

2024 -- H 7693

LC005094

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND
FOR THE 2-1-1 HUMAN SERVICES HOTLINE

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Hull, Diaz, Ackerman, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 15, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Since 2007, the United Way of Rhode Island has operated and maintained
2 2-1-1 as a free and confidential service for all Rhode Islanders, one that is available 24 hours a
3 day, every day, 365 days per year, in nearly 200 languages and dialects that provides a direct
4 human connection to solve life's most pressing problems; and

5 WHEREAS, By call, text or chat 2-1-1, Rhode Islanders find assistance on everything
6 from housing to child care to health care services and food and shelter, as well as help with tax
7 preparation and utilities; and

8 WHEREAS, Insights gained from 2-1-1 help multiple state departments by and through
9 the United Way of Rhode Island identify the changing needs of Rhode Islanders to better serve
10 our community; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2023, more than 120,000 requests for help were received by 2-1-1 with
12 the majority focused on requests relating to housing, food, health care and utilities; and

13 WHEREAS, 2-1-1 plays a critical communications role during natural disasters or other
14 state crises; including floods and winter snow storms; and

15 WHEREAS, The community as a whole benefits from 2-1-1 because it helps people
16 connect with the information they need, when they need it most, and increases efficiency by
17 helping callers define their needs and identify multiple available services; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any American Rescue Plan Act
19 monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated and committed by July 1, 2024, the sum of five

1 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the United Way of Rhode Island to provide operational
2 support for the 2-1-1 system; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his
3 orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from
4 time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND
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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to the United
- 2 Way of Rhode Island to provide operational support for the 2-1-1 system.

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