Sojourner House

Rhode Island

2026

Legislative Wrap Up

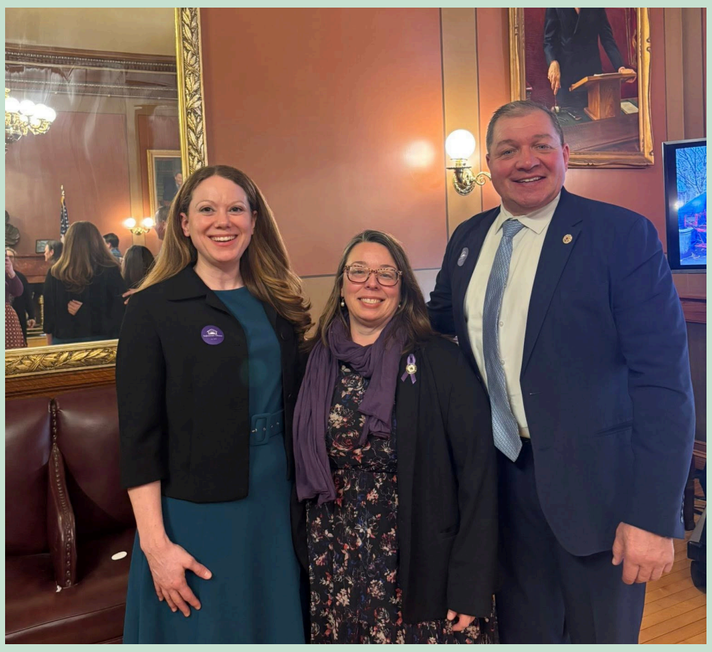
2026 ADVOCACY REVIEW

WE PROVIDED WRITTEN AND/OR VERBAL TESTIMONY ON

108 BILLS



ATTENDED 2 STATE-HOUSE TABLING EVENTS & HOSTED 1 SOJOURNER HOUSE LEGILSATIVE EVENT









265

COMMUNITY LETTERS GATHERED TO SEND TO LEGISLATORS

ADVOCATED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF

3 BILLS

SOJOURNER HOUSE ADVOCACY TRACKING

Use this link to see all legislation that Sojourner House has weighed in on this session.

A Major Victory for Survivor Housing

Sojourner House

RECEIVES

$200,000

State Allocation
Double Last Year's Funding

THIS INVESTMENT WILL HELP UNLOCK $800,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS AND EXPAND SAFE, STABLE HOUSING FOR SURVIVORS.

2026 Rhode Island Legislation

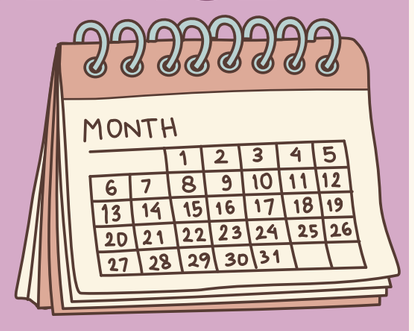
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT & HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVANCEMENTS

1 SURVIVOR EARLY LEASE TERMINATION



Allows victims of abuse to terminate a lease early without penalty or responsibility for rent, along with other protections for survivors.

2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALENDAR



The General Assembly allocated $600,000 to create a Rhode Island domestic violence calendar within Superior Court to address outstanding cases.

3 CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

STALKING is added to eligible offenses to apply and qualify for Rhode Island victims' compensation.

Victims can request more of their victim compensation allocation to be put toward **relocation expenses.**

4 DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORTING

Electronic filing of domestic and sexual violence/child molestation reports are now required by law enforcement as well as enhanced collection of information for reports.



5 CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

Civil suits for childhood sexual abuse are expanded to allow survivors to pursue accountability against all responsible parties including institutions that enabled, facilitated, or failed to prevent abuse and not just individual perpetrators.



We are applaud the General Assembly for

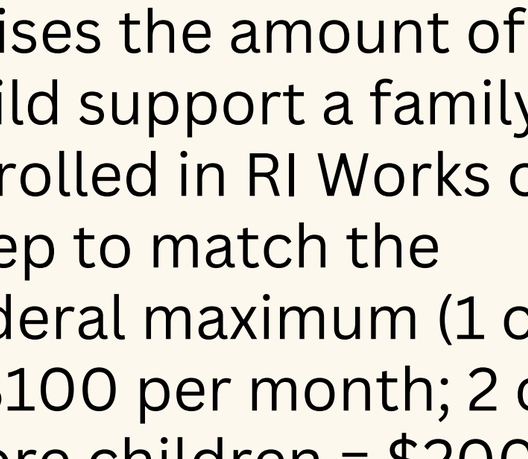
INCREASING REVENUES

to fund essential services

2026 Rhode Island Legislation
ECONOMIC, LEGAL & HOUSING ADVANCEMENTS

1 CHILD TAX CREDIT

A new fully refundable Rhode Island child tax credit of $330 per child will help families make ends meet.



2 CHILD SUPPORT

Raises the amount of child support a family enrolled in RI Works can keep to match the federal maximum (1 child = $100 per month; 2 or more children = $200).



4 FOOD BANK

$2.95 Million allocated to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank to offset federal reductions to SNAP benefits.

3 CHILD CARE

Increases the income eligibility from 261% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 285% of the FPL.

Exit limit also increases to 325% of the FPL (300% previously).



5 PROTECT OUR COURTS

Legislation passed to protect those attending court proceedings in RI from arrest by federal immigration authorities.



6 STATE HOUSING BOND

$120 Million State Housing Bond to fund the construction and development of affordable housing that will be on the November ballot.

7 Providence Housing Bond

$25 Million Housing Bond will also appear on the November ballot to fund affordable housing in the city of Providence.

STAY UP TO DATE

Sojourner House

VISIT OUR ADVOCACY PAGE

https://sojournerri.org/policy/

CONTACT US

24/7 Helpline
401-765-3232

Website
www.sojournerri.org

Email
info@sojournerri.org



Drop-In Center

At our Drop-In Advocacy and Resource Center we offer services in English and Spanish to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. No appointments are necessary and services are free and confidential.

1570 Westminster Street,
Providence, RI 02909

- Wheelchair lift in rear of building
- VRS system available

Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tel. 401-861-6191

Thank you to everyone who advocated for these, and other, changes this year at the General Assembly. Your voice matters in advocating for policy changes to help survivors!