



**Solicitation Information
January 8, 2013**

Addendum #5

RFP # 7458306

**Title: Sustainable Rhode Island: A Regional Plan for Sustainable Development
Submission Deadline: January 17, 2013 at 11:00 AM (EST)**

- **Below is the final group of responses to vendor questions.**
- **The Division of Purchases will not accept any additional questions.**
- **Attached is the survey document referenced in the response to vendor question #57 (Capacity Building Technical Assistance Report).**
- **Attached are the slides referenced in response to vendor question #33 (Equity Rhode Island Data Slides).**

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Assistant Director, Special Projects**

Addendum #5, RFP # 7458306;

Sustainable Rhode Island: A Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Final Group of Vendor Questions RFP #7458306

74. Page Number 51, 6.4 Cost Proposal states: "The total cost of the contract should not exceed \$1,355,200." Section 6.4 then lists the required project Elements with the estimated budget amounts for the eight particular elements. The total of those eight element budgets is \$1,370,200, which is different from the stated \$1,355,200. Is the total amount of the contract then not to exceed \$1,370,200, or is the contract not to exceed the \$1,355,200? If the contract is not to exceed \$1,355,200 what then are the revised estimated budgets for each of the eight elements, Element 1 through Element 8 so that the total of the eight Elements equals the \$1,355,200?

RESPONSE: The total contract amount is \$1,358,525. All element budgets remain the same except for Element 3: Economic Development Plan. The budget for this element is \$204,925. The \$1,355,200 represented the total budget before the additional EDA grant was acquired. The \$1,370,200 represented the budget prior to the Economic Development Data Analysis and Assessment being issued. We regret the confusion.

75. Will the State of Rhode Island further extend the deadline for submissions of proposals by one (1) or (2) additional weeks? The question is posed because the tight deadlines work against capable, smaller firms which are putting together project teams, especially given the calendar placement of the Christmas and New Year's holiday season. The extension to January 17, 2013 is appreciated but the calendar placement of the holidays on the Tuesdays of two successive weeks is burdensome, and effectively reduces the response time to the proposal to less than one month from the date of the pre-proposal conference.

RESPONSE: The State of Rhode Island will not further extend the submission deadline beyond January 17, 2013 at 2:00pm.

76. At the pre-proposal conference it was stated that the pre-proposal conference was not mandatory and that several firms who were not present at the pre-proposal conference had contacted the State of Rhode Island regarding the RFP, but were eligible to submit proposals because the pre-proposal conference was not mandatory. Will the State of Rhode Island make known those firms and/or individuals who had contacted the State of Rhode Island with respect to this RFP but who were not present at the pre-proposal conference?

RESPONSE: The State of Rhode Island has kept no formal record of contact received by firms and individuals interested in the RFP prior to the RFP being released; therefore this information cannot be provided. The only other contact between by any firms and the Division of Purchases was through the submission of questions via email. All of the questions and responses have been posted as addendums. The agency answering the questions was only provided the substantive questions and not the sender information. The Division of Purchases has a record of the sender information via email, but this information will not be provided until after award and upon request.

77. Are 11x17 sheets of paper, folded into the 8.5x11 proposal document permitted in the submittal? How will 11x17 sheets of paper be counted towards the page limit?

RESPONSE: Eleven by seventeen sheets of paper folded into the 8.5x11 proposal document are permitted. Each side of an 11x17 sheet of paper will count as 1.5 pages. Therefore the front and back of an 11x17 sheet counts as three pages in your page count.

78. Original Signatures. The RFP requires “completed and signed” forms (RIVIP, RICOA and W-9). Please clarify if we need to submit wet signatures in the “original” proposal or if electronic signatures are acceptable.

Page 49 of RFP:

“...1. A completed and signed three-page RIVIP Bidder Certification Cover Form, available at www.purchasing.ri.gov.

2. A copy of the current Rhode Island Certificate of Authorization (RICOA) for the firm and copies of current Rhode Island registration(s) for professionals who would perform the work. (Firms that do not have a RICOA or Rhode Island professional registration must include a letter acknowledging the intent and requirement to expeditiously acquire said Certifications.)

3. A completed and signed W-9 Form downloaded from the RI Division of Purchase’s webpage at www.purchasing.ri.gov by clicking on RIVIP, then General Information and then Standard Forms.”

RESPONSE: For numbers #1 and #3, the Division of Purchases requires original “wet” signatures.

79. DBE Requirements. If we are unable to meet the 10% DBE goal after going through a good faith effort to locate DBE subconsultants, will our proposal still be accepted? If so, what type of good faith effort documentation would be required in the proposal?

a. In addition, if we have a subconsultant that has recently applied for a DBE certification by the Rhode Island Department of Economic Development (but not yet received) can we count them toward the DBE goal?

RESPONSE: This question appears to reference the Minority Business Enterprise (“MBE”) requirement. Yes, the proposal will still be accepted. However, please note that the selected vendor will be required to submit an MBE participation plan to the MBE Office as a prerequisite to a contract award. We suggest you document MBE enterprises that you contacted in your development of the response. Regarding a subconsultant that has applied for MBE status but not yet been approved, we suggest you indicate that your subcontractor has applied and that once approved the proposal will meet the 10% goal. For any further questions regarding the MBE requirements, please contact the MBE office (contact info provided in the RFP).

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**CAPACITY BUILDING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS
AMONG RHODE ISLAND PLANNERS**

August 2012

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I. INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

Rhode Island’s HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant allocates \$280,000 for capacity building and technical assistance. These grant activities seek to “build capacity within state and local government and among participants in the planning process by increasing skills and technical expertise.” Through an online survey and in-person interviews, Statewide Planning staff collected input on the priorities of municipal planners and partnering state agency staff for this assistance, both in terms of topics and format. Planners and agency staff also offered suggestions about maximizing the effectiveness of capacity building and technical assistance offerings. This report analyzes the findings from this outreach effort.

The interests and current capacity of planners and state agency staff vary widely in Rhode Island, but several key themes emerged:

Key Topics of Interest

- Economic development planning
- Development, redevelopment, and growth centers
- Renewable energy
- Regional planning
- Climate change adaptation
- Water
- Public participation
- Data/GIS
- Design guidelines
- State law and the state guide plan
- Bike and pedestrian networks
- Energy efficiency
- Food/agriculture
- Policy/program performance measures
- Sustainability/quality of life indicators
- An “image library”
- Model ordinances

Respondents and interviewees have a range of preferences for the format of assistance, from trainings to written or online resources to direct assistance. They offered a host of suggestions on how to make capacity building offerings as effective as possible:

Format Suggestions

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- Statewide Planning should have a systematic and organized approach to assistance offerings
- Trainings should be paired with written resources and, when possible, resources or direct assistance to implement what participants learned
- Trainings for planners should provide specific, tangible skills
- Written materials should have usable examples like model ordinances
- Trainings and written materials should be as tailored to the state or town as possible
- Topic-specific programs of direct assistance by state staff (or a coordinated team of advisors) would help communities obtain meaningful, affordable assistance and make progress on goals of State Guide Plan elements, such as Land Use 2025

II. METHODS

Statewide Planning staff collected quantitative and qualitative data for this report through two methods: a 15-question online survey and in-person conversations with municipal planners.

Online Survey

Survey invitations were sent to 100 individuals from two lists: a Statewide Planning spreadsheet of municipal planners in Rhode Island and the state agency contact list for comprehensive plan review. Sixty-nine individuals responded (a response rate of 69%). The survey asked 15 questions that covered background information about respondents, general areas to prioritize for assistance, specific topics for assistance and desired formats (training, direct assistance, or written resources), and open-ended questions about priorities, potential projects that would be taken on if assistance were available, and suggestions for effective trainings. A complete copy of the survey with its results is attached as an Appendix.

The following chart gives a breakdown of how survey respondents identified themselves and the municipality or agency that they serve (Questions #1 and #2):

Question 1. Municipality/Agency	Question 2. Role of Respondents
11 (16%) Urban	55 (79%) Planner or planning staff in local government
15 (22%) Suburban/urban	10 (15%) State agency staff
18 (27%) Suburban	1 (2%) Planning or zoning board member
11 (16%) Rural	3 (5%) Other
12 (18%) Statewide	

Of 69 respondents who started the survey, 50 finished it (a completion rate of 72.5%). All questions were optional, and for this reason, response counts for individual questions may vary

from one another. Additionally, some questions allowed respondents to select more than one answer; for these questions, percentages may total more than 100% as answers were not mutually exclusive.

Interviews

Statewide Planning staff conducted 14 semi-structured in-person interviews with municipal planners about technical assistance and capacity building.¹ Municipal planners were asked about their priorities for training, direct assistance, and written/online resources. All interviewed planners received an invitation to complete the survey and most completed it before or after the interview, so the interview group should be considered a subset of the survey group.

III. SURVEY FINDINGS

Survey Overview - Topics, Individual Activities, and Priorities

While planners in Rhode Island desire capacity building services in a wide array of areas, particular priorities emerged in the survey results and during the interviews.² Figure 1 illustrates the responses to Question #4 - *What is the interest of your municipality/agencies in technical assistance (training, direct assistance, or written resources) in the following general planning topics?* Nearly 90% of respondents ranked economic development planning as a medium or high priority for assistance, and nearly 80% ranked redevelopment planning, renewable energy issues, and sustainability planning/greening/energy efficiency as medium or high priority topics. While the chart does not illustrate the breakdown by municipality type, 100% of the planners who serve urban communities named redevelopment and re-use as a high priority.

¹ These interviews were conducted in conjunction with interviews about the re-write of Statewide Planning's Handbook 16 – Handbook on the Local Comprehensive Plan. Statewide Planning staff emailed invitations for interviews on Handbook 16 to the planning director or staff person from each municipality, based on the same contact list used to distribute the survey.

² In 2008, GrowSmart Rhode Island and the Land Use Training Collaborative conducted a survey on land use and natural resource training topics. That survey was different from this outreach effort in that the survey audience comprised a wider group of planners, volunteer board members, public officials, and residents. Nonetheless, some similar priority topics were identified, including economic development, renewable energy, water issues, and creating walkable places. For more information about the 2008 survey, contact Jodi Castallo at GrowSmart Rhode Island (jcastallo@growsmartri.com).

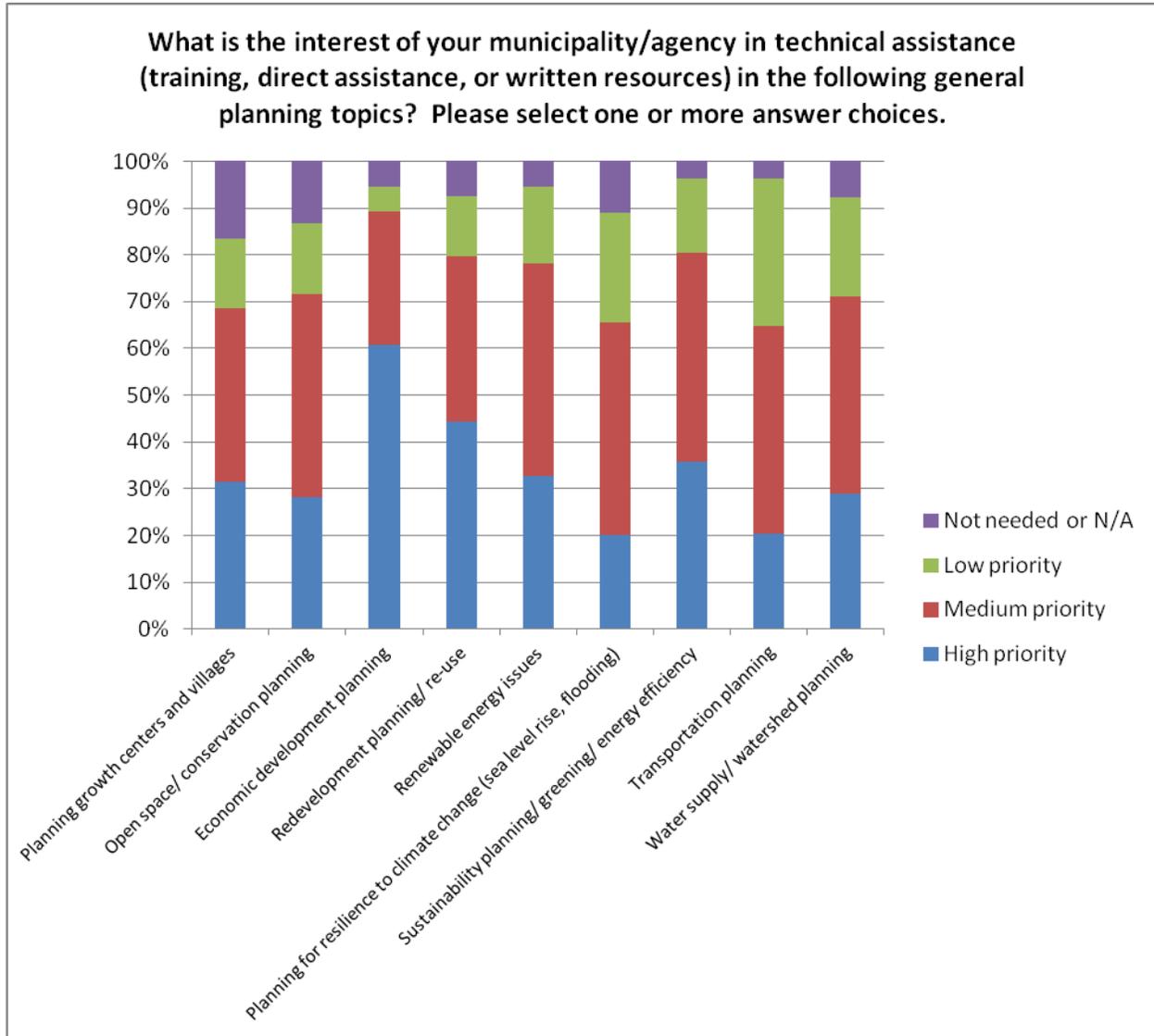


Figure 1

Tools and Techniques

Many of the planners interviewed expressed a desire for trainings that provide participants with tangible skills to apply to their work. Question #5 asked, *What is the interest of your municipality/agency in technical assistance (training, direct assistance, or written resources) on the following tools and techniques?* Figure 2 illustrates the responses to this question. Survey respondents ranked financing or incentivizing plan implementation as one of the most important area of tools and techniques, with 80% of respondents characterizing it as a medium or high priority, and GIS analysis and mapping was a close second. In interviews, many planners requested that trainings for professional planners impart specific techniques within these general categories of tools and techniques.

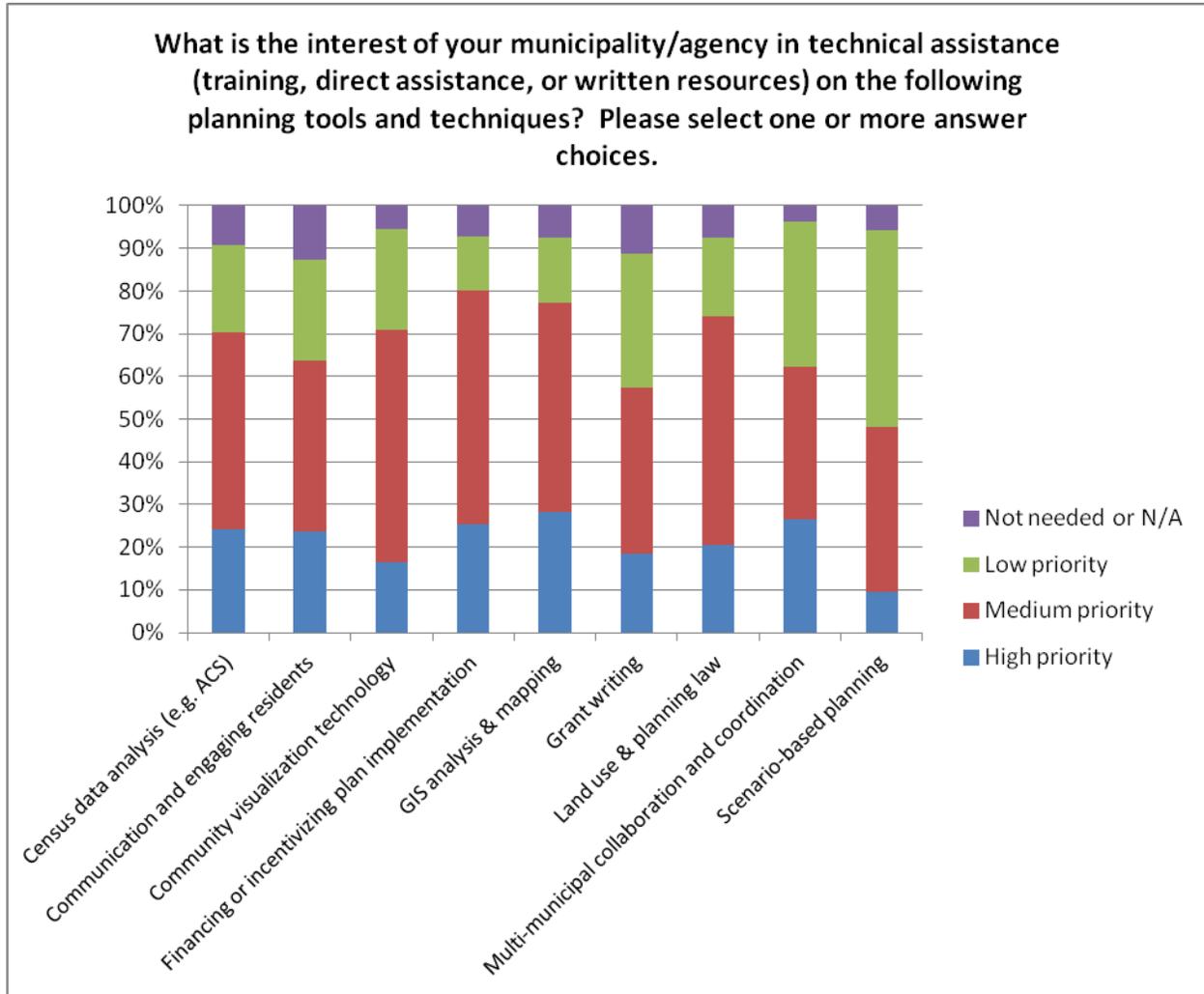


Figure 2

Assistance with specific planning activities

Survey questions six through ten asked respondents about their interest in training, direct assistance, and/or written resources on a variety of more specific planning activities. The responses to these questions are summarized in Figure 3. Many of these topics, particularly those that received higher prioritization and those that interviewees discussed, are covered in depth in the following sections.

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Questions 6-10. Which of the options describes your agency/municipality's interest in the following activities? Please select one or more answers. ³						
	Our needs are covered	Not a major priority or N/A	Would like training on this topic	Would like direct assistance, such as consulting services	Would like written materials, such as handbook or brief	Response Count
Collaboration and communication						
Facilitating multi-municipal coordination of planning activities	19%	32%	23%	15%	26%	47
Facilitating regionalization of municipal services or functions	11%	30%	35%	20%	20%	46
Dispute resolution/ consensus-based planning	17%	36%	30%	11%	15%	47
Engaging marginalized populations (e.g. low-income and/or minority populations)	13%	31%	25%	13%	29%	48
Taking part in a proposed statewide web-based system for plan review and permit management	4%	21%	49%	30%	19%	47
Building a web-based public communication tool	13%	17%	38%	29%	21%	48
Other/write-in: Economic development; Web based sharing of research and statistical trends in our respective agencies; Shared contracting						
GIS and mapping						
Mapping growth center development	38%	23%	15%	23%	15%	47
Creating parcel-based maps (e.g. of existing zoning boundaries, for future land use plans)	60%	10%	8%	23%	2%	48
Mapping water resources and water and sewer service areas	54%	10%	10%	31%	8%	48
Mapping critical habitat areas	35%	26%	22%	26%	17%	46
Other/write-in: ArcGIS "brush-up"; Correction of tax assessors' mapping database to coincide with other geo-referenced layers; Coordinating water service areas; Centralized parcel-based map system so we can compare like neighborhoods across different municipalities; Information sharing with agencies that utilize GIS and mapping activities; Municipal data						

³ Topics that were written in as "other" by survey respondents have been edited for clarity and brevity and to preserve anonymity. Percentages for individual activities may not total 100% because respondents were allowed to selected more than one answer choice for each topic (e.g. one could select training AND written resources for a given topic). See Appendix for complete survey responses.

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standards						
Growth center development activities						
Financing infrastructure development in growth centers (broadly; also see specifics below)	13%	15%	41%	37%	20%	46
Developing a tax-increment financing (TIF) program	13%	34%	32%	19%	23%	47
Taking part in proposed incentives for growth center development	9%	22%	42%	27%	22%	45
Implementing a transfer of development rights (TDR) program	7%	47%	29%	13%	24%	45
Questions 6-10. Which of the options describes your agency/municipality's interest in the following activities? Please select one or more answers.⁴						
	<u>Our needs are covered</u>	<u>Not a major priority or N/A</u>	<u>Would like training on this topic</u>	<u>Would like direct assistance, such as</u>	<u>Would like written materials, such as</u>	Response Count
Planning or implementing transit-oriented development (TOD)	7%	41%	24%	24%	22%	46
Creating design guidelines for main street/ growth center	21%	19%	29%	33%	31%	48
Mapping and assessing water resources with attention to future growth	17%	26%	30%	34%	15%	47
Other/write-in: Design and sign design guidelines; Market study relating community needs (grocery, social/ recreation activities) with market demand and consideration of locally funded co-op's to provide these; Protecting historic buildings through form-based zoning v. historic district zoning; Sewer infrastructure; Incentives beyond local tax incentives, exploration of using a TDR in my community; Assistance with infrastructure for industrial land use within USB.						
Transportation, energy, and natural resource planning						
Developing local pedestrian or bicycle network	28%	21%	19%	43%	17%	47
Studying transit feasibility or impacts	19%	23%	31%	25%	21%	48
Analyzing energy consumption and improving	23%	23%	17%	25%	25%	48

⁴ Topics that were written in as “other” by survey respondents have been edited for clarity and brevity and to preserve anonymity. Percentages may not total 100% because respondents were allowed to selected more than one answer choice for each topic (e.g. one could select training AND written resources for a given topic). See Appendix for complete survey responses.

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energy efficiency						
Writing renewable energy ordinance	10%	15%	38%	27%	33%	48
Updating flood plain regulations and mapping	39%	17%	13%	26%	20%	46
Assessing local climate change impacts	7%	30%	30%	22%	28%	46
Other/write-in: Feasibility analysis of implementing stormwater utility district						
Other planning activities						
Planning affordable housing	33%	13%	19%	19%	29%	48
Conducting a build-out analysis	31%	13%	27%	31%	21%	48
Developing and implementing policy/program performance measures	9%	7%	52%	26%	35%	46
Developing and tracking quality of life and sustainability indicators	6%	19%	44%	27%	40%	48
Integrating state guide plan amendments into local comp plans	13%	9%	33%	33%	41%	46
Other/write-in: Updating build-out analysis; Program evaluation; Developing a depaving program; Updating comprehensive plan						

Figure 3

In Their Words

At the conclusion of the survey, respondents were asked to rank their top priorities among all the topics and specific activities proposed for assistance. Their complete answers are available in the survey responses in the Appendix starting on page 20. The graphic below summarizes their answers and groups them by topic, with the number of responses noted in parentheses next to the topic. Note that suggestions are listed under only one topical heading, but some might fall into more than one category (e.g. Tax-Increment Financing, or TIF, is listed under Growth Centers & Redevelopment but might also be considered economic development). If the same response was given by multiple respondents, the response count is listed in parentheses.

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Growth Centers & Redevelopment (16)	Financing growth center development and taking part in incentives (4); Redevelopment of village or commercial corridor (3); TIF (3); Growth centers (4); TDR; Developing growth center (village) using TDR
Data/GIS (14)	Performance measures (4); Quality of life and sustainability indicators (3); GIS/Mapping (3); Municipal GIS standards; Improving accessibility of information through the web based GIS and other tools; ACS/Census analysis, especially workforce characteristics; Development of data for indicators/tracking; Census training
Energy (12)	Renewable Energy Planning (3); Writing a renewable energy ordinance (4); Renewable energy ordinance model; Analyzing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency (4)
Water (10)	Assessing water resources for future development (5); Protecting & managing groundwater; Feasibility analysis of stormwater utility district; Conservation/water quality planning; Understanding MGD and transmissivity; Floodplain mapping revisions
Design (9)	Creating Design Guidelines (4); Design guidelines for main street, growth center, village (4); Commercial design guidelines models
Regional Planning (8)	Facilitating multi-municipal planning (4); Facilitating regionalization of municipal services or functions (3); Regionalization
Comp Planning (7)	Comp Plan assistance (4); State Guide Plan consistency with Comprehensive Plan (3)
Transit (7)	Planning and implementing TOD (4); Studying transit feasibility or impacts; Rural Transit; Transportation Planning (Improve Connection to Public Transportation Hubs i.e. Interlink)
Affordable Housing (6)	Planning affordable housing (4); Assistance with LMI housing strategies; Developing innovative methods of providing affordable housing such as trailer park resident buy-outs
Bike/Pedestrian (6)	Developing the local bicycle & pedestrian network (5); Bicycle Network planning (Complete Streets)
Economic Development (5)	Economic development (3); Implementing Incentives for Economic Development; Understanding market absorption of regionalized retail and competitive factors with Main Streets
Infrastructure (4)	Financing Infrastructure Development (3); Infrastructure planning assistance - consolidating the current information available to make it usable
Other	Build out analysis (2); Sustainability planning (2); Web-based program, plan and permit review (2); Climate change impacts; Feasibility of a Development Agency; Assistance with innovative Land Use techniques and programs; Critical habitat area mapping; Eco-Tourism; Assistance with public education on planning issues; Web based public communication tool; Assistance with establishing effective citizen participation in community planning; Dispute resolution and consensus based planning; Development of a depaving program; Updating our subdivision regulations; Updating our zoning regulations; Everyday planning activities; Performance standards for different uses and activities.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ASSISTANCE TOPICS

Economic Development

In interviews and through the survey, planners repeatedly identified economic development as a priority for planning assistance. While local planning staff were aware of the kinds of local economic development activities that would be useful, such as market analyses and tax-increment financing, many do not have the expertise and/or staff time to actually get such projects off the ground.

Several planners described the need to develop **more strategy** in their economic development plans and implementation actions. Some rely on volunteer boards for economic development, and their interests as a board are not always focused. Planners also requested **technical, hands-on resources** for economic development, *not* a basic overview. Planners want training and resources that will actually build their capacity for new planning activities, or at least to manage those undertaken by a consultant.

Place-specific economic development also came up repeatedly in interviews. Many cities and towns want to revitalize villages but lack strategic direction to do so. Many pointed out the need to craft economic development actions that are tied to the assets and functions of the particular place; a handful of town planners reiterated the need to have economic development assistance and resources that are **appropriate to the small scale of their communities**. Particularly in rural communities, economic development is not just about jobs and revenue, but also about providing services and quality of place.

Underlying the request to focus on place-specific economic development was the sense, communicated by many planners, that the State's economic development activities were not relevant to municipalities, particularly smaller ones. Some planners thought that the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation should provide more technical assistance to municipalities in helping them identify economic development opportunities and challenges and crafting economic development strategies. Many localities are interested in trying to capture some of the higher quality jobs associated with statewide economic development initiatives in the innovation economy and the creative economy.

Many planners requested help with **market analysis**. This might be as simple as developing guidance about general "rules of thumb" for city and town planning, such as the number of

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residents required to support a full-sized grocery store. Other analyses desired might be more complex, answering questions like, how far will residents walk to go to a drug store? What is the impact of a big-box store on the outskirts of a town on businesses in town? Developing this resource in conjunction with retailers in state would provide some ground-proofed guidance for undertaking a market analysis.

Discussions about data resources useful to planners often concern **economic data**. The “Data” section, later in the report, describes the kinds of data that planners would like to have, such as employment and industry indicators at the local level. Planners also desire more qualitative data about local economic conditions and businesses; this information might be generated through a survey, Census, focus groups, or other means. Generating and/or using data to answer critical questions about economic development priorities – quality of jobs, types of businesses, reasons for locating in a particular place – would be a useful topic for assistance for many planners and would complement resources on market analysis.

Growth Centers and Redevelopment

Growth centers came up in a number of contexts in the survey and in interviews. Respondents tended to rank the broad topic of growth centers as a lower priority for assistance than other broad topics (see Figure 1), but specific areas of interest and concern emerged. Interviewees expressed the need for the state to create **incentives for cities and towns to develop growth centers** and implement the concepts behind Land Use 2025. Many survey respondents were interested in learning how to use potential incentives for growth center development such as those proposed during this legislative season (none of which passed).

Planners also expressed some confusion over the **definition of growth centers and their relationship to the Urban Services Boundary (USB)**. Some urban community planners were unsure whether the growth center concept had any relevance to their work. Some rural interviewees expressed apprehension, either on behalf of themselves or as a reflection of community concern, that building a growth center in a non-urban community would create new problems (e.g. with parking) and/or change the character of the communities. Short educational materials about the various shapes and forms of growth centers, perhaps with images, would probably answer some of these questions and help communities imagine what an appropriate growth center would look like.

Many planners, particularly those in urban communities, ranked redevelopment assistance as a high priority. Planners in communities around the state would like guidance on redeveloping villages and commercial corridors. Multiple survey respondents and interviewees expressed interest in developing a tax-increment financing (TIF) program that would help participants get TIFs off the ground in their municipalities. Planners often touched on the need for **physical**

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redevelopment and economic development in the same breath, reiterating the need for localized, place-based economic development strategies, such as the “Main Street” approach.

Regional Planning/ Regionalized Services

The Federal Sustainable Communities Initiative emphasizes regional collaboration, and planners in Rhode Island have **mixed views** toward the need for assistance with regional planning and regionalizing services. While supporting the concept in general, there was a recognition that it would be difficult to implement in practice and some planners thought it would be worth the effort while others were less sure. A few planners expressed interest in engaging neighboring towns in regional projects like **transit connectors, gateway planning, natural disaster mitigation and recovery, transportation and other infrastructure planning, and economic development planning**. One noted that improved collaboration among cities on attraction of development could improve land use efficiency and ease the “race to the bottom” of competing on tax incentives to attract retailers or developers. Several Rhode Island towns share borders with towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and these planners have the challenge of communicating and cooperating across state borders, another topic of interest.

However, for many planners in the state, there is little incentive to engage in regional planning. Neighboring cities and towns circulate draft comprehensive plans to one another, but most are relieved if no comments come back. Across the board, planners with tepid interest in regional planning *and* those with active interest recognize that **the state must play a facilitative and championing role**, both bringing together local planners to strengthen connections and networks, and providing regional analysis to support the projects. **Other incentives that would make regional planning more appetizing include funding and assistance with writing regional grants.**

When asked about individual topics for regional coordination, such as river and flood management, planners agreed that regional planning would make sense for individual issues. However, given the variety of issues on which the temperament of neighboring towns in Rhode Island differ (e.g. siting wind turbines, adding commercial density), **multi-issue collaboration** could provide municipalities with more creative and flexible options for agreements. Multi-issue regional planning increases the number of potential “trades” that municipalities (or other stakeholders) can bring to the table, which grows the pool of options to develop an agreement that benefits the different interests of different cities and towns. However, it is clear that the state would need to provide facilitation assistance and leadership for this approach to succeed.

Thirty-five percent of survey respondents expressed interest in training on regionalizing services, but no interviewees brought up this topic. Survey respondents and interviewees responded positively toward the proposed **statewide unified digital permitting system**.

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Nearly half of all respondents were interested in training on it (a greater share of interest in training for all other topics except developing and implementing performance measures). Multiple interviewees requested an update on the status of this project.

Design Guidelines

Assistance with design guidelines emerged as a high priority for some respondents of the survey, although few interviewees brought it up. Survey respondents were split fairly evenly in their interest in training, direct assistance, and written guidance on this topic, and multiple respondents expressed interest in **developing design guidelines for growth centers** or other areas likely to experience development. One respondent requested **model guidelines** that could be adapted. Another interviewee discussed his interest in design guidelines as a tool for meeting with developers or the public. Having a pre-existing document, particularly one that has some kind of state support or approval, can help sway developers toward mixed-use or the public toward village zoning. Visual resources to illustrate the design guidelines would be helpful.

Public Participation

Public participation emerged as a key theme in the survey responses and in interviews. Whether planners were located in communities highly supportive of planning or not, they expressed challenges with public participation. Multiple planners articulated concern about the changing nature of public participation, describing increased polarization in public and volunteer-based planning activities.

These planners would like assistance in both bringing more “middle-of-the-road” participants into planning activities and managing conflict when it occurs. Toward the former, planners want guidance or direct assistance in making planning relevant to a broad range of audiences. Some planners would like to enhance their **messaging and graphic skills**, to make planning more approachable and relevant. Others would like help with **marketing public participation events** to attract the participation of members of the public like parents and young adults. Multiple interviewees mentioned successful or unsuccessful examples of public participation efforts, and recent meetings with community groups engaged in the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant have revealed that participants and planners sometimes have divergent ideas about whether a public participation effort was successful or not. Planners tend to focus more on how many people were engaged, and participants tend to focus more on whether or not they feel their input was incorporated. Analyzing some recent efforts, both from

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the point of view of planners and of participants, could provide material for case studies and guidance.

To **mitigate and manage conflict** when it occurs, one planner strongly recommended a session that occurred at the 2012 American Planning Association (APA) National Conference on finding neutral language to talk about planning issues. The APA developed a series of webinars and resources on this topic during the past year in reaction to “Agenda 21” confrontations.

With regard to **web-based communication tools**, survey respondents expressed both interest and caution. Of 48 respondents who answered a question on building a web-based communication tool, only 14 said their needs were covered or it was not a major priority, leaving 34 respondents (71%) with some type of interest. However, it is unclear that a web-based communication tool alone will improve upon the trend toward polarized and less productive public conversation about planning. As one respondent wrote, “Assistance would be helpful in engaging citizens that are often drowned out in the public arena. We have found internet feedback tends to be dominated by a few very vocal individuals, and would prefer to open a more direct channel of dialogue.”

Sustainability

Planners in Rhode Island see a need to address environmental sustainability in their communities. Of 56 people who responded to the survey’s question about priorities among general topics for assistance (Figure 1), only 2 reported that assistance on sustainability, greening, and energy efficiency was not a priority or not applicable and 45 respondents (71%) called it a medium or high priority. These terms have flexible definitions; most planners who used them were referencing **renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate change adaptation**.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy was a top-requested area for assistance and capacity building in the survey and in the interviews. Seventy-five percent of respondents desired some type of assistance with writing a renewable energy ordinance. Among all respondents, 38% expressed interest in training on this topic, 27% in direct assistance, and 33% in written resources. Many interviewees requested **assistance in conjunction with the state’s guidance on local renewable energy siting**, particularly aimed at boards, councils, and the public. Some suggested that the “travelling road show” model used by DEM to educate professionals and the public about low-impact development (LID) guidelines would help cities and towns apply the state’s guidance effectively. Some expressed that educating boards, commissions, the public, and decision-

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makers about renewables siting might moderate some of the local controversy. Others simply wanted more resources on **responsible siting of renewables, including wind and solar**.

Energy Efficiency

The new comprehensive plan statute requires cities and towns to incorporate energy production and consumption into comprehensive plans. Over half of survey respondents expressed interest in assistance with analyzing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency; 17% noted interest in training, 25% in direct assistance, and 25% in written resources. Many survey respondents listed energy efficiency as write-ins for top overall priorities. Interviewees requested more information about the **energy requirements of the new comp plan law**, wanting to know **what measures to use and what goals cities, towns, and the state should seek to achieve**. Some towns have volunteer boards that work on energy issues, so training might be directed toward these citizen planners. Planners describe a need for objective and specific resources on energy, given the wealth of information available and the need to cut through green marketing or “green-washing.” Two interviewees wanted additional resources on **energy efficiency and historic preservation**, with an emphasis on the technical options and their benefits and drawbacks.

Climate Change Adaptation

Like energy, climate change adaptation has garnered the attention of Rhode Island planners in part because of the new requirement to address natural hazards in the comprehensive plan. Without a lot of experience in this area, some planners were unsure what kind of direction they would take, and thus what kind of assistance they might need. Some planners would like **guidance on the best ways to incorporate hazards like sea level rise, river flooding, and temperature increases into their comprehensive plans**. Assistance with using **data on sea level rise** to craft adaptation strategies would also be helpful. Planners also requested **examples of excellent adaptation plans** or strategies from cities and towns comparable in size and context.

Development

Several planners suggested that their boards and planning departments would benefit from a **greater capacity to negotiate with developers**. Learning to see a project from the perspective of developers’ interests would help boards learn how to leverage investments in return for the meeting developers’ priority needs, such as accommodating developers’ timelines in the review

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process. Others felt that their planning and zoning boards should learn how to communicate and request the cost of providing services to new development or “learn how to say no.” Planners were full of examples of good and bad agreements with developers in the state, so a case study approach might be beneficial.

This topic – the cost of providing services to development broadly – arose repeatedly in interviews, in part because Christopher Leinberger discussed the fiscal impacts of smart growth and sprawl during his keynote address at GrowSmart’s 2012 Power of Place Conference. Several planners were interested in a **resource on the cost of providing services to developments zoned in different ways**, citing the opportunity to make smart zoning decisions, justifying acquisitions, and negotiate with developers. One planner pointed to a Massachusetts report on this topic, *The Fiscal Impact of New Housing Development in Massachusetts* (<http://www.massbenchmarks.org/publications/studies/pdf/housingdev03.pdf>).

High quality, tailored materials on **form-based codes** and the merits of form-based codes versus historic district designation for historic preservation would be a useful resource to some planners. A multitude of resources on form-based codes exist online and on paper, but with so much information out there, it would be helpful to have a synthesized resource, and one that was tailored to communities in Rhode Island.

Water

While over half of survey respondents (54%) reported that their need for assessing water resources for future growth were covered, other respondents ranked this assessment as a top priority for assistance, including respondents from all types of cities and towns (urban, suburban, rural) and statewide agencies. Multiple respondents wrote about a need for **analysis of water resources with respect to future development** in their communities.

Several survey respondents and interviewees made comments that pointed at the need to better **translate the science and engineering of water issues into usable information for planners**. For example, one planner requested assistance that would enhance his understanding of flow measurement (million gallons per day) and transmissivity. Another highlighted a need for assistance with drawing conclusions from water data: while studies make maximum yield and current usage known, drawing conclusions about the limits of development from that data requires additional resources. Others wanted assistance with more **administrative aspects of water supply and management**, such as help with financing water infrastructure, coordinating water service districts, and assessing the feasibility of a stormwater utility district.

Image Database

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Several planners and one consultant expressed that an **online “library” or database of planning-relevant images** would be extremely helpful. Often individual planners spend significant amounts of time hunting down online images to complement their plans or documents. A collection of those images in one place would save planners significant time. Consulting planners also regularly search for appropriate images, and an online resource would save consultants’ time and towns’ consulting budgets. These images could also convey planning information to the public in workshops and meetings, and they could provide a basis for visual preference surveys, mentioned by two interviewees. Desired subjects of the images include:

- Different levels of density
- Different types of “growth centers”
- Affordable housing
- Signage
- Landscaping and streetscaping
- Street furniture and pedestrian amenities
- Desired outcomes of form-based codes
- Illustrated definitions, such as different roof types

These images could both come from Rhode Island and from out of state. An interviewee suggested a good example of an image library, Dan Burden’s pedestrian and bicycle image database (<http://www.pedbikeimages.org/>). The image database might be something as simple as a public Flickr account, developed and updated on a semi-regular basis by Statewide Planning staff (or an intern), with a link on the Statewide Planning database.

Model Ordinances/Plans

In several different contexts, planners requested model ordinances. Some wanted a more **central resource of Rhode Island city and town ordinances**, such as the zoning ordinances that are available on DiPrete Engineering’s website (<http://www.diprete-eng.com/citytowninfo/>). Another planner mentioned that an update of Technical Paper 148, *Inventory of Local Zoning Ordinances and Land Development Regulations* (available at <http://www.planning.ri.gov/landuse/pdf/final%20148.pdf>) would be helpful. Most people who suggested this resource wanted some type of direction toward high quality ordinances or plans, either through an awards program by the state to recognize excellent plans or ordinances, or simply some **suggestions of good examples** to consider. One planner proposed an ordinance resource like the smart growth toolbox that would provide examples in a centralized place. Apart from the idea of a central resource, many planners reported that model ordinances are a highly effective format for assistance in any context.

State Law/State Guide Plan

Many planners and state agency staff would like resources and training about relevant state law and the state guide plan. These requests fall into two topical categories – **basics of Rhode Island planning law and procedure** and **resources on the state guide plan**. Nearly three-quarters of survey respondents described assistance on land use and planning law a medium or high priority, and some planners said their work would benefit if their boards had greater understanding of relevant state law. One interviewee gave examples of questions that this training might answer: “Why do we need to plan for affordable housing? How do the state’s zoning and comp planning requirements work?”

While acknowledging that the GrowSmart Land Use Collaborative has done significant work to train volunteer boards, planners acknowledged the difficulty in getting planning board members to attend. The Land Use Collaborative might explore training formats that could reach broader audiences, such as webinars or train-the-trainer. Other planners expressed that their boards had a high level of capacity with regard to planning basics, and that they would not need additional training.

Planners wished for greater training and written resources on the individual plans which comprise the State Guide Plan, both for planning boards and planning staff. Given the length of the State Guide Plan, there was a desire that the state synthesize and clearly identify the information most relevant to municipalities. Forty-one percent of survey respondents were interested in written **resources on integrating new guide plans and guide plan amendments into comprehensive plans**. One planner suggested that Statewide Planning staff might be available to present state guide plan elements and other mechanics of planning in Rhode Island to planning boards and citizens during the local comprehensive planning process.

Mapping and GIS

Many survey respondents mentioned mapping and GIS assistance, but it seems that **needs are divergent** in this area. (GIS and mapping scored fairly high on Survey Question #5, which asked respondents about tools and techniques (Figure 2); however, among all of the specific activities for assistance (Figure 3), GIS and mapping activities do not emerge as a shared priority.) Many municipalities struggle to keep up with expensive ESRI software updates, so different communities are in vastly different positions with regard to GIS capacities. A few planners would like basic GIS skills and a few were unsure what GIS capacities the state has. Many communities have parcel-based GIS layers, but a small number do not, highlighted by 23% of survey respondents who expressed interest in direct assistance with developing them.

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One state agency staff respondent suggested that the state could help facilitate improved information sharing among an expansive group of agencies that develop and use GIS layers. Several interviewees were interested in learning more about the templates that the state is developing for comprehensive plans. Interest in mapping water resources with respect to future development is discussed above in “Water.”

Data

Most planners are interested in accessing and using a greater number of datasets than they currently do, regardless of whether their data analysis skills are basic or advanced. The most basic challenge is finding data at the municipal level. Many planners reported that they would save significant amounts of time (or money on consultants) if data were more readily available. **A webpage that links to the datasets useful for comprehensive planning** would save planners a significant amount of time. Several planners suggested some type of clearinghouse that would link users to the most recent data, without requiring Statewide Planning to post the data itself.

Seventy percent of survey respondents called assistance with Census data analysis a medium or high priority, and almost all interviewees bemoaned the difficulty of using American FactFinder, the Census’ website for general data users. However, Census data is not the only quantitative information that planners would like. As with other types of assistance, the local economy is the number one priority for data needs. Planners would like updated economic data, available and accessible at the municipal level, and centrally located somewhere on the state’s website. Datasets desired by interviewees include:

- Economic: Jobs (quality and wages), employers, firms, firms that are new, expanding or relocating, resources to conduct market analyses, resources to conduct an economic base study (i.e. calculating location quotients)
- Climate change: Flooding, sea level rise
- Housing: CHAS (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) data / data on low- and moderate- income Census tracts
- Historic buildings
- Energy: what measures to use?
- Corrections: Number of people released from prison relocating in municipality
- Social services: Number of people served by Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) or the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)
- Transportation: Traffic counts, accident counts
- Population projections: Cohorts/makeup of demographic change
- Water supply and availability data

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- Development: where are growth areas, and what is happening in them? Data on cost of providing services to different land use types
- Demographic: Births and deaths, in/out migration data. One planner suggested that the state look at 5-year Census updates, since population estimates are not universally trusted and ACS margin of error is so high. Planners often delay major planning activities until new Decennial Census data comes out.
- Education: RIDE data
- Land use inventory

Some interviewees also discussed applications and contexts for data. Planning data trends change over time, and an ongoing discussion about indicators and their meaning in context would benefit planners, reflected in part by the 75% of survey respondents who were interested in sustainability or quality of life indicators. A few planners thought it would be helpful to have data and resources that would help turn inventories into goals – for example, finding the ratio of young children to parks and comparing it with other cities and towns. For economic analysis, beyond the number of jobs or firms, planners want to know more qualitative information about the quality of jobs, the kinds of businesses in their municipalities, and their reasons for opening, relocating, expanding, or closing down. Guidance on collecting and using such data might go along with guidance on conducting a market study, as described in the Economic Development section.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning

Many survey respondents expressed interest in assistance with developing bicycle and pedestrian plans and infrastructure in their communities, although no interviewees went into depth on this topic. Of all the specific planning activities, **“developing local pedestrian or bicycle network” received the largest share of respondents who are interested in direct assistance, 43%** (see Figure 3). Six respondents wrote it in as a top priority for assistance.

Policy/Performance Metrics & Sustainability/Quality of Life Indicators

Like pedestrian or bicycle networks, policy/program performance metrics and sustainability/quality of life indicators received high rankings in the survey, but were not mentioned by interviewees. For developing and implementing policy/program performance measures, 84% of respondents expressed interest in some type of assistance, and over half of survey-takers were interested in training on this topic. For sustainability or quality of life indicators, 75% of respondents were interested, with 44% interested in training and 40% interested in written guidance. There may be opportunities to provide resources on this topic to

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municipalities in conjunction with the development of statewide sustainable development indicators through the Sustainable Communities grant.

Food/Agriculture

Several planners mentioned food and agriculture as topics for assistance. Some wanted model ordinances or guidance on specific issues, such as livestock, urban/suburban agriculture, chickens in the backyard, and food trucks. One survey respondent said that he would like to create a “local food strategy” as a new planning activity if he had greater technical or training resources; this desire is consistent with the state’s recent initiative to promote health as a theme to be incorporated into comprehensive plans.

State Agency Priorities

State agency staff have assistance needs that are distinct from municipal planners. Thirteen survey state, quasi-state, or federal employees (who will collectively be referred to as “state agency” staff) responded to the survey (none were interviewed). Generally, state agency respondents ranked their interest in assistance topics and activities lower than other respondents. Many identified needs for assistance that were quite specific to activities that are of lesser relevancy to municipal planners.

However, several were interested in skills that might be applied in municipal planning offices as well as in agencies with other missions, like developing and implementing policy/performance measures and developing and tracking quality of life/sustainability indicators (6 of 9 state agency respondents were interested in training on each of these topics), and Census data analysis (8 of 10 state agency respondents ranked it as a medium priority). Nine of ten respondents ranked GIS and mapping as a high or medium priority for assistance, and seven of ten ranked sustainability, greening, and energy efficiency as such. Six of 9 respondents reported interest in some type of assistance with engaging marginalized communities.

A few topics requested by state agency staff directly relate to shared planning activities. Half the state agency respondents were interested in training on how to incorporate State Guide Plan amendments into local comprehensive plans, suggesting that a shared training might make the comprehensive plan development and review process easier. One state agency respondent had this interesting comment: “We would like to do a better job at providing the Division of Planning and municipalities with feedback and guidance on their local plans during the review process. To do this we would need the expertise of someone with a planning background who can help us identify strengths and areas for improvement based on our agencies goals. Some

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"consulting" time for technical assistance would be helpful." State agencies were also interested in taking part in the proposed statewide digital permitting program.

Other

A few other suggestions that Statewide Planning might consider for assistance:

- A grant handbook that would list granting agencies and deadlines
- A list of partners or non-profits that local governments might consider partnering with

V. FORMAT AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY

Providing Effective Assistance

Survey respondents and interviewees discussed format, timing, and other characteristics of assistance that contribute to its effectiveness. Respondents expressed a variety of preferences for format; some prefer in-person trainings, others wanted webinars or written resources, and still others thought topic-specific direct assistance would be most effective. For topics that are high priorities for capacity building, it is likely that a mix of formats and approaches will be most effective.

In general, many requested a **systematic approach** to capacity building, such as regular scheduled offerings. Many individuals also expressed a desire for an **organized approach to communicating about offerings**, such as a website that would link local planners to relevant resources and individuals. Statewide Planning staff received compliments for their assistance; some planners requested that this assistance become more formalized and take less of an ad hoc approach.

One planning consultant recommended exploring the capacity building and support work of the Cape Cod Commission (<http://www.capecodcommission.org/>), which has statutory authority over regional planning, like Rhode Island's planning program, and offers technical assistance to municipalities. The Cape Cod Commission provides at least two capacity building services that Rhode Island might consider: (1) written guidance on regulation and compliance through technical bulletins (available at <http://www.capecodcommission.org/index.php?id=62&a=type&cat=Technical%20Bulletins>) and (2) on-the-ground analytical and graphic support to municipalities in public meetings and

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behind the scenes. Relating to the latter capacity, a few interviewees asked whether Statewide Planning staff would be willing to attend planning board meetings, to support the authority of the planner or the merits of a project or concept.

Communication Considerations

Many respondents replied that improved communications would enhance whatever capacity building and technical assistance is available. Several municipal respondents requested better outreach about technical assistance and training opportunities, and one suggested a list of the kinds of assistance that Statewide Planning can provide on request (e.g. assistance with comprehensive planning issues, data services, mapping assistance, etc.). One requested more regular contact between Statewide Planning and municipal planning staff, suggesting a regular check-in in which state planners could help municipal planners locate assistance and solve problems if they need. Other planners simply requested improved communication about planning activities in the state (Jeff Davis at Statewide Planning has been piloting a planners' listserv that serve as a communication venue among planners in Rhode Island, based on a successful model in Massachusetts). Planners wanted additional updates about pending legislation and changes at the state level, such as the status of the development of a statewide digital permitting system. Finally, state agency respondents also suggested improved communication about any assistance that might be available to agencies with planning and research functions, suggesting training that focuses on general principles of planning.

Training

Respondents suggested that effective trainings:

- **Offer high-quality, relevant take-home resources.** Several respondents requested templates or models for consideration. These materials help the attendee implement the ideas offered at the training, and they are used to pass along these ideas to those who could not attend. Respondents requested that these materials be easily copied, be available in PDF, and have AICP CM credits attached.
- **Include real life examples, success stories, and case studies.**
- **Are “as tailored as possible” to specific locale.”**
- **Offer tangible skills** such as data analysis, graphic design, and offer ‘how-to’s on issues of practical importance, such as how to plan and implement a tax-increment financing district.
- **Include hands-on activities where participants gain experience,** and provide planners with the **capacity to take the next steps** toward implementing what they learned. This

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might include connections to funding sources and technical resources or the provision of follow-up assistance.

- **Are led by qualified and experienced individuals.** Respondents requested personnel with ground-proofed, local experience with the topic area, and suggested that training seminars “may be better received if they are led by consultants.”
- **Are scheduled at convenient times and locations.** Availability varies widely between daytime and evening and the importance of holding trainings close to home was stressed. In addition to on-site training, web-based learning for local board and Council members should be considered.

A few respondents had comments on how trainings might be convened. A few respondents recommended a regular schedule, monthly or quarterly at minimum, for training seminars on various topics. Another respondent suggested, “The Department of Planning...could help create a roundtable with municipal planners to eliminate redundancies of effort (and expenditure).” This might be less of a formal training venue than an opportunity to champion and facilitate regional processes.

Some planners also discussed **training for planning boards and other audiences.** Trainings for planning boards should be developed with the wide variety of capacity of these boards in mind. As discussed earlier, GrowSmart’s Land Use Training Collaborative program is seen as useful and effective, but it can be difficult to get board members to attend. For this reason, planners suggested that trainings for board members might be most widely useful if they occur at planning board meetings. Several planners mentioned that they are searching for activities for their planning boards, because development has slowed in recent years. These planners would welcome training sessions hosted at their planning board meetings. Topics for planning board and other volunteer board trainings are discussed more thoroughly by individual topic, but they include wind energy siting, working with developers on public benefits, economic development, environmental sustainability and climate change topics, and the new comprehensive plan requirements. The presentation of State Guide Plan elements or the new comprehensive plan requirements might be scheduled during active comprehensive planning processes in individual towns.

Additional audiences for local trainings might be considered. For example, even given the reach and success of DEM’s LID presentations, one planner explained that the information had not reached many local Departments of Public Works, who must agree to LID road widths (this anecdote references the period before LID became compulsory). State trainers and educators might consider even more broadly the audiences who would benefit from capacity building activities.

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Technical Assistance

Many municipalities understandably wish for greater capacity through consultant or Statewide Planning assistance. Respondents emphasize how overburdened planners are, particularly in smaller municipalities, where research assistance, draft text, or other technical services would go a long way.

Many respondents have found that Statewide Planning has been a useful resource upon request: “Staff are very helpful when we call and ask questions,” and “I would say that our most recent Comp Plan Update went very well with the one-to-one assistance provided by Statewide Planning.” Many would like **Statewide Planning assistance to be available in a formalized way**. Most planners would like Statewide Planning staff (or other state agency staff) to have greater availability to municipalities. One proposed model, mentioned by a few planners, is to assign a state staffperson to a small group of municipalities, which would allow state staff to check in with planners and connect them to resources, and also keep an eye on the pulse of municipal planning in Rhode Island.

Many planners recommended a **topic-specific assistance program**. Several recommended developing the expertise of state staff (or a team of experts) in specific areas so they could provide one-on-one assistance to cities and towns, such as GIS, TIFs, habitat planning, marketing, and renewable energy siting and management. Multiple planners proposed a similar team of staff or other experts who could help cities and towns implement the state’s major planning initiatives like Land Use 2025 and the future Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.

With respect to hiring consultants for technical assistance, many respondents expressed frustration over funding limitations in their budgets. Some suggested that a consultant might be held on retainer to assist multiple towns with the same type of project, achieving an economy of scale. Additionally, multiple survey respondents and interviewees suggested that technical assistance (consultant or state staff) should be offered in conjunction with training, because many municipal planners do not have the capacity to fully implement ideas presented in trainings.

Written/Online Resources

For written and online resources, **up-to-date and specific guidance** is critical, as many available resources are out of date or too general to be useful. Many planners pointed to the wealth of planning guidance literature, suggesting that it would be useful to have synthesized written materials that are applicable to working in Rhode Island. Planners wished for a **regular system of developing or posting** of such resources. One survey respondent suggested “periodic

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newsletters via email with information on relevant issues and examples of resources from other places, either in or out of the state. Posting information to the website is a good resource, too.”

Many planners thought it would be useful to have better access to other towns’ and cities’ plans and ordinances (see “Model Ordinances”). In conjunction with a centralized resource for data and plans, one planner suggested that studies completed by consultants in state could be compiled on a single website. This would allow planners to build on the approach, analysis, findings, and recommendations completed for other places. The development of a central information hub would build on Rhode Island’s small size and help municipalities share resources.

APPENDIX: FULL SURVEY RESULTS

Full survey results include two sections: answer counts and responses to open-ended questions. Results have been edited to preserve anonymity.

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Advancing Equity for a Sustainable and Healthy Rhode Island

Danielle Bergstrom, Program Associate
Amanda M. Navarro, Associate Director
PolicyLink



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The face of America is changing

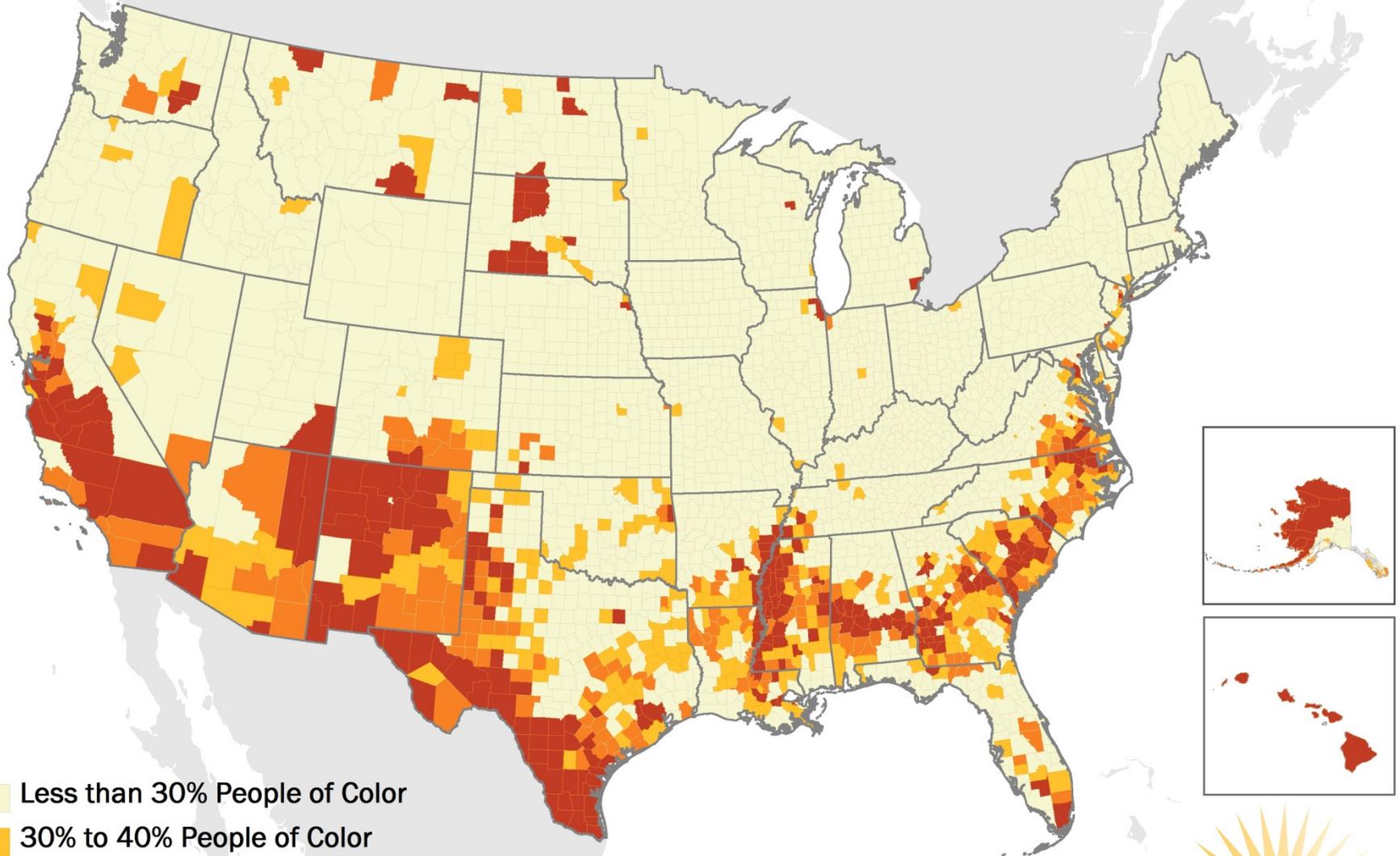
PolicyLink



Courtesy photo

Lifting Up What Works®

2000 Percent People of Color by County



- Less than 30% People of Color
- 30% to 40% People of Color
- 40% to 50% People of Color
- Greater than 50% People of Color

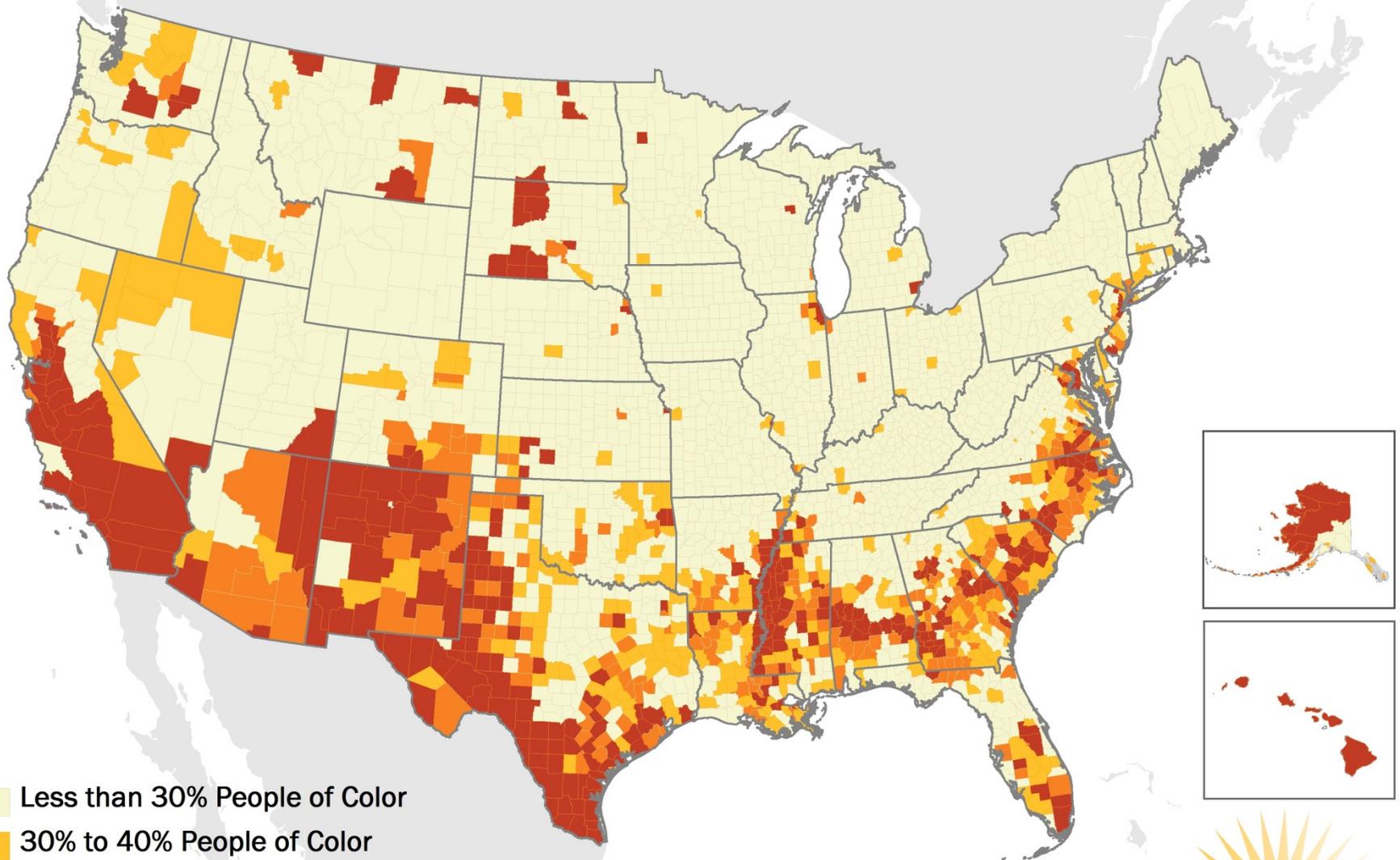
Sources: 2000 Census, Census TIGER/Line, NHGIS, and ESRI.

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2010 Percent People of Color by County



- Less than 30% People of Color
- 30% to 40% People of Color
- 40% to 50% People of Color
- Greater than 50% People of Color

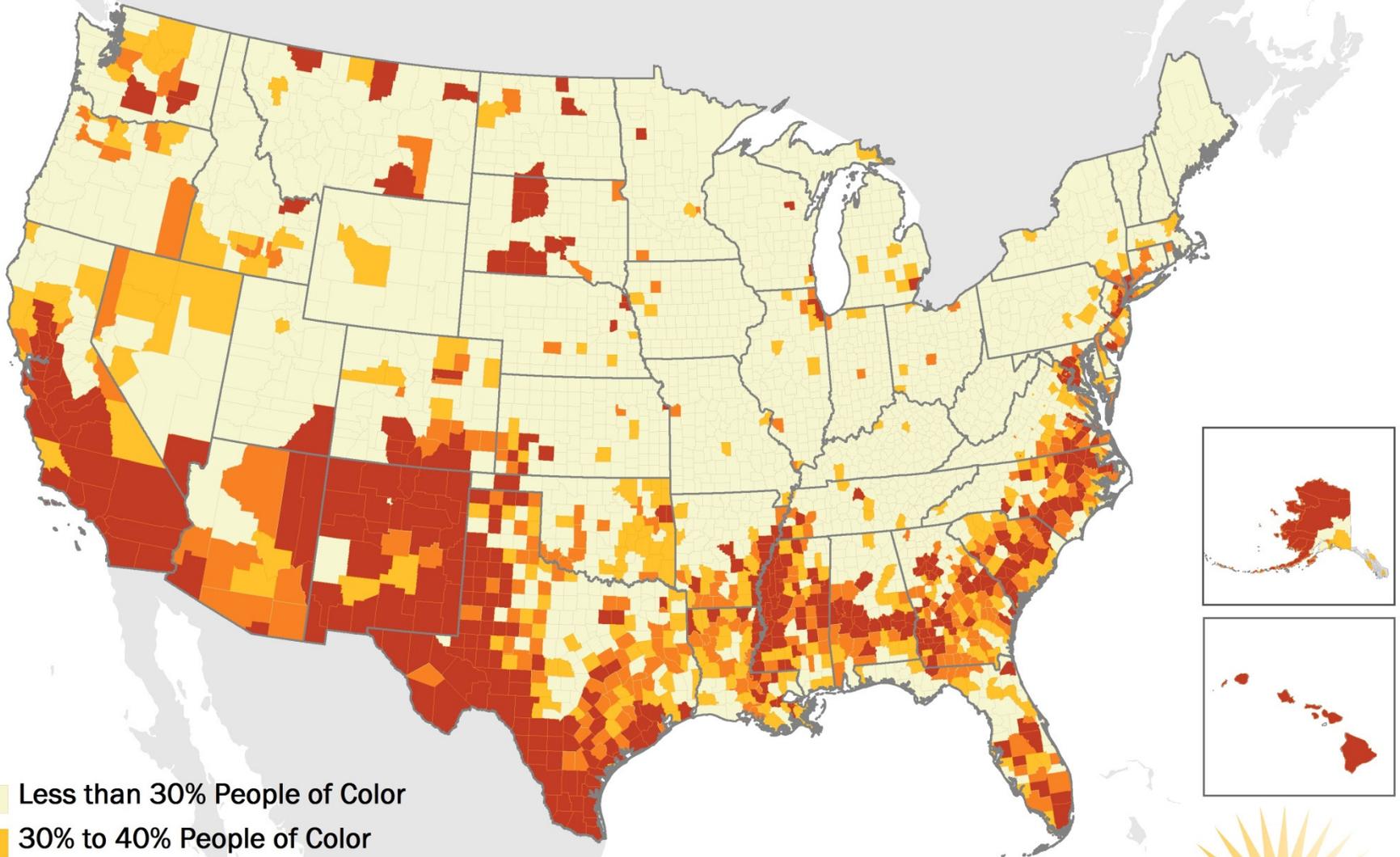
Sources: 2010 Census, Census TIGER/Line, NHGIS, and ESRI.

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2020 Percent People of Color by County



- Less than 30% People of Color
- 30% to 40% People of Color
- 40% to 50% People of Color
- Greater than 50% People of Color

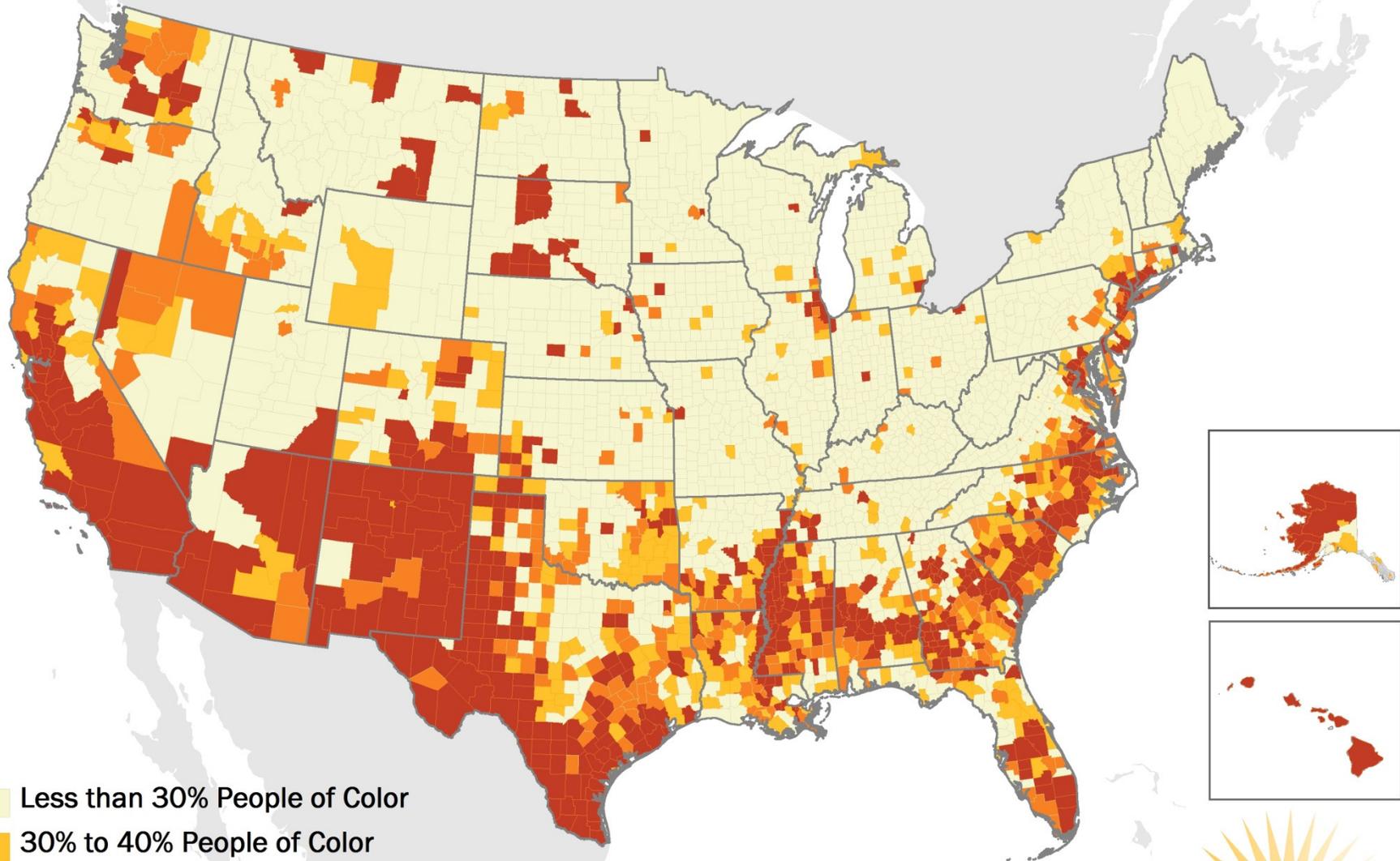
Sources: Woods & Poole Economics projections data (adjusted using the 2010 Census), Census TIGER/Line, NHGIS, and ESRI.

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2030 Percent People of Color by County



- Less than 30% People of Color
- 30% to 40% People of Color
- 40% to 50% People of Color
- Greater than 50% People of Color

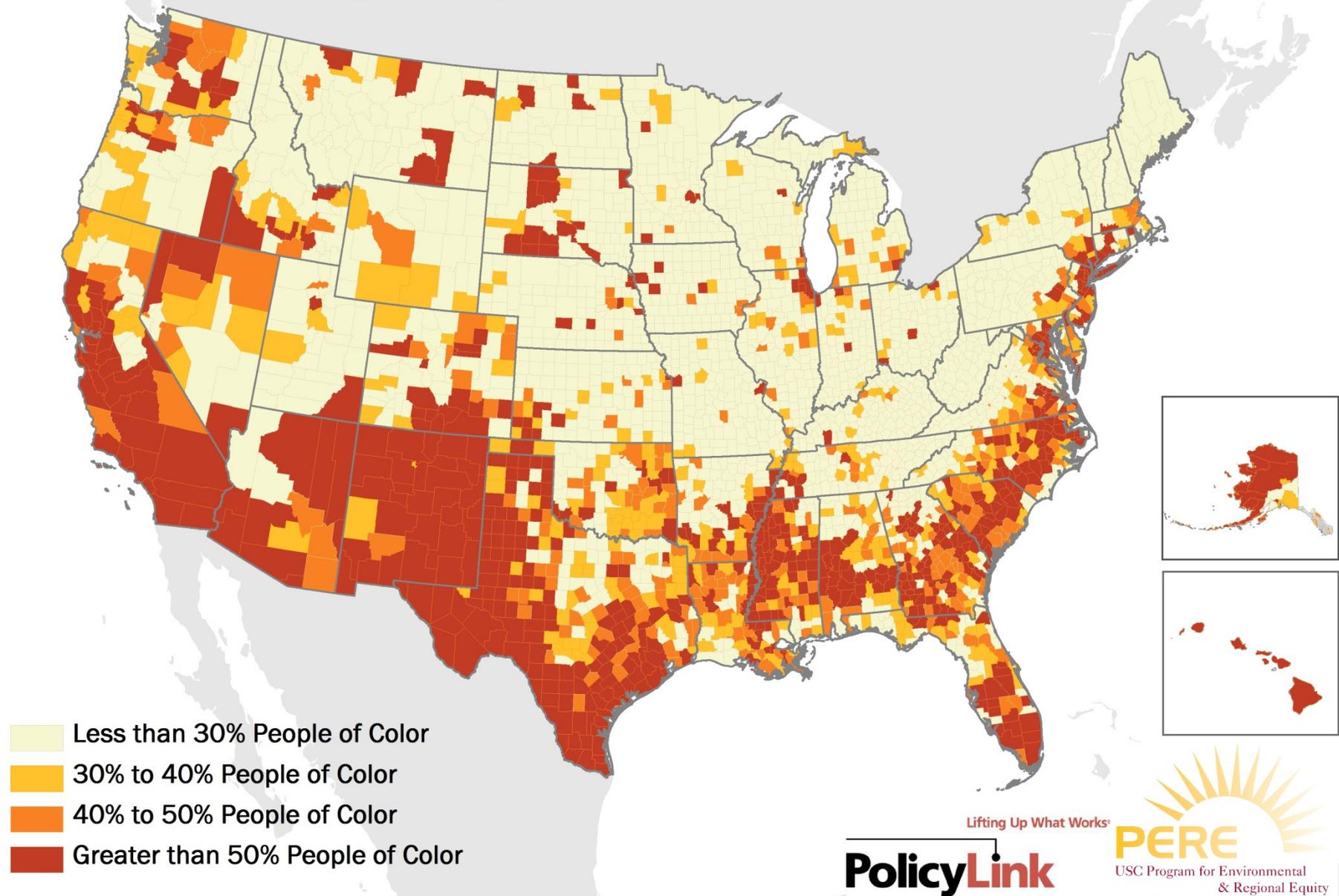
Sources: Woods & Poole Economics projections data (adjusted using the 2010 Census), Census TIGER/Line, NHGIS, and ESRI.

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2040 Percent People of Color by County

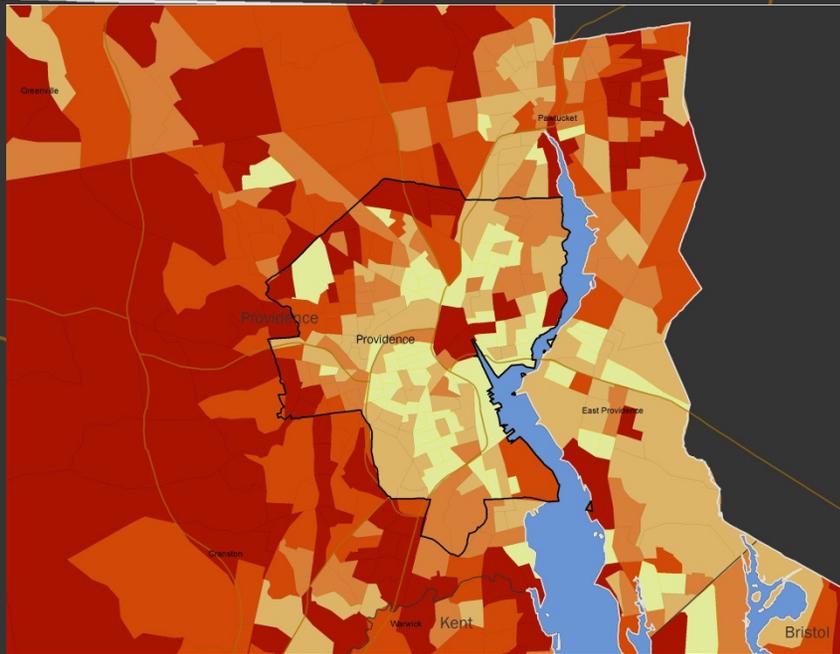


Sources: Woods & Poole Economics projections data (adjusted using the 2010 Census), Census TIGER/Line, NHGIS, and ESRI.

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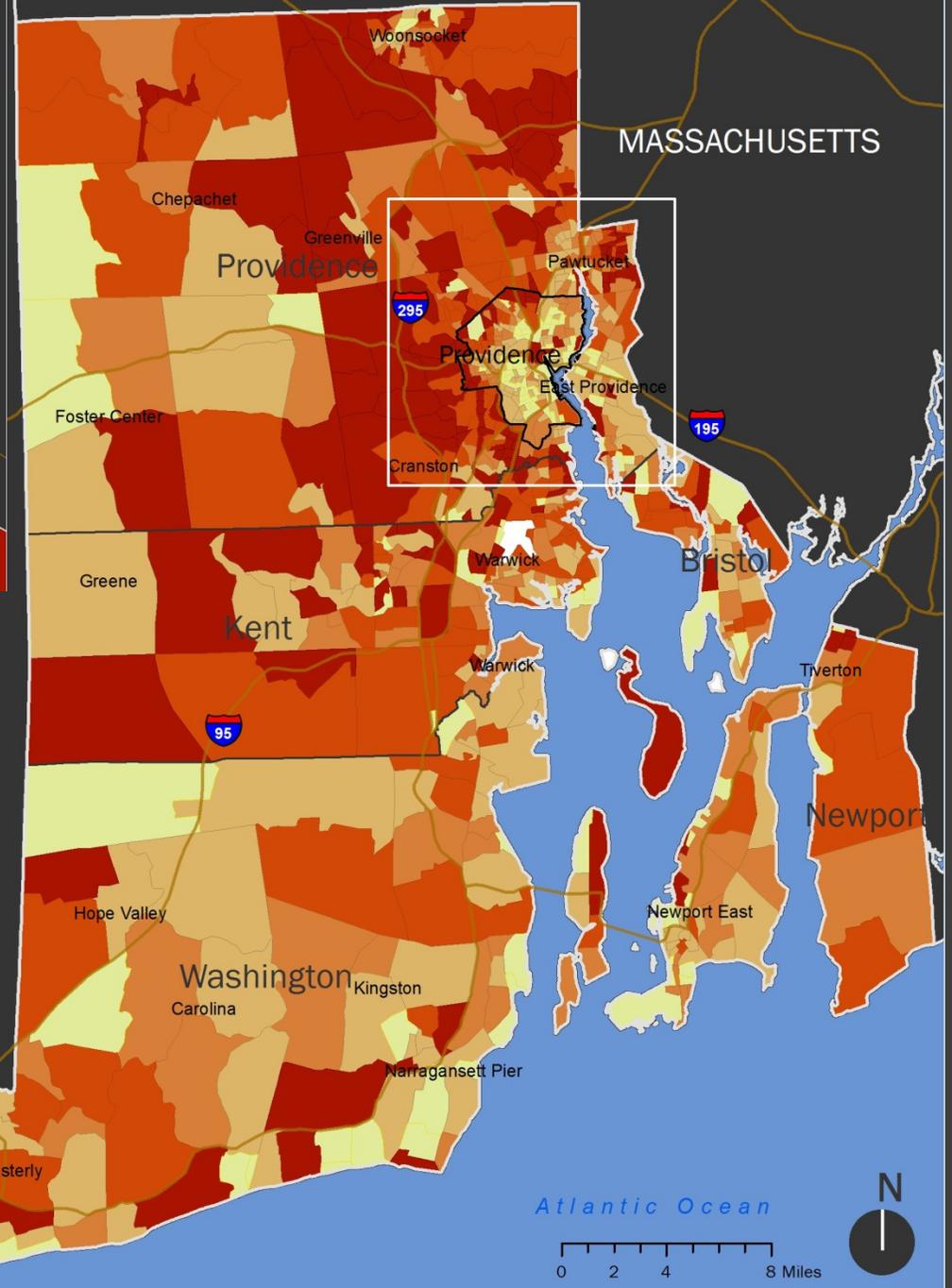
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Percent Change in People of Color
by Census Block Group, 2000 - 2010

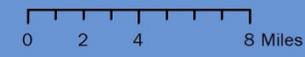
- Decline or no population growth
- Less than 29% increase
- 29% - 55% increase
- 56% - 108% increase
- 109% or more increase

Note: Areas missing data are represented in white.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



CONNECTICUT

Atlantic Ocean



Increasing Diversity in Rhode Island

1980



1990



2010



2020



2030



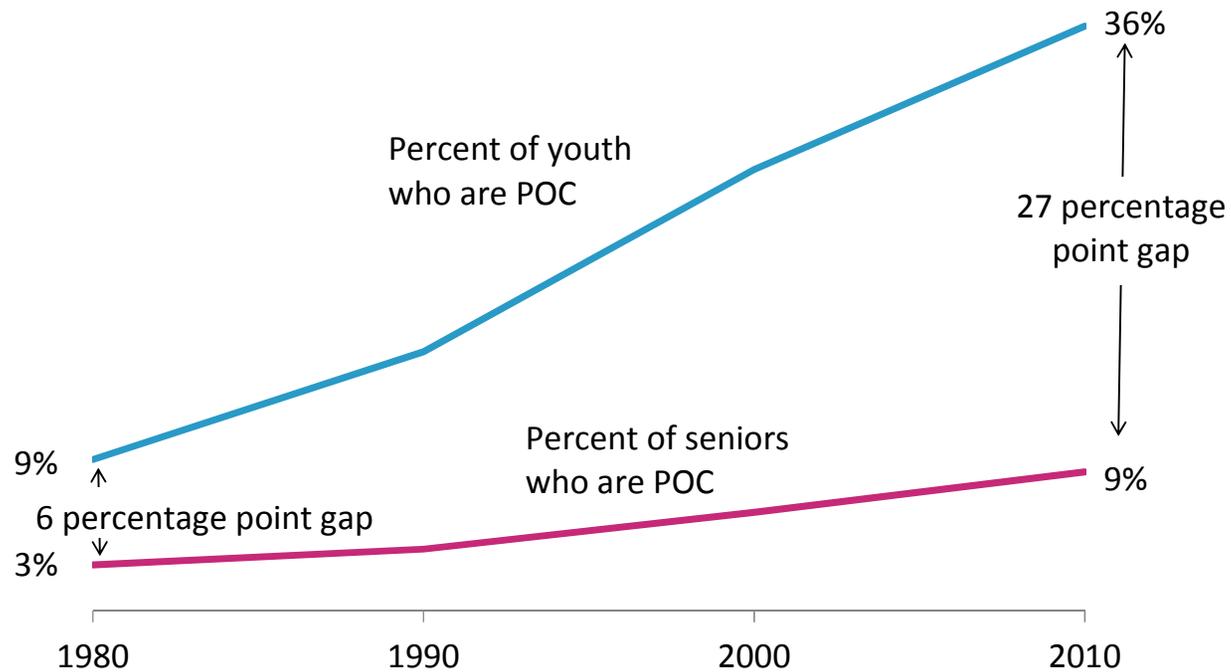
2040



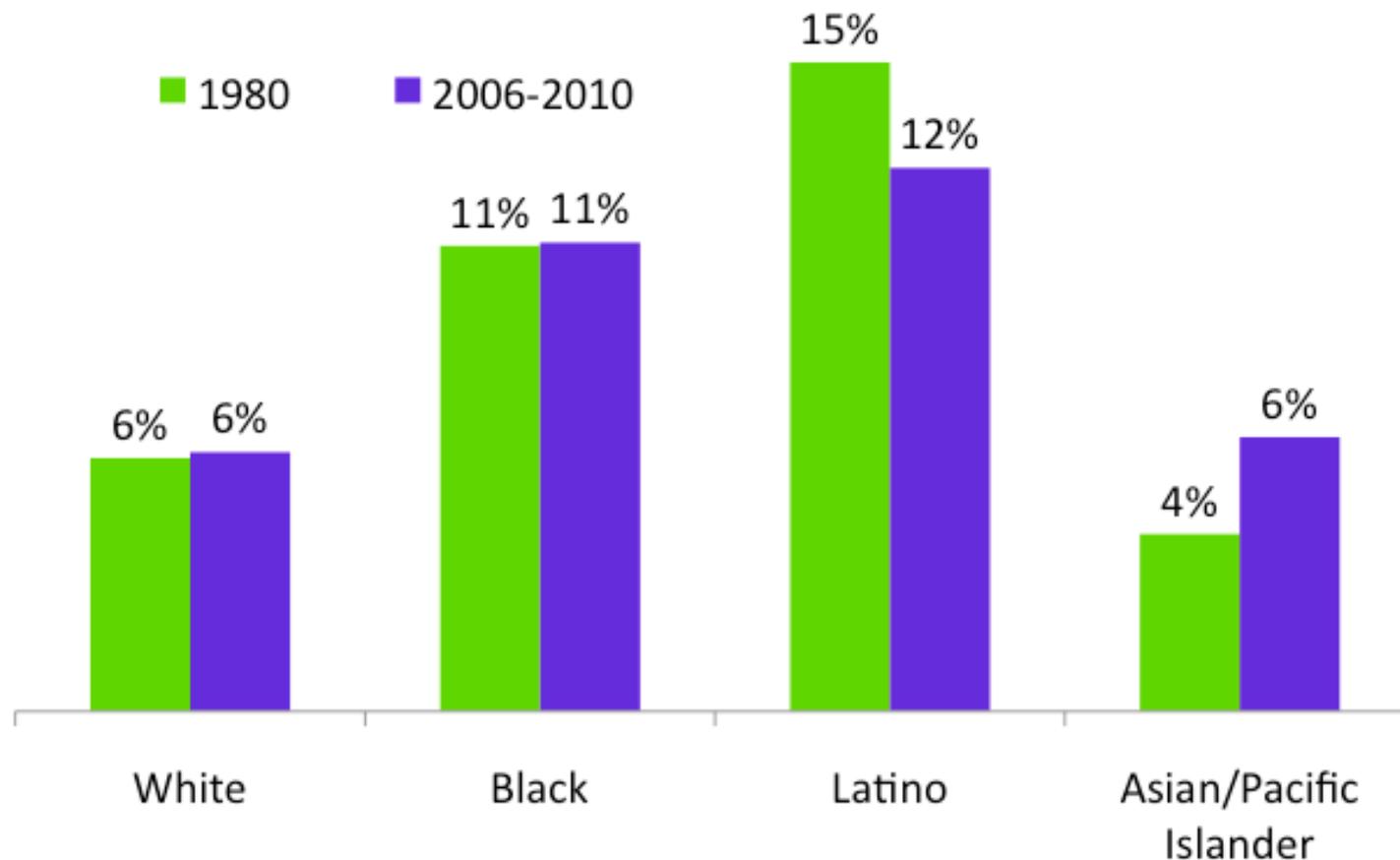
A Growing Racial Generation Gap

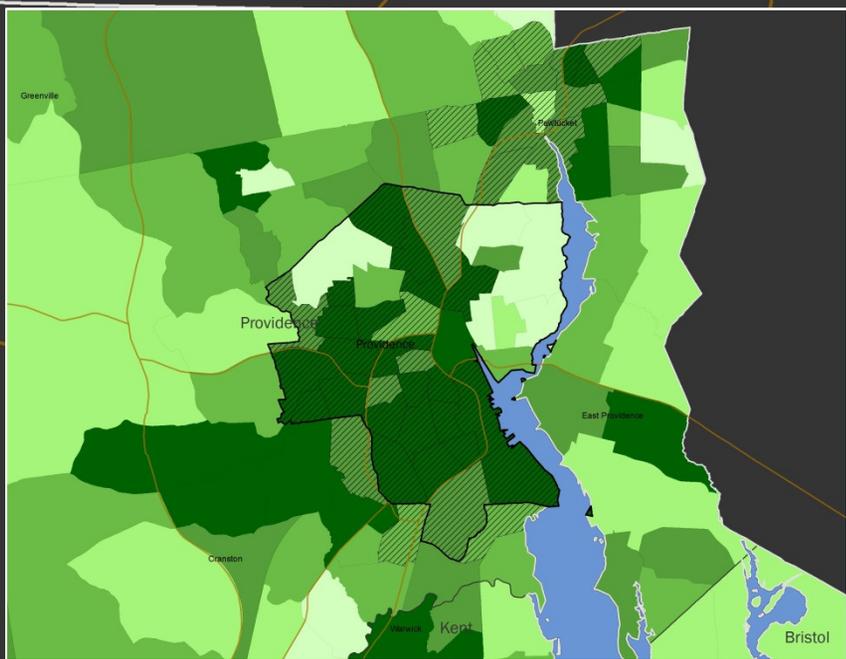
The Youth Population Has Diversified Much More Quickly

Percent People of Color (POC) by Age Group, 1980-2010

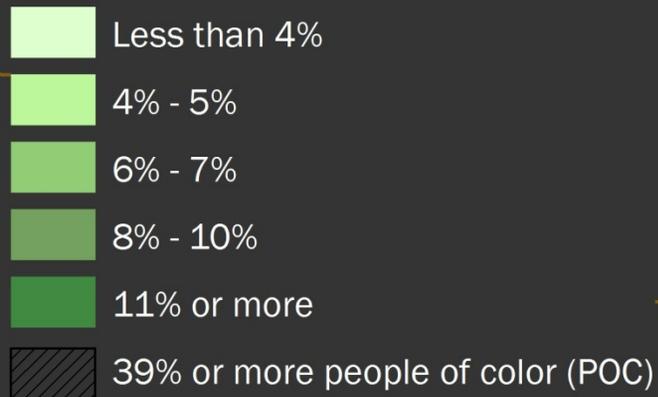


Higher Unemployment for Communities of Color

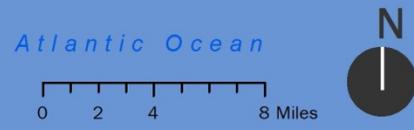
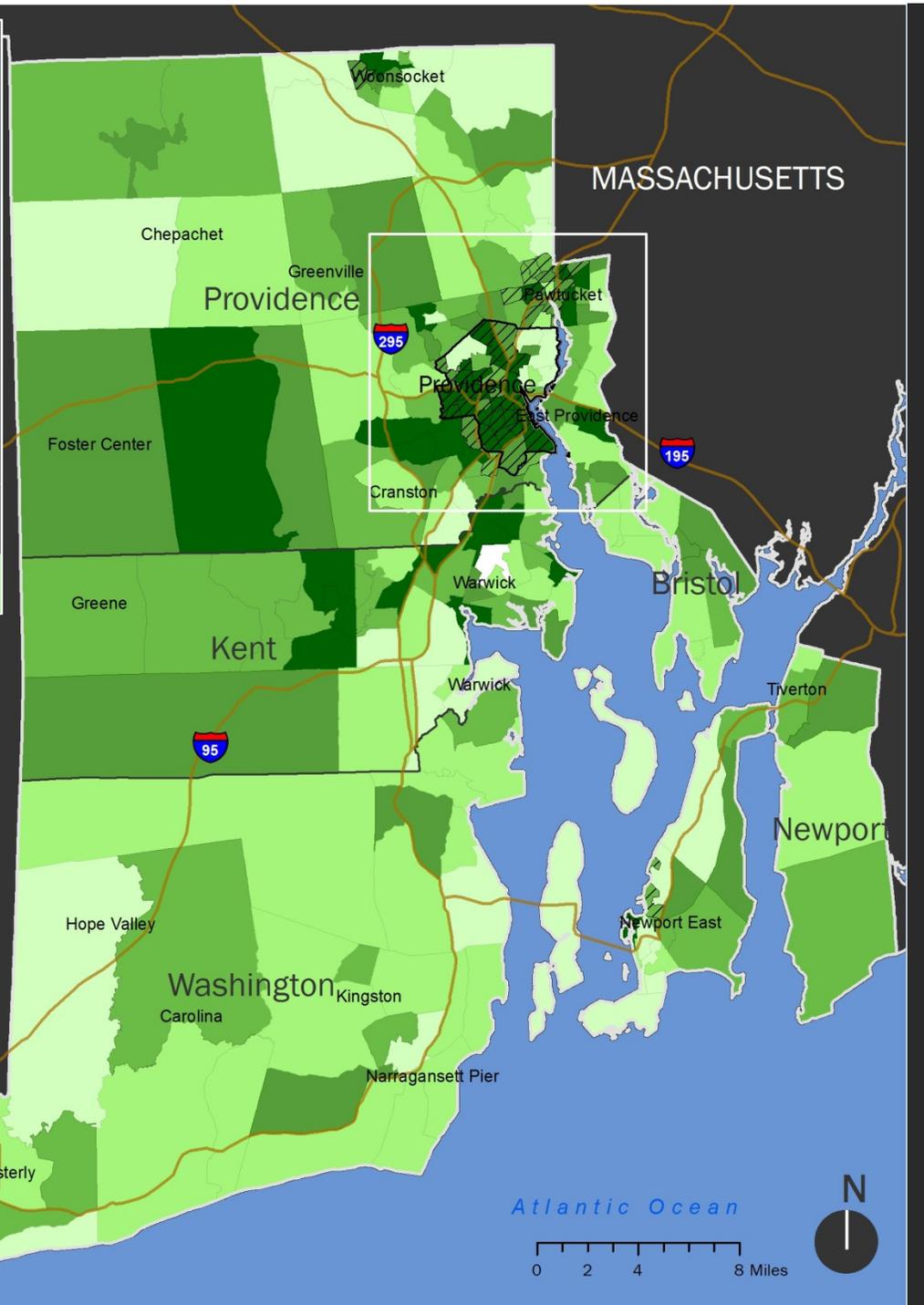




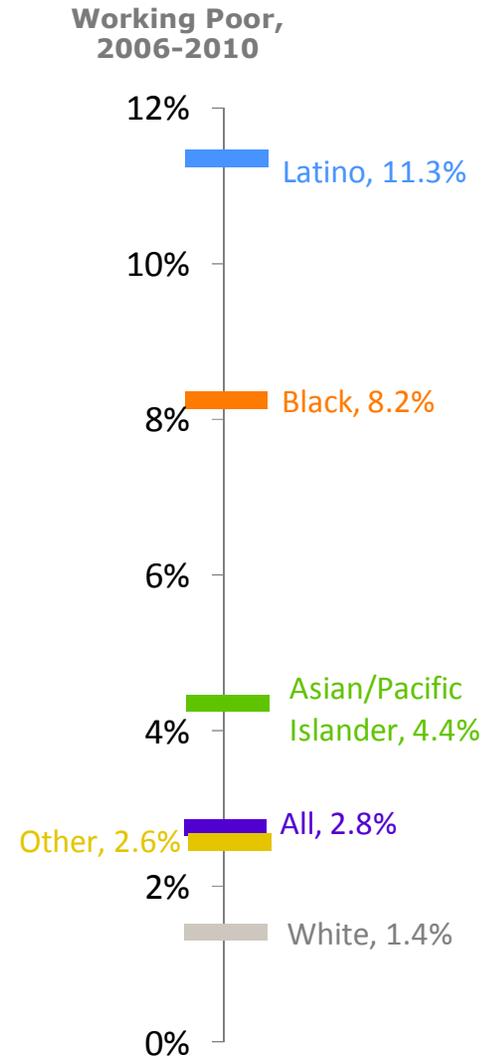
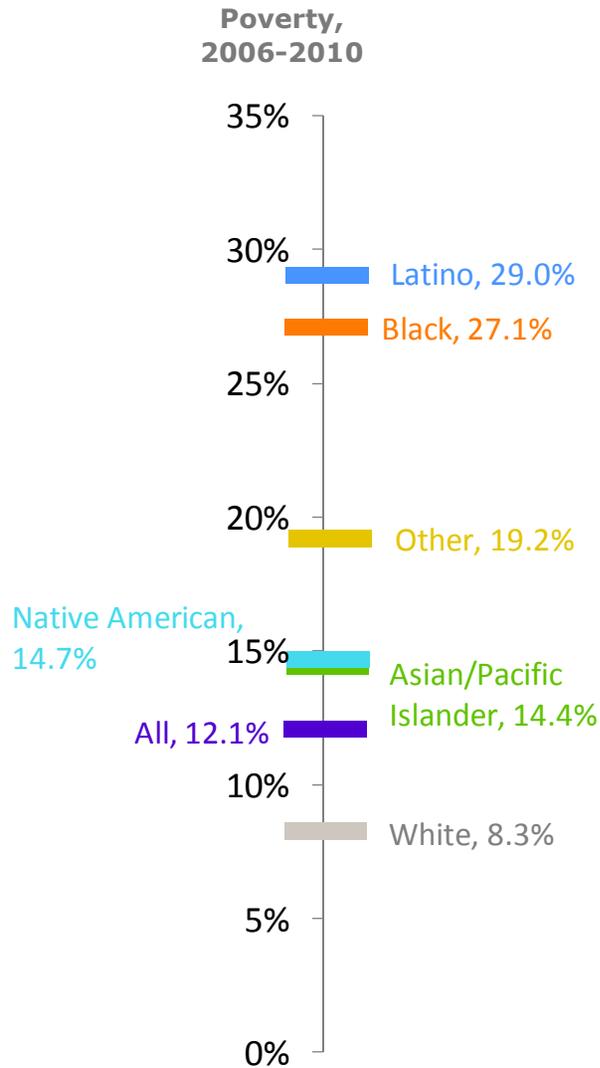
Unemployment Rates and High POC Tracts, 2006 - 2010



Note: Areas missing data are represented in white.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

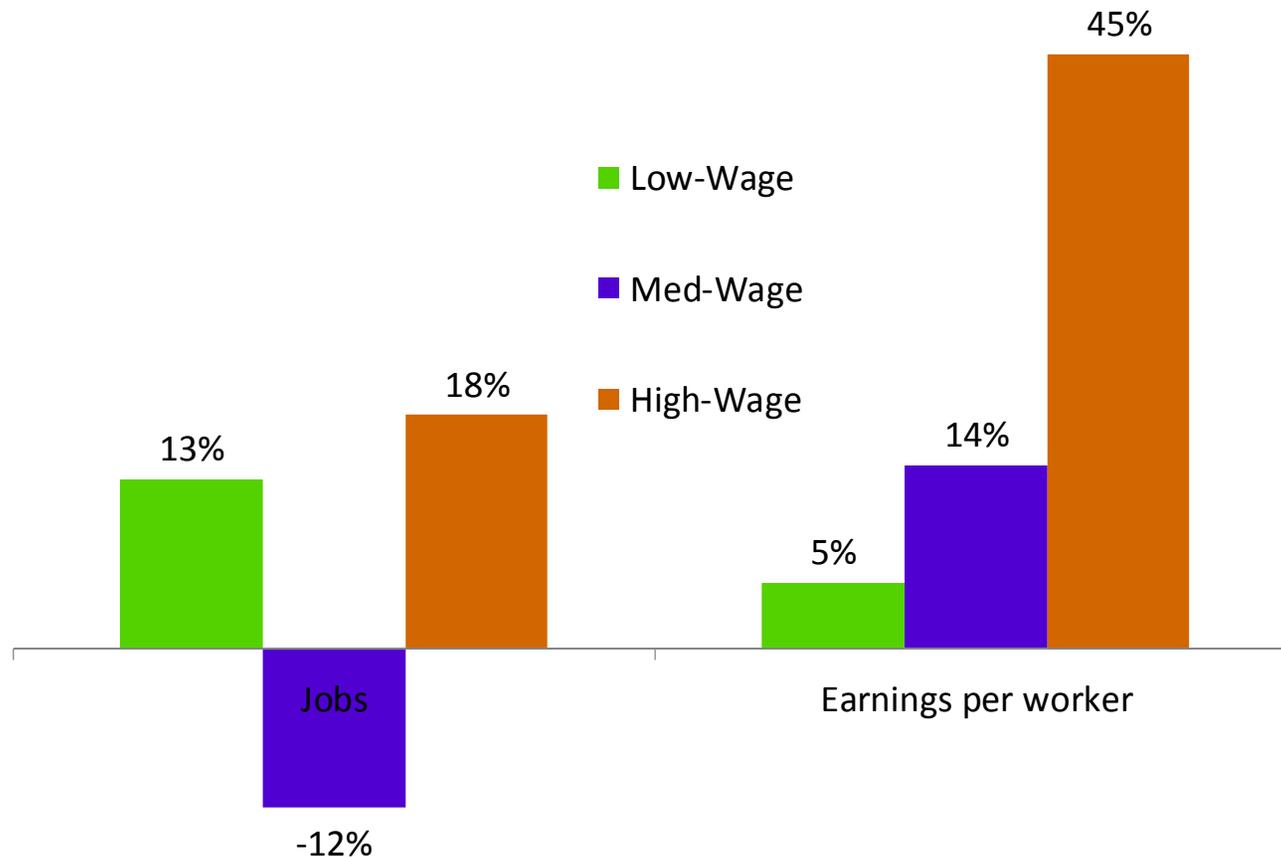


Racial Differences in Poverty and Working Poverty



Growing Low and High-Wage Jobs

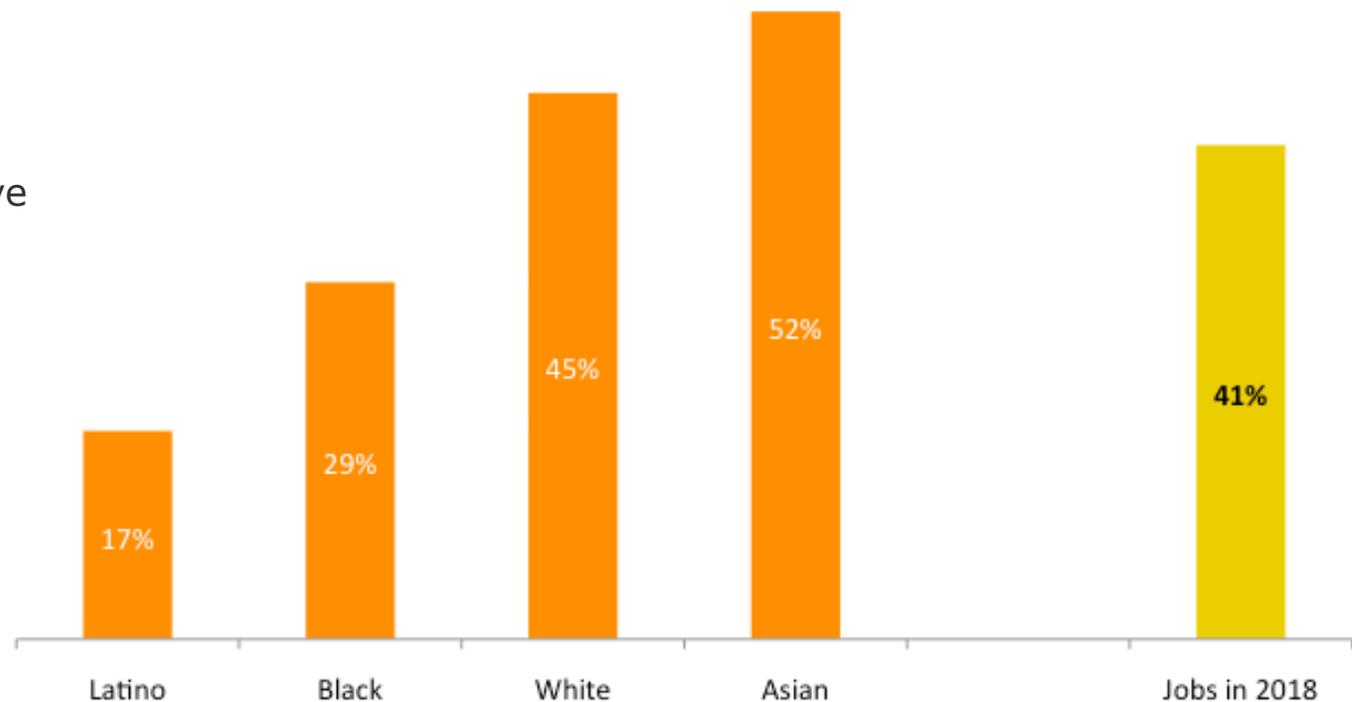
Growth in Jobs and Earnings by Wage Level, 1990-2010



A Growing Education and Skills Gap

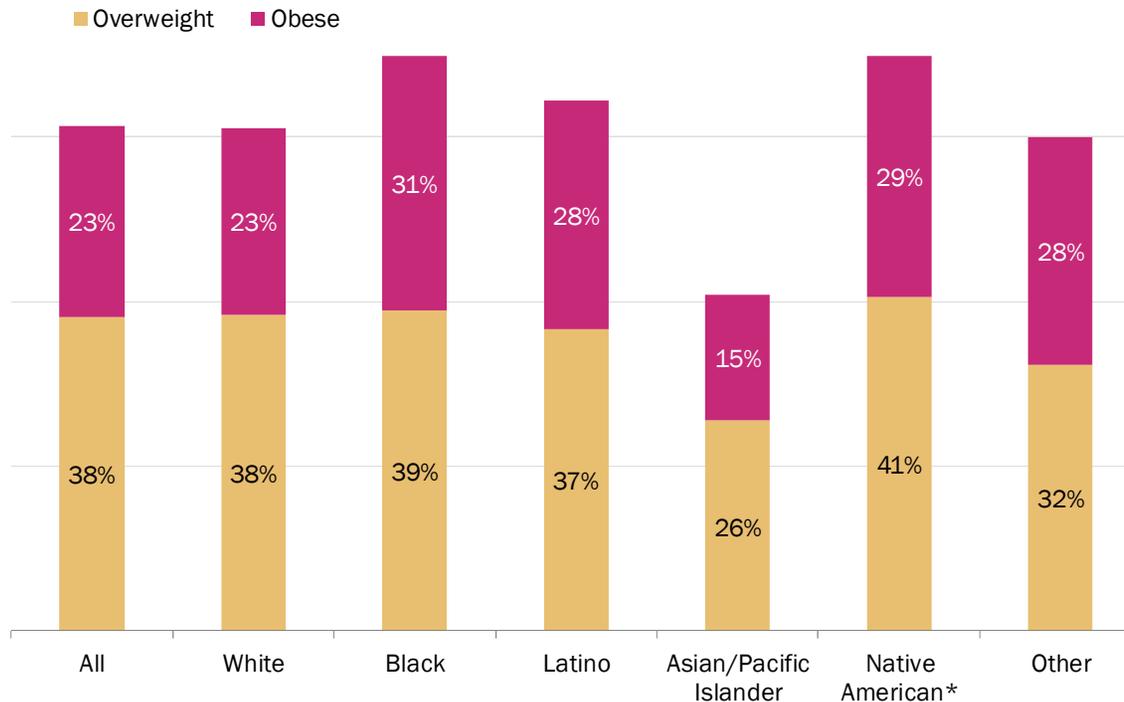
According to the Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce, by 2018 41 percent of Rhode Island's jobs will require an Associate's Degree or above. Yet only 29 percent of African Americans and 17 percent of Latinos have at least that level of education.

Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity, Ages 25-64, 2006-2010



Growing Health Challenges Among Communities of Color

Overweight and Obese by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010



*Estimates for Native Americans are subject to error due to a small sample size (N=49)

#1: Brownsville-Harlingen, TX (75%)

Percent of Adults that are Overweight or Obese: Top 150 Metros Ranked

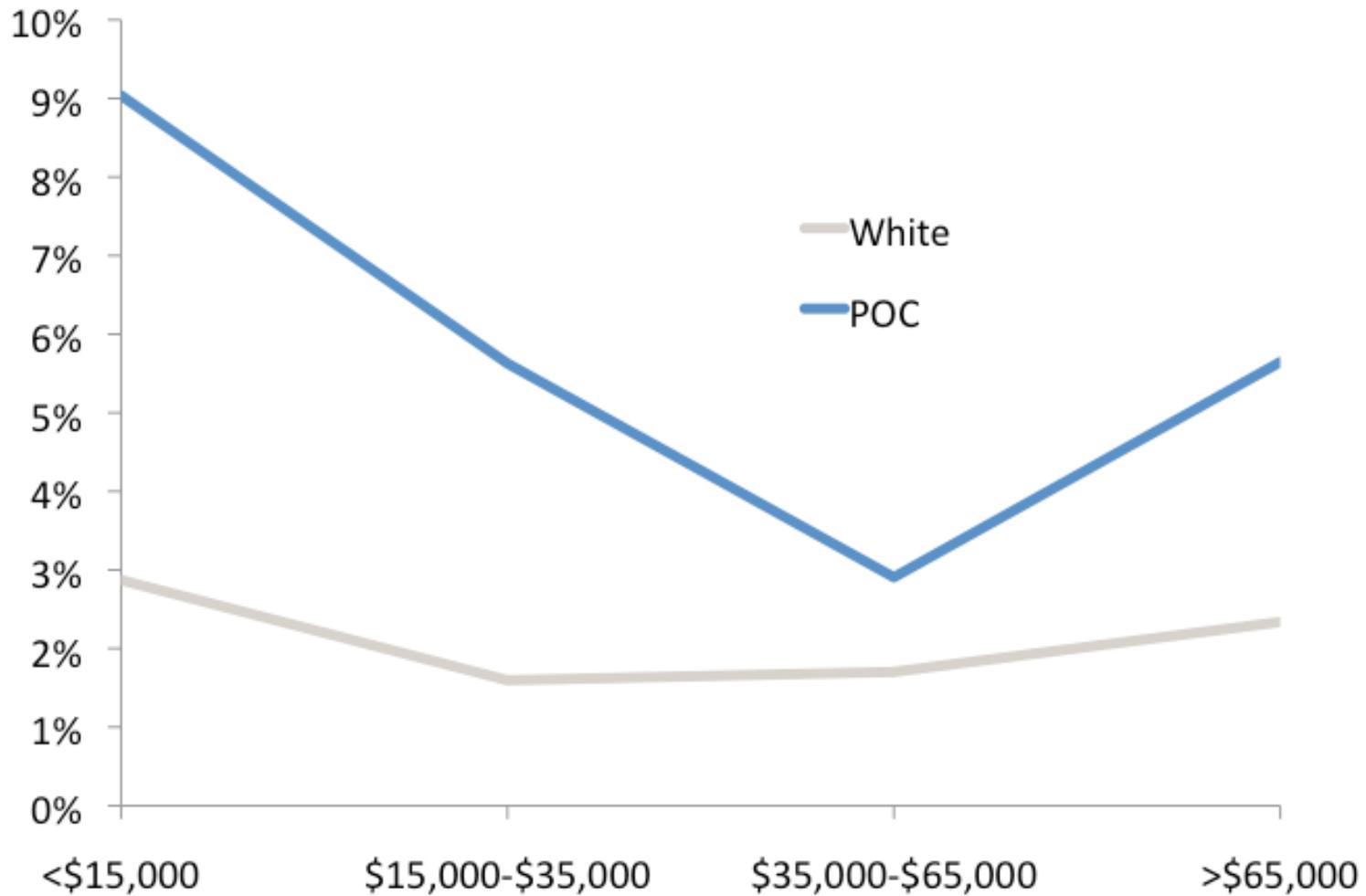
#109: Rhode Island (61%)

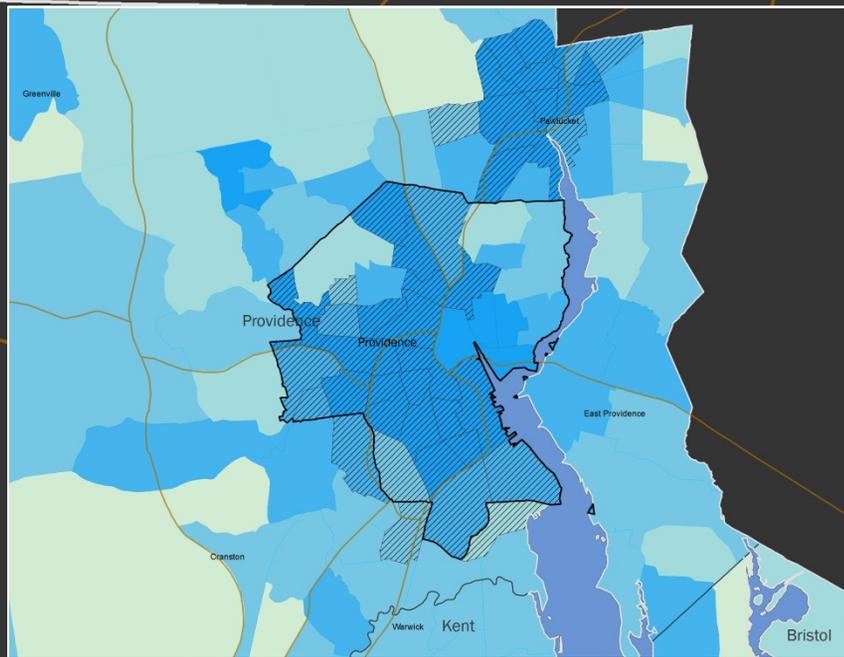
#149: San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA (53%)



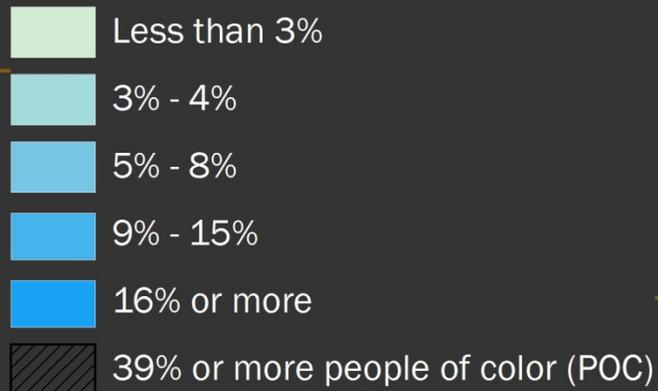
Transit Use Varies by Race and Income

Percent Using Public Transit
by Earnings and Race/Ethnicity/Nativity, 2006-2010

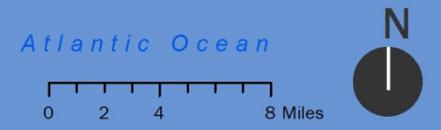
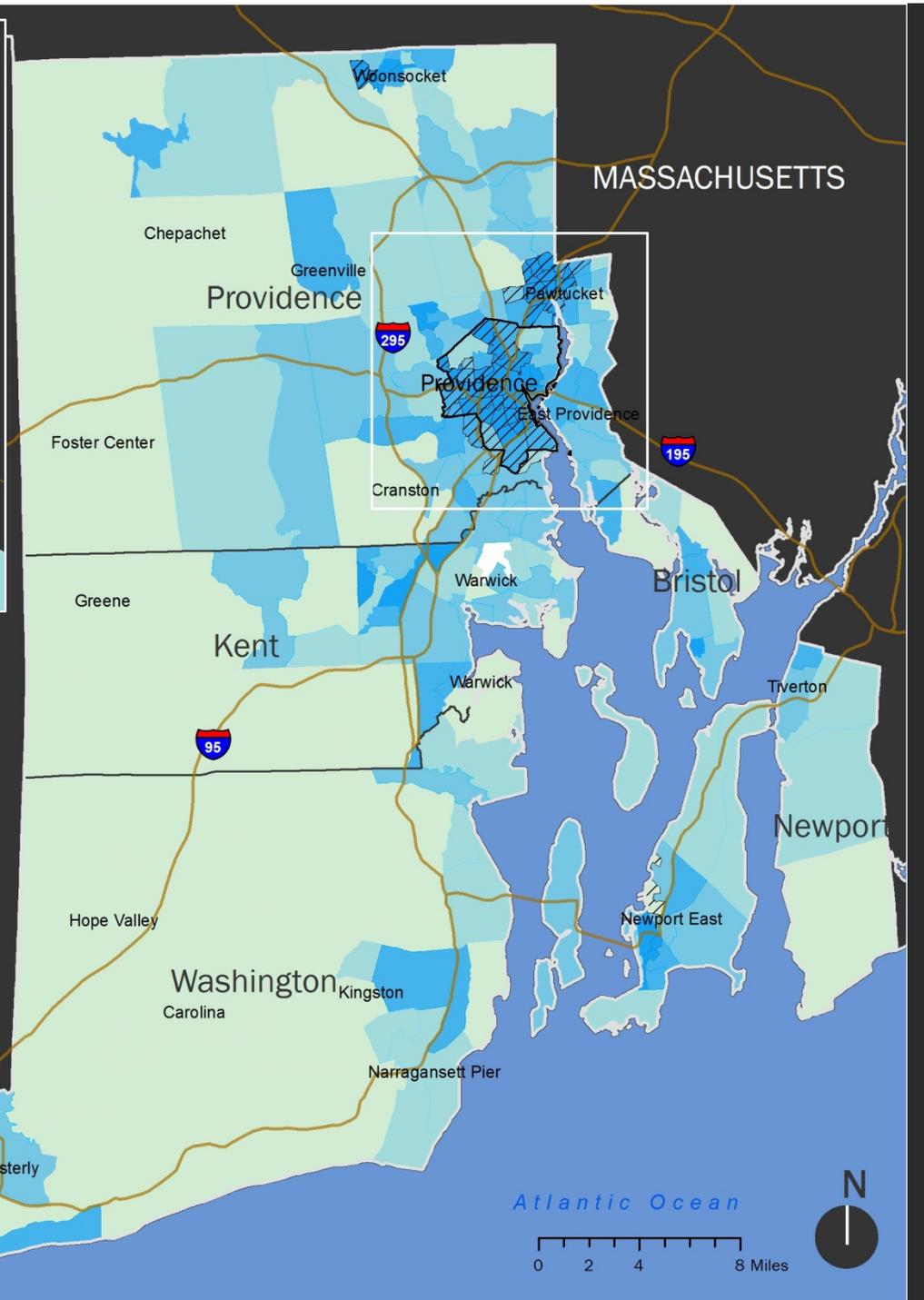




Percent of Households without a Vehicle and High POC Tracts, 2006 - 2010

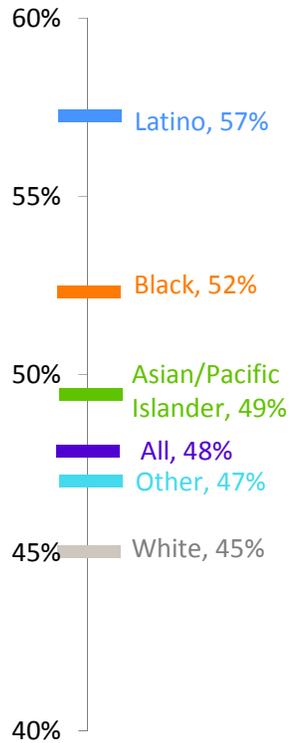


Note: Areas missing data are represented in white.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



Communities of Color Have Higher Housing Burdens

Renter Housing Burden by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010



Homeowner Housing Burden by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010



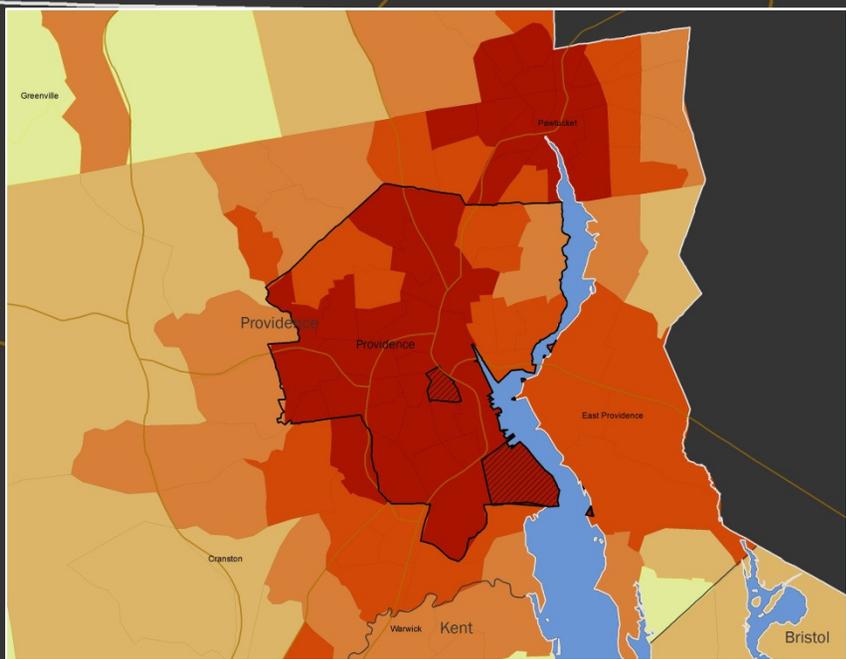
#1: Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL (62%)



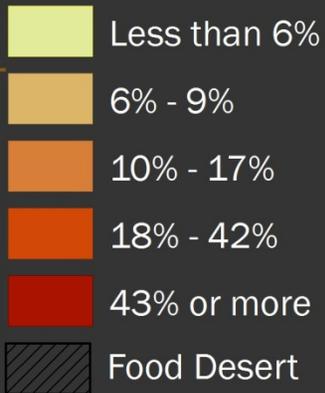
#100: Rhode Island (48%)

#150: Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL (40%)

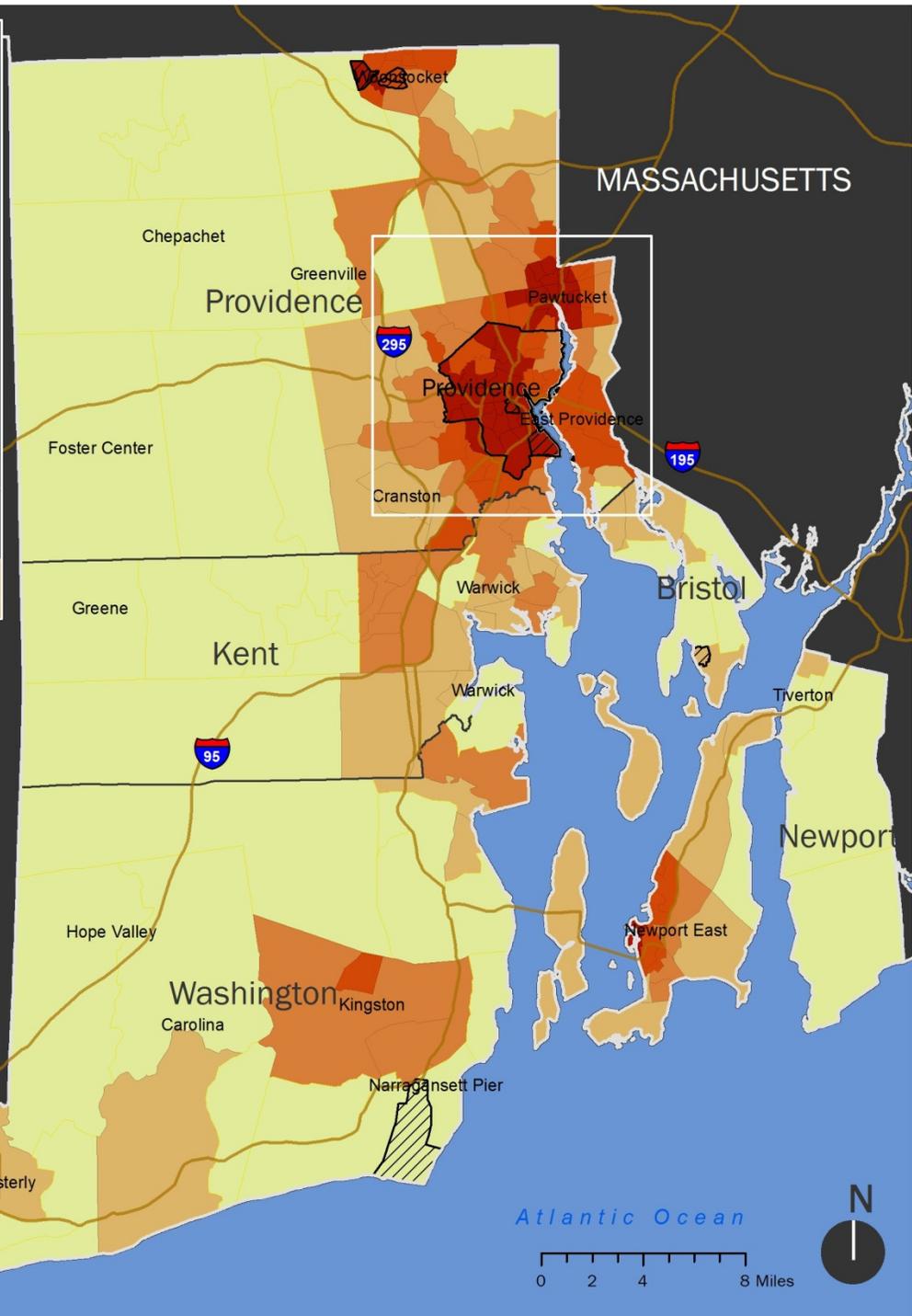
Share of Households that are Rent Burdened 2006-2010: Top 150 Metros Ranked



Percent of People of Color, 2010
and Food Desert Tracts, 2000



Note: Areas missing data are represented in white.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S.D.A.





Thank you!

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