



Greetings,

Rhode Island Commerce's [Restore Rhode Island grant program](#) expansion launched yesterday, September 22. This new round features expanded program eligibility, including the following programmatic changes:

- More businesses are now eligible including sole proprietors and businesses without employees and businesses with up to 50 FTEs;
- Grant amount calculation process are now streamlined: any eligible business with at least 30% revenue loss in a month March to July may now apply; and
- Fewer documents to upload for all applicants.

The Restore Rhode Island grant program provides grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$15,000 to the small businesses in Rhode Island hurt by COVID-19 to offset fixed costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic or costs related to reopening or adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. Business advisors at Rhode Island Commerce are standing by to assist individuals with questions about the grant program during the pandemic. Businesses are encouraged to [click the button below](#) for assistance and can expect to receive a response within one business day.

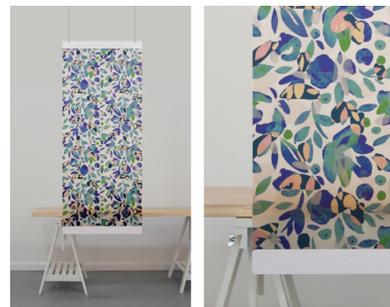
[Fill out this form for a business advisor](#)

Supplier spotlight: Ocean State Shields

Launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ocean State Shields offers a line of innovative barrier protection options including PPE, non-toxic cleaning, disinfection, and long-lasting protection treatments developed with an EPA-approved main ingredient. OSS is in the process of applying for an EPA Section 18 Emergency Use Waiver for its products, and are testing for COVID-19 specific efficacy this week in government and independent university research labs.

OSS utilizes electrostatic spraying to treat entire interior spaces with a durable antimicrobial treatment which helps resist microbes for up to a year. The highly skilled team at OSS also provides architectural and design consultations and analyses of interior spaces, allowing them to deliver comprehensive lists of options to maximize a healthful environment and reduce costs for their clients.

[Click here to see how you can clean, disinfect, and protect your organization](#)



“As part of our core mission of helping RI re-open

safely, and utilizing RI suppliers and fabricators as much as possible, SupplyRI has been for us a hub of information and resources. This has been invaluable for not only launching our company this year but also helping us source customers and suppliers with relative ease!”

– Todd Thomas, Co-Founder & Chief Innovation Officer, Ocean State Shields

[Click here to learn more about OSS products](#)

Anchor of the month: Infosys

Infosys opened its Digital Innovation and Design Center in Providence, Rhode Island in 2019. This past month, the global leader in consulting, technology, and next-generation services announced plans to hire an additional 500 tech workers in Rhode Island by 2023. The new employees will work on a variety of tech-focused roles.

“Infosys has been a critical partner to Rhode Island since setting up shop in Providence two years ago,” said Governor Gina Raimondo. “I’m grateful for their contributions to our state, including this commitment to 500 additional tech jobs by 2023, recent work to launch the “CRUSH COVID RI” app that is helping get the pandemic under control, and participation in Back to Work RI. I look forward to continuing to work together to create opportunities for Rhode Islanders in the years to come.”

“Rhode Island’s strong leadership, positive business climate, and innovative spirit are exactly what Infosys looks for in a host community,” said Ravi Kumar, President, Infosys. “We are excited to increase our commitment to the State and continue nurturing design-focused specialists, as well as tech talent to serve the needs of our clients in the U.S.”

[Learn more about Infosys](#)

Resource partner of the month: Rhode Island Small Business Tech Help

Ready to transform your business in the new normal? Reach out to Rhode Island Small Business Tech Help for expert assistance today! Made possible by Rhode Island Commerce and District Hall Providence, the program provides free 45-minute sessions with volunteer experts via Zoom or conference call to small businesses or sole proprietors.

VENTURE
CAFÉ



DISTRICT
HALL

[Click here to register for a free 45-minute expert session](#)

Volunteer experts are standing by to assist your business with:

- E-commerce
- SEO
- Marketing
- Home office setup
- New sources of revenue
- Running your business remotely/using technology

“It has been extremely rewarding to help hundreds of small businesses pivot their business models and adapt digitally to this new normal so that they not only survive but

thrive in the future." – Tuni Schartner, Executive Director, District Hall/Venture Café Providence

"[The Spark Social](#) has had the pleasure of volunteering with the Small Business Tech Help program since its inception back in April 2020. Volunteering for this program has been both a personal and professional triumph. It has allowed us to serve the communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as really lean into our mission of *'Doing Good, Socially.'* Everyone involved in the project, both the volunteers and leaders, have been great to work with - it has allowed us to further relationships with other Rhode Island professionals and create new service packages that will continue to support the Rhode Island business community." – Nicole Eller, Vice President, The Spark Social



Best Regards,

Doris Blanchard

Assistant Director, SupplyRI

401.278.9127

Doris.Blanchard@commerceri.com | CommerceRI.com

