



NEWS RELEASE

For more information:
Alan Neville
United Way of RI
Office: 401-444-0652
Cell: 401-588-1057

United Way of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Announce Plans for Social “Safety Net” Study

Providence, RI (August 5, 2008) – United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) are embarking upon a joint study to help better identify the characteristics and components of a comprehensive social safety net for Rhode Island. The term safety net is used to describe a collection of services provided by government which prevent individuals from falling into abject poverty.

The study will include an analysis of critical social needs confronting the citizens of Rhode Island and provide input to help policy makers define the role of government in meeting the needs of its most vulnerable populations. The study is particularly relevant given Rhode Island’s current fiscal challenges and the worsening economic conditions in the State and the nation. United Way and RIPEC will reach out to a broad audience of stakeholders during the process to receive input from multiple sectors. The project is expected to be completed in late fall 2008.

According to Anthony Maione, UWRI President and CEO, “It is going to be a very difficult year for Rhode Island’s working poor and at-risk populations. Within the context of the State’s current fiscal challenges it is imperative that we define the appropriate safety net that we as a society must provide our most vulnerable citizens.”

John Simmons, Executive Director for RIPEC, added, “We are looking forward to working with United Way on this very important and timely project which will provide decision-makers with the information needed to make policy choices that are based on clearly articulated long-term policy goals and objectives.”

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years. UWRI’s mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care

50 Valley Street
Providence, RI 02909-2459
phone 401.444.0600
fax 401.444.0635
www.LIVEUNITEDri.org



most about. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.uwri.org

About Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council

RIPEC is an independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan public policy research and education organization dedicated to the advancement of effective, efficient and equitable government in Rhode Island. To learn more visit RIPEC's website at www.ripec.org

50 Valley Street
Providence, RI 02909-2459
phone 401.444.0600
fax 401.444.0635
www.LIVEUNITEDri.org