



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

December 11, 2015

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, JD  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
One Union Station  
40 Exchange Terrace  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Director Bryant:

The majority of Rhode Island's cities and towns are presently failing to meet the ten percent state affordable housing mandate. Only five of Rhode Island's thirty-nine municipalities have currently met the required standard; Newport, Woonsocket, Providence, Central Falls and Block Island. We are writing to ask this commission to address housing as part of your review of the state education aid formula.

Affordable housing, according to Rhode Island state law is "residential housing that has a sales price or rental amount that is within the means of a household that is moderate income or less."

Decades of research have demonstrated that neighborhood conditions, including racial segregation, influence children's education outcomes, has led to a growth in place-based initiatives that target specific low-income neighborhoods with comprehensive economic, social, and educational resources from the public and private sectors.<sup>1</sup>

The Governor's Funding Formula Working Group will be examining whether the state education aid formula is working as intended with the intent to provide an initial report in early 2016.

This working group is part of a regular review of Rhode Island's education funding formula that was signed into law five years ago to allocate state aid to public schools based on student enrollment, student poverty levels, and community wealth.

We are asking that those cities and towns that have met and surpassed the state goal of 10% low income housing be financially compensated for that achievement. Our communities have met the state goal of 10% low income housing. As such, we are generally absorbing additional costs since it has been repeatedly determined that students who live in public housing perform worse in school than students who live in other types of housing, thus requiring additional interventions.

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Additionally, a recent 2,400 children living in low-income neighborhoods links poor housing quality to an increase in emotional and behavioral problems in children and poor school performance in teens, according to a team of researchers.

(<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/10/131022132145.htm>)

We are asking that housing be considered a factor in determining the fair funding formula. Please let us know if there is an opportunity to comment before your Commission on this issue and we would like to be kept informed of your meetings, agents and reports.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Lauren H. Carson  
State Representative  
District 75-Newport



John M. Carnevale  
State Representative  
District 13-Providence



Shelby Maldonado  
State Representative  
District 56-Central Falls



Michael A. Morin  
State Representative  
District 49-Woonsocket

LHC/JMC/SM/MAM:mjb

cc: Donald R. Sweitzer, Chairman, IGT Corp.

cc: Gina Raimondo, Governor

cc: Nicholas A. Mattiello, Speaker

<sup>1</sup> Claudia Coulton, Brett Theodos, and Margery A. Turner. 2012. "Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change: Real Neighborhoods Under the Microscope," *Cityscape* 14:3, 56; Maarten van Ham, David Manley, Nick Bailey, Ludi Simpson, and Duncan Maclennan. 2012. "Neighbourhood Effects Research: New Perspectives," in *Neighbourhood Effects Research: New Perspectives*, eds. Maarten van Ham, David Manley, Nick Bailey, Ludi Simpson, and Duncan Maclennan, London: Springer Dordrecht Heidelberg, 3; Patrick Sharkey. 2012. "Residential Mobility and the Reproduction of Unequal Neighborhoods," *Cityscape* 14:3, 9-31; Ingrid Gould Ellen, Keren Horn, and Katherine O'Regan. 2012. "Pathways to Integration: Examining Changes in the Prevalence of Racially Integrated Neighborhoods," *Cityscape* 14:3, 33-54.