



Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness

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April 9, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
82 Smith Street, Room 135
Providence, RI 02903

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness (RICEH), we write to express our strong support for sustaining and scaling Rhode Island's Pay for Success (PFS) Program. We are grateful for the Governor's one-year, no-cost extension of operations through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. We respectfully urge the General Assembly to provide the resources necessary to move this proven model beyond its pilot phase — protecting prior investments, preserving program infrastructure, reducing reliance on costly crisis systems, and positioning Rhode Island as a national leader in accountable solutions to homelessness.

The Coalition serves as the statewide backbone organization coordinating Rhode Island's homelessness response system. The PFS program is a continuation of partnerships with our service providers, state agencies, municipalities, healthcare systems, and philanthropic stakeholders; we advance data-driven and outcome-focused strategies to reduce homelessness and improve housing stability.

The Pay for Success initiative advances three core principles central to our mission:

1. Fiscal responsibility that protects taxpayers and reduces long-term system costs;
2. Improved public health and safety through stable housing; and
3. Measurable, accountable outcomes that align compassion with performance.

This program represents a strong public-private-philanthropic partnership. We recognize the leadership of service providers - OpenDoors, Crossroads, House of Hope, and East Bay Community Action Agency - alongside supporters including Point32 Health Foundation, the Rhode Island Foundation, Senator Reed, Maycomb Capital, Department of Corrections and The Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Their collective investment has enabled the model to move from design to implementation while maintaining rigorous performance standards monitored by Faulkner Consulting Group.

Pay for Success serves individuals experiencing chronic homelessness who are at high risk of cycling through emergency rooms, shelters, and correctional facilities. By stabilizing housing for this population, the program reduces reliance on high-cost crisis systems while tying public investment directly to measurable outcomes.

Since inception, 95 individuals have enrolled and 51 have been successfully housed. Eighty-eight remain actively engaged, with 39 currently housed. Enrollment has grown by 11.4 percent since the close of 2024, reflecting sustained provider engagement. The program has also demonstrated resilience in complex cases, re-housing participants following housing loss through intensive case management and system coordination. These results demonstrate both human impact and fiscal prudence. Stable housing reduces strain on emergency systems, improves health outcomes, and interrupts costly cycles of crisis care.

However, the program was designed nearly nine years ago under projections that no longer reflect Rhode Island's housing market. Dramatic increases in rents and broader economic pressures have created a gap between projected and actual housing costs, limiting the program's ability to operate at intended scale. Despite these pressures, the benefit case remains clear. Emergency room utilization and incarceration represent substantial public expenses. Supportive housing reduces these high-cost interactions while improving long-term stability. RICEH has initiated a formal cost-benefit analysis to quantify system savings and fiscal impact for the State.

The early data confirms that Pay for Success works. The decision before the General Assembly is whether to strengthen and expand a model that delivers measurable results - or risk losing the infrastructure, partnerships, and progress that protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

With continued legislative support, Rhode Island can lead nationally in accountable, outcome-driven solutions that reduce chronic homelessness while protecting taxpayer resources.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colby J. O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness