

Working to stabilize housing for more

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Guest Opinion: Richard Godfrey

The Rhode Island Housing Board of Commissioners has approved our new Strategic Plan – a proactive and comprehensive blueprint of what Rhode Island Housing will strive to achieve over the next two to seven years. Titled *15-18-20 Strategic Plan*, it is a roadmap for how – we can best meet the affordable housing needs of low and moderate income Rhode Islanders through 2020. The plan’s name refers to the future and will guide our activities in six key mission areas:

- Loans to build homes
- Loans to buy homes
- Housing assistance for homeowners
- Housing assistance for renters
- Ending homelessness
- Creating KeepSpace Communities

The release of our Strategic Plan follows a series of recent achievements in conjunction with our partners, including the investment of \$367 million in 2013 to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders by creating better homes and healthier communities.

As Rhode Island Housing has engaged in this strategic planning process we have sought to refine our role within our statutory charge, the state’s housing needs, the activities of our housing partners and the economic realities.

While we are a finance agency, we are really about helping people.

Our plan recognizes the continued importance of our mission and uses it to define our future growth and strategic priorities.

As the 15-18-20 Plan indicates, we are looking forward to 2015 when it is anticipated that our state's recovery from the recession will be well underway, 2018 when the federal government has redefined a predictable role for itself in housing finance and 2020 when relative stability returns. Rhode Island Housing developed this plan with involvement and input from board members, senior staff, the 15-18-20 Steering Committee and various partner groups and individuals.

We thank all those partners who were part of our strategic planning process and look forward to working together as we develop implementation outlines for each initiative and work toward making them a reality.

Working together, we can bring more Rhode Islanders "home."

Richard Godfrey is executive director of Rhode Island Housing.

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