



# STATEWIDE PLANNING E-NEWS

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## Census 2010

### The 2012 Census of Governments is Fast Approaching

The Census of Governments begins in October of 2011 with the mailing of the Government Units Survey. This survey collects descriptive information on the basic characteristics of local governments in preparation for the 2012 Census of Governments. Data from this survey will also be used to produce the official count of local government units in the United States and to update and verify the mailing addresses of government units. In 2012, the Census Bureau will request data on the employment and finances of state and local governments.

Under Title 13, Section 161, the Census of Governments has been conducted for years ending in "2" and "7" since 1957. The Census of Governments provides the only source of comprehensive, uniform statistics on the economic activity of state and local governments, as it identifies the scope and nature of the Nation's state and local government sector; provides an authoritative benchmark figures of public finance and public employment; classifies local government organizations, powers, and activities; and measures federal, state, and local fiscal relationships. Following the activity of governments over time tells

## Statewide Planning

**Technical Committee Meeting** Scheduled for August 12 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at [www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm](http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm).

**State Planning Council Meeting** Scheduled for August 18 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence. For the latest schedule information see the Committee Calendar at [www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm](http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm).

**Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting** Scheduled for August 25 at 6:30 p.m., meeting location to be determined. For the latest schedule information see the Committee Calendar at [www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm](http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm).

## Strategic Planning

**Economic Assistance Grants** Applications for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Assistance Grants for the Federal Fiscal Quarter beginning January 1 should be submitted to Strategic Planning staff by November 1. Submit applications to Robert Griffith, Chief, Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development, Statewide Planning, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. For additional information contact Robert Griffith at 222.5817 or at [Robert.Griffith@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Robert.Griffith@doa.ri.gov)

the story of the fiscal condition of federal, state, and local government thus helping policy makers make informed decisions.

Data from the Census of Governments are used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis as input to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Federal Reserve Board as input to the Flow of Funds account. State and local governments use the data to develop programs and budgets, assess financial conditions, and perform comparative analysis.

The first data from the Census of Governments is scheduled for release beginning in August 2012 providing the number and types of government units by state. More comprehensive data will follow. If you have questions or would like further information on the Census of Governments, please call 1-800-242-2184 or via e-mail at [govs.cms.inquiry@census.gov](mailto:govs.cms.inquiry@census.gov). General information and data can also be obtained at <http://www.census.gov/govs/>.

**US Census Bureau**

<http://www.census.gov/>

## Department of Agriculture

### NRCS Announces Second Ranking to Protect Farmland in Rhode Island

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today a second ranking period for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). The funds will be used to match partner's funding to purchase conservation easements for the purpose of limiting conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. Since 1996, Rhode Island NRCS has provided over \$12 million in matching funds to partner's funds for the protection of over 3,000 acres of farmland in Rhode Island.

NRCS accepts FRPP proposals from interested State, Tribal, local governments, and non-governmental organizations throughout the year. All applications received by August 19, 2011 will be ranked and considered for Fiscal Year 2011 funding pending funds availability. For those proposals selected for funding, NRCS will enter into an agreement to support efforts to protect soils and historical and archaeological sites. NRCS provides up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. Funds, if available, will be awarded to the highest ranked eligible parcels through a statewide, competitive process. If funds are not available, applications will be held for Fiscal Year 2012 funding consideration. Applications submitted after August 19, 2011 will also be held for next year funding consideration.

Any State or town government or non-profit organization may apply for FRPP funds by submitting a proposal. Eligible entities must demonstrate a commitment to long-term conservation of agricultural lands, a capacity to acquire and manage easements, have pending offers on a farm(s), and available funding to match Federal funds.

Eligible farmland must be privately owned, subject to a pending offer, and contain at least 50 percent prime, statewide, or locally important farmland soils. In addition, the farm must include actively operated cropland, grassland, and/or pastureland on at least one-third of the total offered acreage.

Additional information on FRPP and application materials may be obtained online at [www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov) or by contacting Michael Kenyon, FRPP Easement Programs Manager, at (401) 822-8821.



## Department of Revenue

### Municipal Finance

#### Municipal Memo

The Legislative Reference Service, can be found at [www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation](http://www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation). You can view both current and past issues from this site.

#### Directory of City & Town Officials

The 2011 directory, and updates as of March 22, is available at [www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications](http://www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications). Paper copies of the directory are also available; please contact Susan Moss at [Susan.Moss@dor.ri.gov](mailto:Susan.Moss@dor.ri.gov) or at 222.4468 for specifics.

## Department of Administration

### Office of Training and Development

Schedule of classes is available at [www.admin.ri.gov/otd/](http://www.admin.ri.gov/otd/). Check the website for classes, times, and registration information. Please contact Melissa Day at 222-2178 or at [mday@gw.doa.state.ri.us](mailto:mday@gw.doa.state.ri.us) if you have any questions, or would like to offer any suggestions for future offerings.

## Federal Highway Administration, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning

FHWA, RIDOT, and Statewide Planning are offering a Pedestrian Road Safety Audit / Assessment Training August 2 to 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. at the South Kingstown Neighborhood Guild, 325 Columbia Street, South Kingstown. The training is a 2-day course led by the FHWA and a consultant for FHWA. There is no charge for this course. For additional information on RSAs, visit <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/rsa/>. To register, please send your name, agency or company, title, email, and phone to Jacinda Russell at [jacinda.russell@dot.gov](mailto:jacinda.russell@dot.gov) by close of business on July 27.