



RI Housing boosts home-buying help

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PROVIDENCE - Rhode Island Housing helped 1,625 Rhode Islanders buy a home in 2016 - the highest one year total in the agency's history and an increase of nearly 30 percent from 2015, the agency reported Tuesday.

In 2016, "Rhode Island Housing contributed \$650 million to the state's economy with investments in housing development, home ownership, rental assistance, and help for Rhode Island homeowners," the agency said.

The agency said it financed the development and preservation of nearly 1,200 homes (a \$160-million investment) and provided more than \$175 million in federal rental assistance, and it rolled out new foreclosure assistance with \$36 million in federal Hardest Hit Fund money. Rhode Island Housing also "opened a new line of business by taking on servicing of MaineHousing's half-billion dollar loan portfolio."