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## R.I. Small Business Relief Grant Program

The Rhode Island Small Business Relief Grant Program provides grants of \$5,000 for Rhode Island small businesses that have suffered financially due to COVID-19.

Grant funds may be used to pay for:

- Wages and/or salaries of employees to avoid furloughs or layoffs;
- Operational costs incurred to enable the business to remain open through the state of emergency; or
- Facilitating the reopening of the business if the business was unable to remain open for a portion of the state of emergency.

Applications are now open on a first-come, first-served basis through **Friday, April 30, 2021 at 5 PM**. Please visit the link below for more information, resources to help you apply, and the grant program application.

[Learn More About the Grant Program Here](#)

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## Past Training Event

Last month, SupplyRI and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Opportunity (ODEO) held a virtual workshop detailing how minority-owned businesses can certify their companies with the state. Thank you to all who attended *How to Get Certified with the State as a Minority-Owned Business* and made the workshop a great success. For those who could not make the event, you can view a recording of the event below. Additional questions about MBE certification can be directed to [SupplyRI@commerceri.com](mailto:SupplyRI@commerceri.com).

[View Recording Here](#)

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## Upcoming Training Event

SupplyRI is proud to offer education and training opportunities to our state's small businesses. Join SupplyRI for *Business Help for Veteran Entrepreneurs Overview* on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 10:00am - 11:30am**. This event will provide an overview of the Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England (VBOC) program and discuss opportunity recognition for business owners during challenging times. Click the button below to register!

[Register Here](#)

**Resource Partner of the Month: Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England (VBOC) Program**



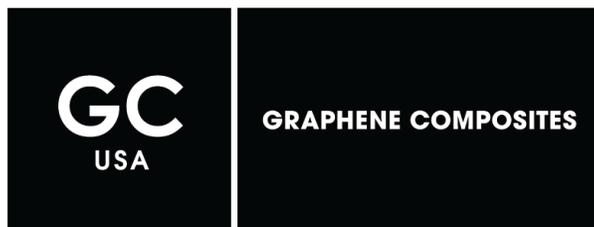
The Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England (VBOC) equips veteran and active duty service members and their families with the resources to help them start and run their businesses. The VBOC of New England has actively supported clients during the pandemic with information, resources, and guidance to ensure that their businesses survive and have a plan to thrive in the post-covid world.

“SupplyRI has been an asset to VBOC clients by consistently providing vital information about connecting local suppliers with Anchor institutions. Their support helps our clients' businesses thrive in these challenging times!” Jennie Murphy, Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England

[Learn More About VBOC Here](#)

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## Supplier of the Month: Graphene Composites



SupplyRI has chosen Graphene Composites as our supplier of the month to recognize the company's latest technological developments with promising implications for the health sector.

Graphene Composites (GC) is an innovative nanomaterials engineering company, driven by an ethos to create life-changing products. Based in Rhode Island, GC applies their core nanomaterials engineering expertise to a wide range of applications such as ballistic armor, but in the last year have pivoted to develop GC Ink™, an anti-viral ink that has been independently tested by Brown University to neutralize coronavirus and influenza viruses in under one minute.

GC will shortly start the manufacture of GC Ink™ in partnership with 401 Tech Bridge's Advanced Materials and Technology Center, managed by URI.

[Learn More About GC Here](#)

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## Anchor of the Month: Orsted A/S & Eversource Energy

SupplyRI is excited to announce that Orsted A/S and Eversource Energy are partnering as a new SupplyRI Anchor in the Offshore Wind sector. The two companies are teaming up to develop multiple wind farms across the East Coast.

In a statement, Gov. Daniel J. McKee described Rhode Island as home to “one of the most thriving offshore wind industries in the nation.”

“Orsted and Eversource are keeping their commitment to making significant investments in Rhode Island to create new, good-paying union jobs and position our port facilities to become central hubs in this growing industry,” McKee said.

David Hardy, CEO of Orsted Offshore North America, said in a statement the announcement serves to reaffirm the company’s commitment to the state.

“Our partnership with local labor is critical to the success of our offshore wind farms and we’re ready to put more local tradesmen and women to work in the state where we launched America’s offshore wind industry,” he said.

[Learn More About Orsted A/S & Eversource Energy Here](#)

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## Quick Links for Suppliers and Businesses

### [Join SupplyRI](#)

Not yet a part of the SupplyRI database? Click [here](#) to register as a supplier today!

### [Business Assistance](#)

Business advisors at Rhode Island Commerce are standing by to assist you during the COVID-19 emergency. Complete [this form](#) and a business advisor will respond within one business day.

### [Loan Information](#)

Rhode Island Commerce provides comprehensive SBA and non-SBA related loan information online, including FAQ documents and recordings of webinars related to the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program), EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) and STEP (State Trade Expansion Program). Click [here](#) to learn more.

### [COVID-19 Business Resources](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented circumstances for business and non-profit organizations in Rhode Island and throughout the country. Rhode Island Commerce has compiled [these resources](#), including COVID-19 testing for local businesses interested in offering on-site rapid testing to their employees, to assist you in adapting to the current economic challenges and new ways of doing business.



Best Regards,

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