



*Land & Sea Together is building a network of services and opportunities to reduce stress for Fisheries, Forestry, and Farming (FFF) enterprises, workers, and their families in Rhode Island*  
[www.landandseatogether.org](http://www.landandseatogether.org)

## Forestry Resource Guide

A Collection of Resources for Rhode Island Foresters and Arborists

*Prepared by the Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI*

*Funded through the USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Grant*

*in partnership with the RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Agriculture*

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## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Forestry, Fisheries, and Farming (FFF) communities keep Rhode Islanders fed and tend our landscapes. But workers in these fields often face challenging and unpredictable conditions with limited support. Together we aim to offer services in the languages you speak, and seek out providers who understand natural resource sector challenges and reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of the FFF communities.

Our goal is to provide a collection of practical, up-to-date financial and mental health resilience materials for forestry and arborist businesses and individuals in the state of Rhode Island, and for the people and organizations who support the forestry sector.

This is a collaborative, living document, so please be in touch if you would like to add an organization, tool, resource, opportunity, or modify language in our guide about your programming. We welcome feedback, and we recognize that this guide is not exhaustive, but is hopefully a great place to start when looking for help. Our intention is that this document is shared widely within the networks we are working to establish.

For more information, to apply for relief grants as funds become available, to join our mailing list for events, new opportunities, or to contact us, please visit our website at: [www.landandseatogether.org](http://www.landandseatogether.org).

*First and foremost, please reach out- We want to hear from you, and we are here for you!*

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**Foresters. YOU are the most important piece of equipment in your business.** Regular maintenance - and critical repairs - help keep both you and your enterprise running smoothly. Please know that help is available for you in Rhode Island, to support your physical and mental health.

1. **Are you in crisis? Call or text the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline now, at 988.** Both services are free, confidential, and available 24/7.
2. **[Land & Sea Together](#) is offering free access to [Coastline EAP](#) for all farm, forestry, and fisheries professionals (and their families) in the state.** An EAP, or “Employee Assistance Program,” is a voluntary and confidential resource

connecting individuals and families with financial and personal services in the community. Services include referrals for child and elder care, health and wellness consultations, financial consultations, up to *3 FREE counseling sessions* with a licensed provider, and more. **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more, and tell them you're calling with "Land & Sea Together."**

3. The [AMOR](#) Support Line (401-675-1414) is a "multilingual (currently English & Spanish) line of volunteer operators that connects community members to AMOR's network of services, including comprehensive mental health care, legal support, court accompaniment, community support, transportation, and interpretation." AMOR is an alliance of grassroots organizations, providing community support in Rhode Island and Southern New England for victims of hate crimes and state-sponsored violence.
4. **Struggling with substance use? This crisis affects individuals and families across the state, and you are not alone.**
  - a. Referrals and support are available through Land & Sea Together's helpline, in conjunction with [Coastline EAP](#). **Call 1-800-445-1195, 24/7, to learn more.**
  - b. [SAMHSA](#) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration) offers a National Helpline, at **1-800-662-4357**. The helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7 information service, available in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations.
  - c. At [Prevent Overdose RI](#), you can learn more about treatment options across Rhode Island. Visit their website to learn more about [Safe Stations](#) (fire and police stations across the state where you can drop in 24/7 to get free and welcoming access to treatment and recovery support services), recovery centers, and more. Rhode Island also offers buprenorphine, a medicine used for opioid addiction, over the phone. You can find out more information by calling the Buprenorphine 24/7 Hotline at **401-606-5456**.

## LABOR

**Attracting and retaining skilled labor is a major challenge for many employers. How and where are folks finding reliable employees? How and where are employees finding supportive environments where they can learn and grow?**

1. RINLA, the Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association, has developed and implemented the [Growing Futures](#) program, which includes “a youth apprenticeship, development of a two-year degree at the Community College of Rhode Island and the first in the nation multi-employer Registered Apprenticeship program for agriculture and plant-based industry... [The goal is] to facilitate win-win connections between employers seeking motivated workers and people seeking consequential, engaging livelihoods and careers.”

Check out their job board, certifications, and career pathways! For more information, please contact RINLA at [info@growingfuturesri.org](mailto:info@growingfuturesri.org) or call **401-874-5220**

2. The [Tree Care Industry Association](#) offers a robust career center and job board, an apprenticeship training toolkit, certifications, recruitment/marketing materials, and more.
3. The [International Society of Arboriculture](#) has an active job board, and offers resources for prospective arborists, including a list of schools with arboriculture programs, and a career paths flowchart. The [New England chapter](#) of the ISA has its own local job board.

## BUSINESS RESOURCES- LEGAL, TAX, FINANCIAL, AND BUSINESS SUCCESSION

1. [Land & Sea Together](#) Referrals and connections to support for Legal, Tax, and Business resources are available through Land & Sea Together’s helpline, in conjunction with Coastline EAP- **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more.**
2. [The Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI](#) offers mediation services in the state. This can help with succession as well as other disputes. Mediators can aid with bringing all stakeholders (all involved family members and the lender) back on the same page to work through all those issues that matter to them (e.g. questions about possession, debt, equity, and fairness between family members or business partners). Contact: **401-273-9999**, or at [info@cmcri.org](mailto:info@cmcri.org)

## ACCESSING CRITICAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

**Health insurance, child care, and retirement in forestry.** Let's talk about building a secure financial and personal life in one of the most expensive states in the nation.

### 1. Health Insurance

- a. Compare plans on the state-based marketplace, [HealthSource RI](#). Forestry workers can access health and dental insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, and Delta Dental.
- b. The [Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging](#) offers help navigating Medicare coverage and programs. Call **1-888-884-8721** for more information.

### 2. Child Care

- a. The [Rhode Island Early Learning Council](#) offers a full list of early childhood state programs, including Head Start and BrightStars.
- b. Many families may be eligible for the [Child Care Assistance Program](#) (CCAP), which can subsidize child care for RI residents.
- c. [BrightStars RI](#) "helps early learning, education and school-age programs that care for children learn about best practices and apply them to the care children receive... BrightStars also helps families in Rhode Island access quality child care, early learning, and school-age programs through our referral program. Families may search for programs online or call our toll-free number, **1-855-398-7605**, to speak with a referral specialist who can assist in finding a program that fits their needs."
- d. [Land & Sea Together](#) has limited funding available for vouchers for DHS licensed childcare facilities and for licensed Elder Care for members of the FFF community. Referrals and support is also available through Land & Sea Together's helpline, in conjunction with Coastline EAP- **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more.**

### 3. Retirement Planning

- a. The Tree Care Industry Association offers its members information about a [401\(k\) Multiple Employer Aggregation Plan](#)
- b. [We Can Help You, Inc.](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission of educating individuals about Medicare and Social Security as they begin

their transition into retirement. **It is a free service for people with disabilities or for seniors over 65.** This organization helps with finding plans, accessing the resources available through those plans, finding home services, companionship, and more. The team has English and Spanish speaking consultants, who work together to best help individuals with their healthcare needs.

Our Rhode Island contact is Kristin Caproni, and she can be reached at **401-952-8698**, or at [kcaproni@wecanhelpyou.org](mailto:kcaproni@wecanhelpyou.org).

#### 4. Social Services

- a. [The Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies](#) is a statewide network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which provides a range of programs to help low to moderate income families across the state. Services include rent and mortgage assistance, income tax preparation assistance, senior services, and more. Call **401-921-4968** or fill out this [form](#) to find out what services you may be eligible for.
- b. [AMOR RI](#), Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance, is “an alliance of grassroots organizations, providing community support in Rhode Island and southern New England for victims of hate crimes and state-sponsored violence... The AMOR Support Line (**401-675-1414**) is a 24-hour multilingual (currently English & Spanish) line that connects community members to AMOR’s network of services, including comprehensive mental health care, legal support, court accompaniment, community support, transportation, and interpretation.”
- c. To find **local food assistance**, visit the Rhode Island Food Bank’s [website](#).
- d. If you are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, the [Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness](#) has a large list of statewide resources available.
- e. [Land & Sea Together](#) Referrals and support is also available through Land & Sea Together’s helpline, in conjunction with Coastline EAP- **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more.**

## NON-PROFIT AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**You don't have to do this alone.** There are many existing professional organizations in New England across the forestry and arborist communities, offering a wide range of resources and connections. Visit their websites to learn more!

### **Rhode Island:**

[DEM- Rhode Island](#) is the state's Department of Environmental Management, and its mission is to "protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family." The Division of Forestry provides assistance to support landowners managing their forests as working lands, identifies important forestland and provides funding for the purchase of land or conservation easements, supports urban forestry in the state, and more.

[NOFA-RI](#) is an "organization of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote organic farming and organic land care practices." NOFA hosts workshops, provides free technical assistance from farm advisors, and offers additional resources.

[Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization \(RIFCO\)](#) is a non-profit organization "dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's woodland resources." They provide outreach programs, technical assistance, monitoring of state and local legislations and ordinances, and more.

[Rhode Island Land Trust Council](#) is "the coalition of our state's land trusts - community-based organizations formed to protect scenic open spaces, farms, forests, historic sites, and watersheds."

[Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association \(RINLA\)](#) is a 501(C)(6) professional trade association "that serves the green industry and promotes environmental stewardship. RINLA advances the welfare of its members through education, research, legislative representation, certification, support in the marketing of green industry goods and services, and collaboration with allied interests/associations."

[Rhode Island Tree Council](#) "helps improve Rhode Island's tree resources, build healthy and vibrant urban forests, and educates citizens about urban forestry. A non-profit, tax-exempt, 501C (3) entity, the group offers a wide variety of programs and resources designed to educate the public on the benefits and value of trees. RITree's membership is open to all. It includes local organizations, professional consultants, and individual

volunteers, who act as Advisors and Trustees for the organization and serve on its Board of Directors.”

[Rhode Island Tree Farm Program](#)’s mission is “to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.” The Rhode Island Tree Farm Committee helps Tree Farmers update their forest management plans to meet the new American Forest Foundation standards, helps Tree Farmers establish succession plans, and offers additional resources and events.

[Rhode Island Woodlands Partnership](#) is “a collaboration among foresters, landowners, conservationists, and professionals who represent public agencies, small businesses, and non-profit organizations. Partnership members share a common goal of advancing the stewardship and long-term protection of Rhode Island’s woodlands to benefit the local economy, ecological values, and community enjoyment and health”

[Society of Municipal Arborists](#) offers training for urban foresters, tree managers, and municipal foresters; a Municipal Arborist Exchange Program; and Municipal Program Accreditation. The SMA Rhode Island Liaison is Douglas Still, and he can be reached at [dstill@providenceri.gov](mailto:dstill@providenceri.gov).

The [Tomaquag Museum](#) is Rhode Island’s only Indigenous cultural education center and museum. Tomaquag’s Indigenous Empowerment Network (IEN) “strives to eradicate poverty in the Indigenous Community of Rhode Island through education, cultural competency, job training, employment, small business incubation, addressing social justice, and building equity through Tomaquag Museum and our ever-expanding network of partners.”

[URI Cooperative Extension](#) aims to bring “vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, communities, consumers, families, and young people.” The university offers practical information to farmers and forest managers about adapting to climate change, forestry outreach events, and forestry extension activities.

#### **New England and Beyond:**

[The Forest Stewards Guild](#) “practices and promotes responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. The Guild engages in education, training, policy analysis, research, and



advocacy to foster excellence in stewardship, support practicing foresters and allied professionals, and engage a broader community in the challenges of forest conservation and management.”

[Northeastern Loggers Association](#) “NELA is a regional trade group representing members of the Northeast and Lake States’ logging, sawmilling, and forest products community.”

[FRSAN-NE](#), or the Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network- Northeast, “aims to improve behavioral health awareness, literacy, access, and outcomes for farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers in the Northeast... In particular, this project includes a focus on service providers working with migrant farmworkers, young farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers, in particular, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers because, in addition to the stressors described above, they face unique challenges with more limited access to services.”

[International Society for Arboriculture](#) is a “worldwide network of tree care professionals actively engaged in their own personal and professional development, that of their companies and employees, and the entire arboriculture industry. Membership in ISA provides you with opportunities for personal and professional growth and connects you to other professionals with similar needs, career goals, and interest in advancing the arboricultural profession.” The [New England ISA](#) offers resources and events specific to our own region.

[Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association](#) is made up of “tree wardens, city foresters, utility representatives, commercial arborists and companies, education professionals, and citizen tree advocates.” They offer numerous events and training, and their “Links” page includes a wealth of resources.

[New England Forestry Foundation](#) helps “the people of New England to sustain their way of life, protect forest wildlife habitat and ecosystem services, and mitigate and adapt to climate change, through the application of core expertise in conserving forestland and advancing Exemplary Forestry.”

[Society of American Foresters](#) “sets the standard in forest management, bringing science, best practice and the best people together to actively shape the future of the profession.” Member benefits include industry professional development literature, grants and scholarships, a Career Center, opportunities to join a community Working Group, and more.

[Tree Care Industry Association](#) is “a trade association of 2,300 tree care firms and affiliated companies and was established in 1938 as the National Arborist Association... TCIA develops safety and education programs, standards of tree care practice and management information for tree and landscape firms around the world. We provide continuing education, training, conferences and publications to promote the safe and appropriate practice of tree care.”

### **A VERY BIG THANK YOU:**

African Alliance of Rhode Island  
Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI  
Coastline EAP  
Commercial Fisheries Council RI  
Datacorp  
East Coast Shellfish Growers  
Farm Fresh RI  
Hope & Main  
Legal Food Hub  
NOFA-RI  
Ocean State Aquaculture Association  
RI Commerce  
RI-DEM

RI Farm Bureau  
RI Food Policy Council  
RI Land Trust Council  
Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA)  
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Southside Community Land Trust  
The Carrot Project  
Tomaquag Museum  
University of Rhode Island  
Young Farmers Network  
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Please note: Information included in this document was sourced from various partner websites and through a collaborative process. Please respect the integrity of the guide, and request changes through the Land & Sea Together website as opposed to copying and modifying the guide. The most up-to-date versions will live on [www.landandseatogether.org](http://www.landandseatogether.org) for free download. When appropriate, please credit Land & Sea Together, a program of the Center for Mediation and Collaboration, for the creation of this document.