

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND MUNICIPAL
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, DiPalma, Satchell, Sosnowski, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 11.4

4 THE RHODE ISLAND MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

5 **42-11.4-1. Establishment.**

6 The Rhode Island municipal infrastructure grant program is hereby created within the
7 department of administration. The department of administration is authorized to:

8 (1) Issue public infrastructure grants to municipalities and other public instrumentalities
9 for design, construction, building, land acquisition, rehabilitation, repair and other improvements
10 to publicly-owned infrastructure including, but not limited to, sewers, utility extensions, streets,
11 roads, curb-cuts, parking, water treatment systems, telecommunications systems, transit
12 improvements, and pedestrian ways; and

13 (2) Assist municipalities to advance projects that support job creation and expansion,
14 housing development and rehabilitation, community development projects in areas or districts
15 that communities have determined are best suited to efficiently accommodate future growth and
16 redevelopment, largely in previously developed areas with some level of existing or planned
17 infrastructure.

18 **42-11.4-2. Eligibility.**

1 Eligible public infrastructure projects authorized by this chapter shall be located on
2 public land or on public leasehold, right-of-way or easement. A project that uses grants to
3 municipalities for public infrastructure provided by this chapter shall be procured by a
4 municipality in accordance with chapter 55 of title 45.

5 **42-11.4-3. Solicitations.**

6 (a) There shall be at least one open solicitation period each year to accept and consider
7 new applications. Not less than twelve (12) weeks before the annual open solicitation period, the
8 department of administration shall release the criteria upon which the applications shall be judged
9 including, but not limited to, a minimum project readiness standard, overall spending targets by
10 project type, preferences for projects that align with the state's prevailing economic development
11 plan and other preferences applying to that funding round. Grants may be made outside of the
12 open solicitation period at the discretion of the director of administration subject to the provisions
13 of this section. All grant awards shall be made after consultation with the Rhode Island statewide
14 planning program and the Rhode Island infrastructure bank.

15 (b) An eligible city or town, acting by and through its municipal officers or by and
16 through any agency designated by such municipal officers to act on their behalf, may apply to the
17 program for a grant in a specific amount to fund a specified project. Two (2) or more
18 municipalities may apply jointly, with one municipality acting as fiscal agent. The grants may be
19 made in addition to other forms of local, state, and federal assistance. Receipt of a grant which is
20 part of a joint application shall not preclude a municipality from receiving additional funds under
21 a separate application.

22 **42-11.4-4. Rules and regulations.**

23 The director of administration may establish reasonable rules and regulations to govern
24 the application and distribution of grants under the program, to include, but not be limited to,
25 provisions for joint applications by two (2) or more eligible municipalities for a single project
26 serving those municipalities.

27 **42-11.4-5. Reports.**

28 The director of administration shall report annually to the governor, speaker of the house,
29 president of the senate, and the chairs of the house committee on finance, senate committee on
30 finance, house committee on oversight, senate committee on government oversight, house
31 committee on municipal government, senate committee on housing and municipal government,
32 and the permanent joint committee on economic development. The report shall include a list and
33 description of all projects that received grant funds under the program, the amount of the grant
34 awarded to the project, other sources of public funds that supported the project, a detailed

1 analysis of the economic impact of each project including, where applicable, the number of
2 construction and full-time equivalent jobs to be created, number of housing units to be created,
3 the private investment in the project, and the expected tax revenue generated from the project.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND MUNICIPAL
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

1 This act would create a municipal infrastructure grant program within the department of
2 administration (DOA) to issue grants and provide assistance for municipal and other public
3 infrastructure projects that support job creation and expansion, housing development and
4 rehabilitation, community development, and for the accommodation of future growth and
5 redevelopment.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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