



Rhode Island  
Economic Development Corporation

*Building the 21st Century Innovation Economy*

# **Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation's Office of Regulatory Reform**

## **Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council**

### **February 28, 2012**

# Opportunity

As part of a focused economic development agenda, Governor Lincoln Chafee and the RIEDC Board of Directors have made **making it easier to do business** one of their top five business and job growth priority areas.

Rhode Island must take advantage of its size and the close proximity of key decision makers to position itself as the benchmark for others to follow in developing regulatory and permitting processes that will make the state the easiest in which to do business.

# Purpose



The purpose of the Rhode Island Regulatory Reform Act, created by the General Assembly in 2010, was to establish within the RIEDC the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) to facilitate the regular review and report of Rhode Island's regulatory processes and permitting procedures in an effort to improve them and assist and facilitate economic development opportunities in Rhode Island and within its cities and towns.

# Mission & Vision

**Mission** - ORR aims to improve Rhode Island's business climate by **making it easier for businesses** to successfully navigate state and municipal permitting and regulatory affairs.

**Vision**- ORR facilitates the creation and refinement of a **clear, predictable and reliable state and local regulatory system** to advance the competitiveness of Rhode Island business while protecting the health, safety and quality of life of our citizens.

# Operate

Provide Rhode Island businesses with on-demand service and assistance for navigating regulatory and permitting issues. ORR will also be available to additional RIEDC business support resources.

## **The Team**

- Director Regulatory and Quality Management - Leslie Taito
- Small Business Ombudsman – Sherri Lynn Carrera
- Senior Project Manager – Michael Walker
- Research Assistant – Nora Eshkhanian

## **Scope of Work**

- Define project
- Define application process
- Identify potential/current issue
- Facilitate pre-application meeting
- Manage expectations
- Present timeline
- Ensure efficient information exchange
- Assist with conflict resolution

# Target

Create multiple cross agency teams to share best practices and review and address issues impeding regulatory reform and limiting the ability to provide excellent customer service.



# Develop

Develop and communicate clear, predictable and reliable regulatory and permitting processes in an effort to create, retain and grow Rhode Island businesses.



# Review

The cost of a regulation should be no greater than the value of the benefit created for the community



# Compete

Elevate Rhode Island to “Best in Class” for regulatory and permitting processes resulting in an increase in national rankings (i.e. – Forbes, CNN, MSNBC - thus improving the state’s overall competitiveness and national perception)



# Small Business Fairness in Administrative Procedures

Under the RegFlex (RIGL 42-35.1), any new regulation that affects small business is evaluated prior to implementation. Regulatory agencies proposing new regulations must submit an analysis of the impact on small business to the RIEDC. The agency will review the rules and regulations, determine the impact on small businesses and make recommendations to improve the rules and regulations to the regulatory agencies.



# Questions & Discussion

