

Strengths

Cultural tapestry of our people

Strength in industries like food/bev, design/make/manufacture

Bankable businesses well served

Small state. Key relationships and interconnections established.

World-class educational institutions

Lots of TA providers, chambers, industry grps

Orgs in ecosystem (increasingly) collaborative.

Opportunities

Strategically filled gap could make major difference in ecosystem

Opportunity for pilots/small wins.

Lots of good models from elsewhere.

ARPA and other funding opportunities

RIF impact investing

Donor advised funds looking for investment opportunities.

Silver tsunami presents options for local/employee ownership.

Presence of anchor instns.

Plenty of needs to fill

Increasing consciousness of local investment.

Skilled workers.

Consistent data tells us which geographies offer lower economic mobility.

COVID has demonstrated need

Strong RI pride, local sentiment.

Weaknesses

Small state. Less \$, pipeline activity.

Lots of ecosystem gaps.

Missing key infrastructure.

No business-focused CDFI located in RI.

Community banking deserts

Local investor clubs, resources, platforms.

Start-up or growth capital

Housing

Affordable commercial space

Under/unbanked poorly served.

Family, friends network for BIPOC/low-income

Asset building

Lots of small orgs without adequate capacity.

Not enough philanthropy.

Competition (sometimes) > collaboration.

Financial literacy

School systems don't set up children for success

Threats

Expectations around scale, return, risk.

Traditional, top-down approach to economic development.

Speculation post COVID19

Complexity of community investment

Skepticism toward homegrown, local.

Baby boomer retirements could lead to wave of biz closures or non-local sales.

Reluctance among institutions to put skin in game.

Predatory lending.