will there be enough sustained funding for an APA-accredited program?
- Will municipalities pay enough to keep planners in RI?
 - Or will planners go work somewhere else due to pay, workload, stress, etc.?