



RHODE  
ISLAND  
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# Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Vision Services Taskforce | September 16, 2021



The Sherlock Center, a federally designated **University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)**, is named in honor of the late Paul V. Sherlock. As a parent, the first director of special education in the state, a RIC faculty member for more than 35 years and a member of the RI House of Representatives for a quarter century, Paul was a tireless advocate for community inclusion and a leader of disability policy.



UCEDDs are governed by the Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights (Providence Act (R.I. 06-02) (enacted 9/19/04) and 45 Sections 1328.1-1328.7)

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# A Center of Excellence

- **Overview:** The Sherlock Center, founded at Rhode Island College in 1993, is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). UCEDDs are evidence driven and designed to advance policies, practices and research that improve the health, education, social and economic well-being of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities. The Sherlock Center is also a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) Program.
- **Mission:** The mission of the Sherlock Center is to promote membership for all in school, work and the community. The Sherlock Center partners with state and national agencies, schools, institutes of higher education and community providers to offer:
  - Interdisciplinary pre-service and community education
  - Technical assistance
  - Services
  - Research
  - Information

# A Center of Excellence

- Supports one or more areas of emphasis for each core function:
  - Research & Evaluation
  - Dissemination of Information
  - Interdisciplinary Training
  - Community Service
- Core functions and services are based on “the unmet needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.”

# A Center of Excellence

- **Priority Areas (programs):**
  - Early Childhood and Education
  - Transition, Employment and Adult Life
  - Low Incidence Disabilities
  - Self-determination
  - Inclusive Community Membership
  - Professional and Workforce Development
- **Partners:**
  - State Agencies (BHDDH, EOHHS, ORS, RIDE)
  - Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
  - Adult Agency Providers
  - University of Rhode Island
  - Other UCEDDs



Current funding for the Sherlock Center  
totals \$4.7 Million

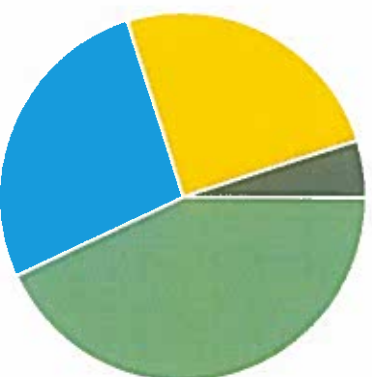
# 2021-2022 Sherlock Center Funding

**TOTAL ESTIMATED SHERLOCK ANNUAL AWARDS: \$4.7 million**

Revenue

## Total Projected Revenue Sources

- 6 Federal grants
  - 4 State grants
  - 25 Services contracts (RIVESP MOAs)
  - 2 other grants
- 37% Federal funds**
- 58% State funds** (*includes general revenue funds and federal funds passed through state agencies*)
- 6% Local funds**
- 1% Other** (*Foundations and fees for service*)



- Federal grants
- State grants
- Service Contracts
- Other

# 2021-2022 Sherlock Center Funding cont'd

**TOTAL SHERLOCK ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: \$4.7 MILLION**

**Total Expenditures**

**\$.3** Administrative

**\$3.4** Salaries, fringe and benefits

**\$.7** Operations

**\$.3** Overhead (indirect)



# 2021-2022 Sherlock Center Funding cont'd

**Total FTEs: 38**


**2** Administrative

**36** Grant Funded FTE (14 union, 22 non-union)

**Other**

Between **8 and 10** Faculty credit hours per semester

**26** Special Monthly Employees (part-time employees, 5-19 hours per week)

A photograph of two young women in a gymnasium. The woman on the left is wearing a blue tracksuit and is looking towards the right. The woman on the right is wearing a grey hoodie and is looking towards the left. They appear to be looking at something on a table in front of them. The background shows a gymnasium with a basketball hoop and other people.

In 2004, a Legislative Commission made recommendations providing a foundation for the Rhode Island Vision Education and Services Program (RIVESP) at the Sherlock Center and RIC.

# RI Vision Education & Services Program

- **Overview:** The Rhode Island Vision Education and Services Program (RIVESP) provides teaching and consultation services to children who are blind or visually impaired, their families and educational staff within the school environment. The array of services available includes Braille, Early Intervention, Orientation and Mobility, and the instruction of specific compensatory skills to children from birth through 21 years.
- **Student Eligibility:** A student is referred for RIVESP evaluation and services by a district when the student meets the criteria for a vision impairment. RIVESP personnel conduct an evaluation to determine if the student's vision impairment interferes with their educational performance, in which case the student would be deemed eligible for services. Service needs are documented through the student's IEP.

# RI Vision Education & Services Program

- **Model:** In 2004 the Paul V. Sherlock Center was identified by the Special House Commission to Promote and Develop a Comprehensive System of Education for Visually Impaired Children to serve as the administrator of the statewide vision services program later known as the “Rhode Island Vision Education and Services Program” (RIVESP). The commission’s interim report and final report identified the following priorities:

- Paul V. Sherlock Center
- Funding and staff capacity
- RIVESP Advisory board
- Data Collection and Surveillance
- Fiscal Resources
- Authority
- Marketing and Outreach
- Maintenance and Evaluation

Programming funding originated from state general revenue, federal IDEA Part B funds allocated by the then Department of Education through sole source contracting. Local education authorities (LEA) contributed nominally. Due to state budget cuts funding shifted to rely more heavily on federal funds and fees for services paid by participating LEAs. The Sherlock Center provided RIVESP services via a sole source contract until May 2021. RIDE announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for vendors to appear on a Master Price Agreement (MPA) in January of 2021.

# RI Vision Education & Services Program

The Rhode Island College/Sherlock Center was successfully chosen as the only state vendor to appear on the MPA in June 2021. Per the MPA, Sherlock's capacity model sets the LEA price agreement of \$149 per hour. The hourly rate is based on the number of hours RIVESP professional staff can provide service to students in combination with the RIDE Federal funds contribution. LEAs can choose to work with the Sherlock Center, pursue local procurement processes or hire district employees.

The Sherlock Center currently employs 13.5 grant FTEs for the RIVESP program including 10 Teachers of the Visually Impaired Students (TVI) and 3.5 Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (OM). Service hour rates are calculated after grant funds are applied based on the total number of projected services hours as determined by IEPs for enrolled students. Costs incurred by LEAs have increased annually as a result of increased costs and inflation. Vision services averages approximately 7,500 billable service hours.

# RI Vision Education & Services Program

- **School Districts:** Barrington, Bristol-Warren, Burrillville, Central Falls, Charino, Coventry, Cumberland, East Greenwich, Gloucester, Highlander Charter School, Jamestown, Johnston, Lincoln, Narragansett, Newport County, North Kingstown, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Portsmouth, Smithfield, South Kingstown, Warwick, Westerly, Woonsocket

- **Staffing:**
  - 10 of Teachers Certified Teacher of Students with Vision Impairments (TVI)
  - 3 FTE, 1 part time (1 day per week) of Certified Orientation Mobility Specialists (OM)

- **Current Enrollment:**
  - 60 students, Vision Services Only
  - 8 students, Orientation Mobility Services Only
  - 60 students, Joint Services
  - 128 Total Students
  - 15 Evaluations in Progress

School Year	Number of Students Served	Number of Billable Service hours	Number of Providers
2021-2022	128	6904	13.2
2020-2021	138	6772.5	13.5
2019-2020	136	7444	13.5
2018-2019	132	7220	13.5
2017-2018	128	8557	15.5
2016-2017	149	8606	15.5
2015-2016	137	7780	15.5

# 2021-2022 RIVESP Funding

**TOTAL RIVESP BUDGET: \$2,068,350 million**

**Total Revenue: \$2,011,196**

- \$0** Federal funds
- \$684,600** State funds (RIDE Grant)
- \$1,326,696** Service contracts (LEA contracts)
- \$0** Other (Foundations and fees for service)
- \$0** In-kind Support(technology, administrative, etc)

**Total Expenditures: \$2,068,350**

- \$50,711** In-direct
- \$1,981,639** Salaries, fringe and benefits
- \$36,000** Operations (includes travel, equipment and supplies)

*Note: This is for the academic year only. Summer Services are provided at a reduced rate and based on student need.*

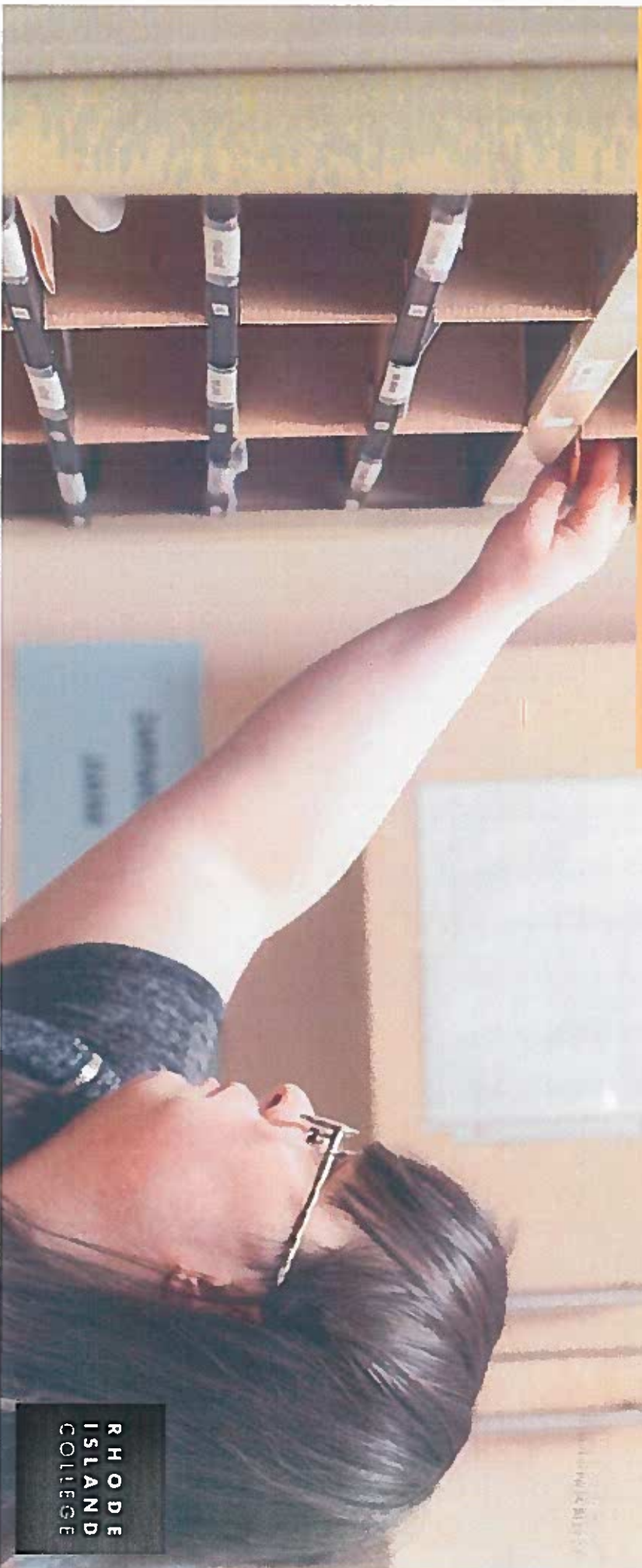
# 2021-2022 RIVESP Funding cont'd

## 5 YEAR FISCAL ANALYSIS

FISCAL YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Projected*
REVENUE	\$ 1,903,852	\$ 1,757,542	\$ 1,842,974	\$ 1,808,672	\$ 2,011,196
EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,946,227	\$ 1,870,901	\$ 1,853,615	\$ 1,867,712	\$ 2,068,350
GAINS/LOSSES	\$ (42,375)	\$ (113,359)	\$ (10,641)	\$ (59,040)	\$ (57,154)



Rhode Island College is working with families, RI  
General Assembly, labor and RIDE toward  
providing a high quality, long term solution for  
RIVESP.



# A Better RIVESP

To be considered....

- MOST IMPORTANT! Needs of students with vision impairments, individuals with disabilities and families
- Service Model
- Consistent and certified professionals
- Federal and state mandates
- Rhode Island General Laws
- Collective Bargaining
- Funding



**THANK YOU!**

**Questions and Answers**

