



PANDEMIC RECOVERY OFFICE

Early Intervention Provider Relief and Recovery Final Report

Submitted by State of Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office

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<https://pandemicrecovery.ri.gov>

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Early Intervention Provider Relief and Recovery

Project Identification Number: 10003

Pandemic Recovery Office Approval Date: February 2, 2022

Project Completion Date: March 31, 2024

Funding Amount: \$11,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Public Health: Mental Health Services

Problem Statement: The Early Intervention (EI) Part C program of the Individuals with Disabilities Act provides crucial services to Rhode Island families with children experiencing developmental delays or medical conditions associated with developmental delays. During the pandemic, all nine EI providers in Rhode Island struggled to accept direct referrals due to significant staffing shortages.

The families enrolled in EI services before this project received fewer service hours per month (an average of 2.87 hours) than in State Fiscal Year 2019 (3.31 hours) and disengaged in EI services at a higher rate (31% as compared to 25% in State Fiscal Year 2019). This resulted in reduced program billings, creating financial solvency concerns in addition to the decrease in critical services for Rhode Island children. The EI system needed 54 additional workers to reach typical capacity to serve the number of families in Rhode Island in need of EI services.

An October 2020 *Pediatrics* article cited a national survey of parents with children under the age of 18 and found that since March 2020, 27% of parents reported worsening mental health for themselves, and 14% reported worsening behavioral health for their children.¹

Project Overview: The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) provided stabilization grants totaling \$5.2 million to all nine EI providers. The grant amount was calculated based on the population size served by each provider. Eligible uses for the stabilization grants included, but were not limited to, enhanced outreach activities to ensure equitable access and family engagement in EI services; staff retention bonuses; workforce costs due to labor market conditions; professional development activities; and costs required to increase in-person visits.

EOHHS developed a pay-for-performance model to incentivize providers to increase service activity. EOHHS provided bonus payments totaling \$5.8 million based on EI providers meeting targets, such as recovering referral and staffing figures to 2019 levels, increasing the percentage of children referred to EI who completed the eligibility process and engaged in services, and reducing disproportionality for families with Medicaid coverage and families of color. Providers reported using these funds for recruitment and retention efforts, technology improvements, outreach to families, and improvements to the referral process, among other activities.

Financial Overview: All program payments can be found on the [Pandemic Recovery Office's website](#) by filtering the "Project" box for "Early Intervention Provider Relief and Recovery."

¹ [Well-being of Parents and Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A National Survey](#)

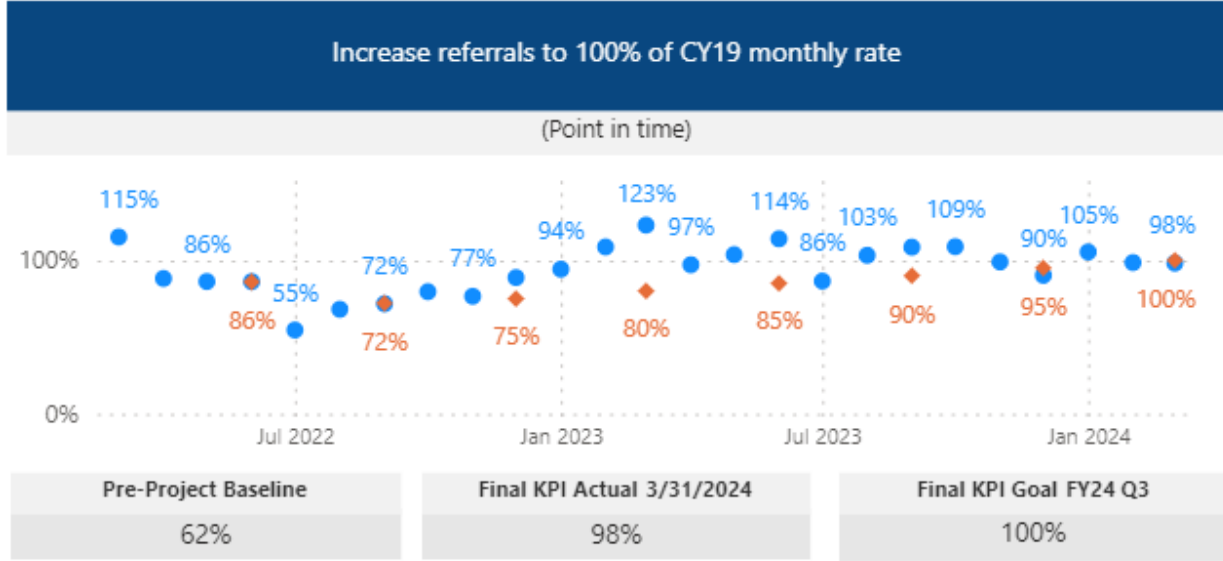
The table below shows planned expenditures by fiscal quarter and actual expenditures by fiscal quarter:

Fiscal Year Quarter	Planned Expenditures	Transfers to MMIS*
FY 2022 Q3	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,780
FY 2022 Q4	\$1,450,000	\$435
FY 2023 Q1	\$1,015,000	\$1,015,000
FY 2023 Q2	\$435,000	\$1,883,350
FY 2023 Q3	\$2,600,000	\$435
FY 2023 Q4	\$1,450,000	\$4,050,000
FY 2024 Q1	\$1,015,000	\$1,015,101
FY 2024 Q2	\$435,000	\$434,768
FY 2024 Q3	-	\$131
Total	\$11,000,000	\$11,000,000
<p><i>Note:</i> A single audit fee applies to all State Fiscal Recovery Fund projects and accounts for \$3,300 of the funds shown in the above table.</p>		
<p>*The State of Rhode Island transferred the project funds to the State’s Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) followed by payments to the EI providers.</p>		

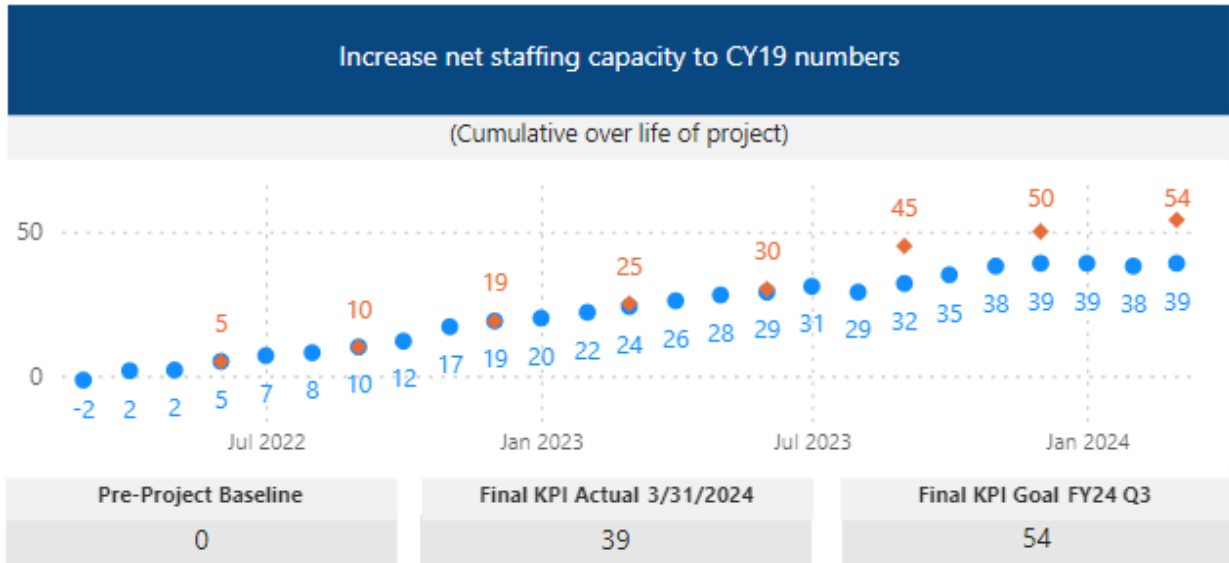
Key Performance Indicators: The following are the key performance indicators based on quarterly goals and monthly data collections.

Legend: ● Actual KPI Value Reported ◆ Quarterly Goals

1. Increase referrals to 100% of calendar year 2019 monthly rate

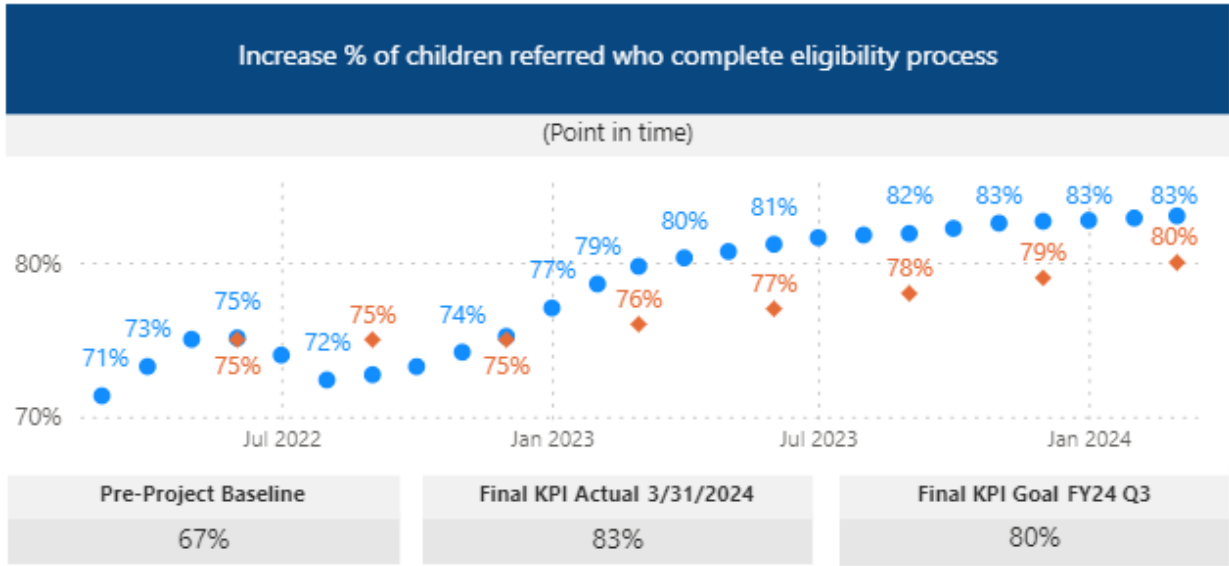


2. Increase net staffing capacity to calendar year 2019 numbers

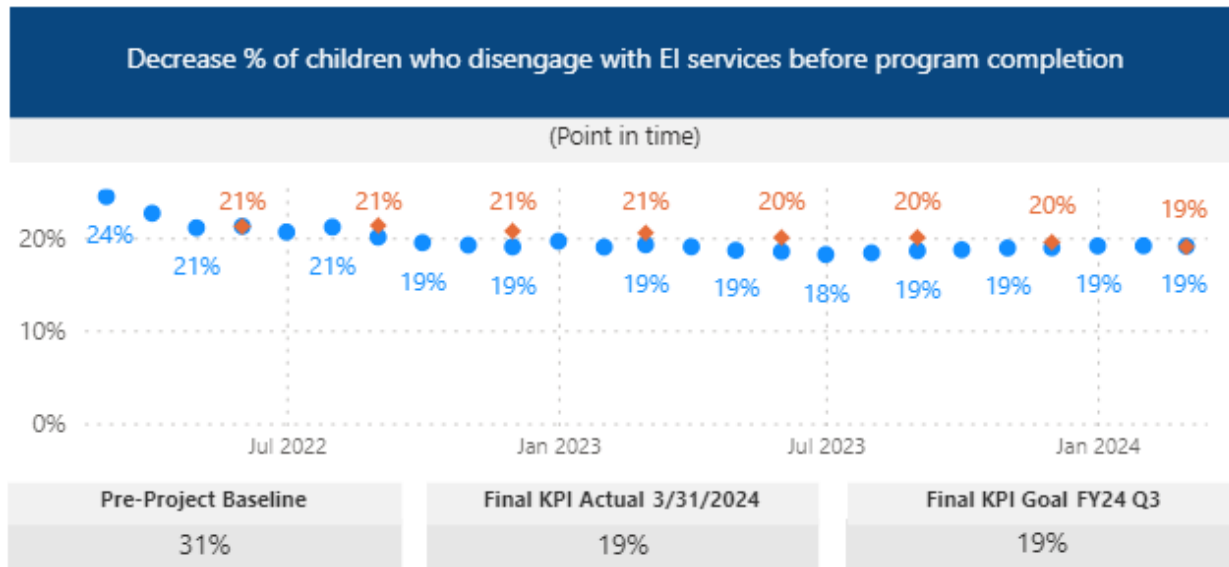


Legend: ● Actual KPI Value Reported ◆ Quarterly Goals

3. Increase percentage of children referred who complete eligibility process



4. Decrease percentage of children who disengage with EI services before program completion



Demographics: From March 31, 2022, through March 31, 2024, the demographics of children served by all the providers was:

- White: 52.3%
- Hispanic/Latino: 34.0%
- Black or African American: 7.5%
- Two or more races: 3.1%
- Asian: 2.5%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.4%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.2%

In terms of gender, 63.5% of children were male and 36.5% female.

The table below shows the nine EI providers, the location of their main offices, the total amount of funding received, the total number of children served as of March 31, 2024, and the percentage of the EI population served as of March 31, 2024:

Provider Name	Location	Total Grant Amount Received	Number of Children Served	% of EI Population Served
Children’s Friend and Service	Providence	\$889,633.03	514	9.1%
Community Care Alliance	Woonsocket	\$790,662.74	391	6.9%
Easter Seals of Rhode Island	North Kingstown	\$835,749.20	405	7.1%
Family Service of Rhode Island	Providence	\$1,104,618.51	439	7.7%
The Groden Center	Providence	\$472,308.26	426	7.5%
Looking Upwards	Middletown	\$1,178,846.23	812	14.3%
Meeting Street	Providence	\$3,044,986.24	1,286	22.7%
Seven Hills Rhode Island	Woonsocket	\$1,531,290.48	781	13.8%
J Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center	Warwick	\$1,148,605.31	616	10.9%
Total		\$10,996,700.00	5,670	100%

The table below shows the percentage of the total EI population in each municipality between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the percentage of children in each municipality that is enrolled in EI, and the EI providers that serve children in each municipality:

Municipality	% of EI Population in the Municipality	% of Children Under Age 3 in the Municipality Enrolled in EI	EI Providers
Barrington	1.41%	16%	Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Bristol	1.31%	9%	Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Burrillville	1.51%	11%	Community Care Alliance; Seven Hills
Central Falls	3.25%	11%	Children’s Friend; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Charlestown	0.36%	13%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards; Trudeau Center
Coventry	3.18%	11%	Easter Seals; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Trudeau Center
Cranston	7.65%	11%	Children’s Friend; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Cumberland	3.55%	14%	Children’s Friend; Community Care Alliance; Groden Center; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
East Greenwich	0.98%	18%	Easter Seals; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
East Providence	3.87%	10%	Children’s Friend; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Exeter	0.39%	8%	Easter Seals; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Foster	0.30%	13%	Community Care Alliance; Groden Center; Seven Hills
Glocester	0.59%	9%	Community Care Alliance; Groden Center; Seven Hills
Hopkinton	0.56%	13%	Easter Seals; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Jamestown	0.16%	11%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards

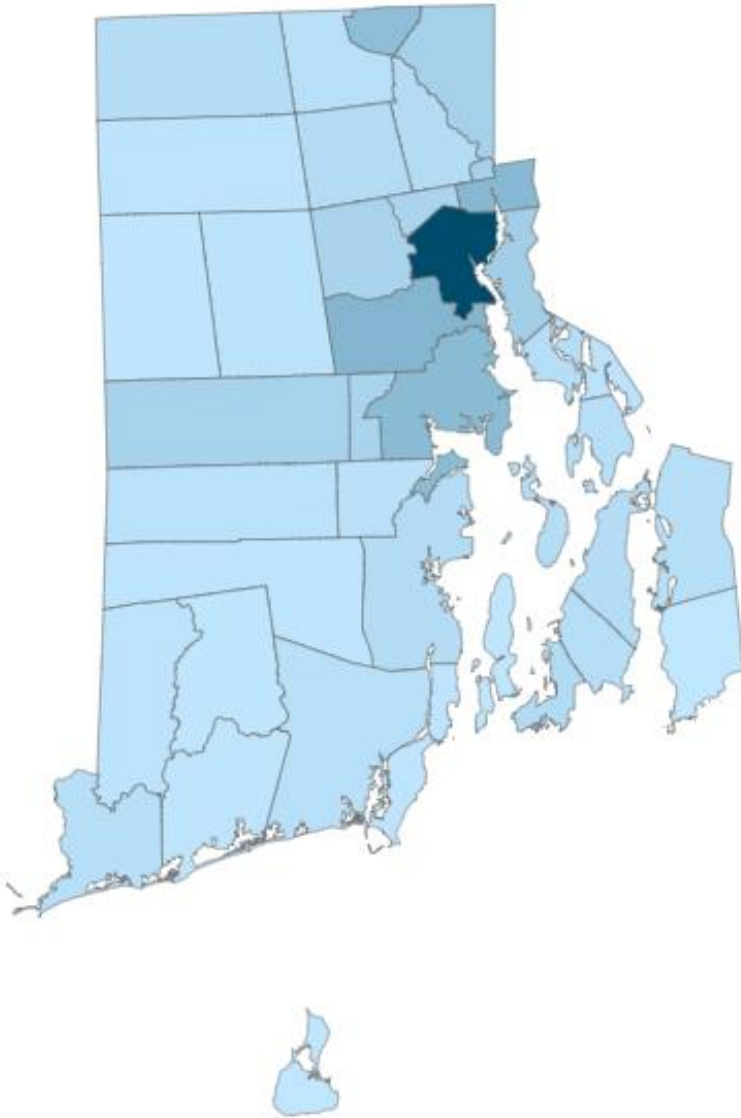
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Municipality	% of EI Population in the Municipality	% of Children Under Age 3 in the Municipality Enrolled in EI	EI Providers
Johnston	2.95%	15%	Community Care Alliance; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Lincoln	1.64%	12%	Children's Friend; Community Care Alliance; Family Service; Groden Center; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Little Compton	0.10%	7%	Looking Upwards; Seven Hills
Middletown	1.41%	15%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards
Narragansett	0.39%	6%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards; Trudeau Center
New Shoreham	0.07%	10%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards
Newport	1.90%	11%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards
North Kingstown	1.71%	11%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
North Providence	2.82%	13%	Children's Friend; Community Care Alliance; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
North Smithfield	1.12%	13%	Community Care Alliance; Groden Center; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Pawtucket	7.12%	12%	Children's Friend; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Portsmouth	1.61%	13%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards
Providence	24.06%	13%	Children's Friend; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Richmond	0.20%	9%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Scituate	0.76%	21%	Community Care Alliance; Groden Center; Seven Hills
Smithfield	1.71%	13%	Community Care Alliance; Family Service; Groden Center; Meeting Street; Seven Hills

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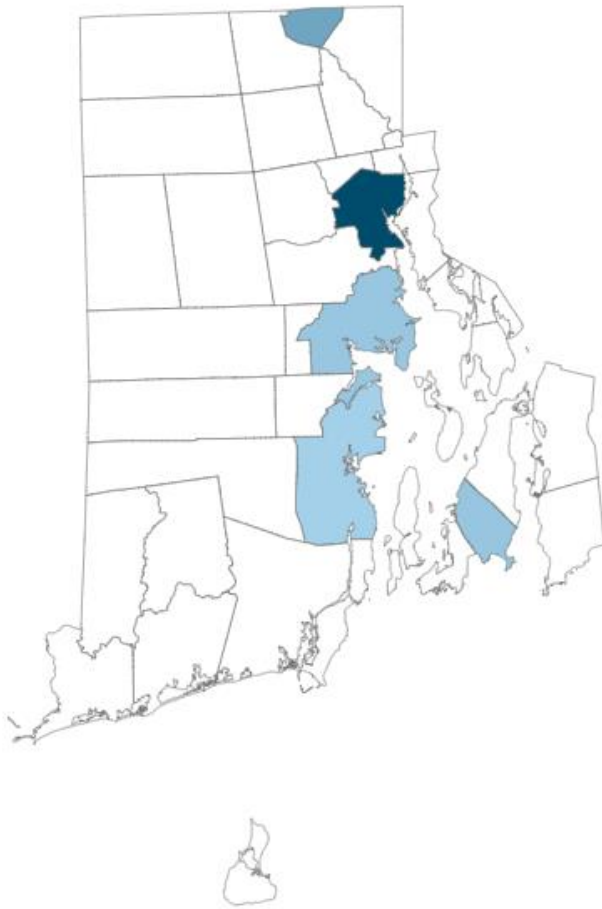
Municipality	% of EI Population in the Municipality	% of Children Under Age 3 in the Municipality Enrolled in EI	EI Providers
South Kingstown	1.08%	12%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Tiverton	1.31%	12%	Looking Upwards; Seven Hills
Warren	0.69%	9%	Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills
Warwick	6.73%	12%	Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
West Greenwich	0.79%	15%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
West Warwick	3.02%	13%	Easter Seals; Family Service; Groden Center; Looking Upwards; Meeting Street; Seven Hills; Trudeau Center
Westerly	1.35%	10%	Easter Seals; Looking Upwards
Woonsocket	6.37%	12%	Children’s Friend; Community Care Alliance; Groden Center; Seven Hills
Total	100%		

Percentage of EI Population by Municipality



Municipality	Percentage of EI Population
Barrington	1.41%
Bristol	1.31%
Burrillville	1.51%
Central Falls	3.25%
Charlestown	0.36%
Coventry	3.18%
Cranston	7.65%
Cumberland	3.55%
East Greenwich	0.98%
East Providence	3.87%
Exeter	0.39%
Foster	0.30%
Glocester	0.59%
Hopkinton	0.56%
Jamestown	0.16%
Johnston	2.95%
Lincoln	1.64%
Little Compton	0.10%
Middletown	1.41%
Narragansett	0.39%
New Shoreham	0.07%
Newport	1.90%
North Kingstown	1.71%
North Providence	2.82%
North Smithfield	1.12%
Pawtucket	7.12%
Portsmouth	1.61%
Providence	24.06%
Richmond	0.20%
Scituate	0.76%
Smithfield	1.71%
South Kingstown	1.08%
Tiverton	1.31%
Warren	0.69%
Warwick	6.73%
West Greenwich	0.79%
West Warwick	3.02%
Westerly	1.35%
Woonsocket	6.37%

El Provider Grants by Municipality



El Provider	Municipality	Sum of Amount
CHILDRENS FRIEND AND SERVICE	PROVIDENCE	\$889,633
COMMUNITY CARE ALLIANCE	WOONSOCKET	\$790,663
EASTER SEALS OF RHODE ISLAND	NORTH KINGSTOWN	\$835,749
FAMILY SERVICE OF RHODE ISLAND	PROVIDENCE	\$1,104,619
J ARTHUR TRUDEAU MEMORIAL CENTER	WARWICK	\$1,148,605
LOOKING UPWARDS	MIDDLETOWN	\$1,178,846
MEETING STREET	PROVIDENCE	\$3,044,986
SEVEN HILLS RHODE ISLAND	WOONSOCKET	\$1,531,290
THE GRODEN CENTER	PROVIDENCE	\$472,308
Total		\$10,996,700