Increase Access to Farmland

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **1043** farms in Rhode Island, 36% under 10 acres and 75%+ under 50 acres
- **113+** urban gardens and farms on Aquidneck Island (Middletown, Newport and Portsmouth) and in Central Falls, Cranston, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick and Johnston
- **30** BIPOC farmers in Rhode Island

**RURAL**

- At $16,000/acre on average, Rhode Island’s agricultural land costs more than five times the national average and three times the Northeast average
- RI DEM’s Farmland Access Program (FAP) needs more funding to help assure increases in the number, output, and employment impacts of financially successful farm businesses in RI. This program:
  - Adds to the state’s inventory of permanently protected agricultural land
  - Benefits both beginning and established farms
  - RI DEM can handle up to 3 additional properties per year, based on 2021 operations

**Recommended investment: $3.3M**

**URBAN**

- Demand for urban growing space far exceeds supply
  - Increasing the availability of urban land to agricultural organizations would
    - Allow more urban residents to increase household and community food security
    - Catalyze urban farmers to expand their businesses and increase their economic viability
- Urban gardens and farms contribute to food security and economic mobility for people living in the urban core, including many refugee and immigrant populations who are growing culturally relevant foods for their communities

**Recommended investment: $830K**

**ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS - URBAN**

**Southside Community Land Trust**

- Manages or owns over 7 urban farms and 20 community gardens in Central Falls, Cranston, Pawtucket, and Providence
- Many SCLT growers are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color)

**Aquadneck Community Table**

- Agricultural land in Aquidneck Island is among the most expensive agricultural land in the state
- Demand for ACT’s existing community gardens remains high, including among low-income residents of the Island, with a waiting list every year since it opened

**African Alliance of RI**

- Works with Southside Community Land Trust and other organizations to connect refugee and immigrant farmers to land, education and resources
- Emphasized the importance of land ownership, as opposed to leasing and accessible processes and programs

**Outcomes**

- 9 new rural farms
- 5 new urban farms
- 8 new community gardens
- 80 - 100 new community gardeners

We are urging the legislature and administration to commit $4.13M over three years to this priority area.

Citations for the information shared on this sheet are available upon request. Please contact info@rifoodcouncil.org with questions.