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Empowering Diverse Communities Across Rhode Island and the Nation

As technology further shifts the economic landscape, libraries prepare American jobseekers to enter the workforce, reskill to meet evolving requirements, and succeed as business owners.

Public libraries in Rhode Island and nearly 17,000 strong across the country: (1) help people secure employment through job search, resume writing, and interview training, (2) provide internet access and digital skills programs that encourage use of emerging technologies and empower entrepreneurship, (3) collaborate with other community stakeholders to identify workforce challenges and build vibrant local economies.

With many communities hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and facing economic challenges, libraries are a critical part of the economic safety net, now more than ever.

Serving diverse business owners

Providence, Rhode Island has a large Spanish speaking population as well as many native speakers of other languages, who need to improve their English skills. Additionally, 26% of Providence residents live in poverty, and nearly one-quarter of Rhode Islanders are not connected or under-connected to the internet

at home. The Providence Community Library is a trusted institution which addresses these needs by providing free English (ESL) and GED classes, internet access, digital skill trainings, and job seeking support. With nine branch locations situated primarily in low income, minority-majority neighborhoods the library has a unique reach. It is an especially valuable resource



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