

DESIGNxRI | Innovation Network Matching | \$75,000 | DESIGNxRI will expand the Design Catalyst program with a focus on high-growth potential design entrepreneurs and small businesses. This expansion will fill a gap in the business support ecosystem with specialized technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs in design industries across the state.

Fuerza Laboral | Innovation Network Matching | \$50,000 | Fuerza Laboral will expand on its worker cooperative incubator by identifying and offering technical assistance to small businesses evaluating a transition to employee ownership. This program will support businesses by offering specialized succession planning and assist workers in building the skills necessary to participate in business ownership.

Herreshoff Marine Museum | Innovation Network Matching | \$59,000 | Herreshoff Marine Museum will expand its support of ocean technology and marine industries by installing and providing the use of a 5-ton jib crane onsite at its waterfront location. This specialized equipment and trained staff to operate the crane provides essential and flexible access to space and infrastructure for small businesses and startups that require access to Narragansett Bay for research and development of marine technology.

RIHub | Innovation Network Matching | \$127,614.72 | RIHub launch the “Waypoint Venture Incubator,” a business support program targeting early-stage, high-growth startups, that will provide mentoring, business acceleration, and direct access to investors at Innovate Newport. Funding will also support the annual Newport Investment Summit and an expansion of RIHub’s “Plan-to-Pitch” program.

Social Enterprise Greenhouse | Innovation Network Matching | \$50,000 | Social Enterprise Greenhouse (SEG) will launch the “AI Capacity-Building for Small Businesses” program, a new initiative that will equip small businesses with the knowledge, tools, and frameworks necessary to leverage AI for efficiency and growth. This program will address existing challenges for Rhode Island businesses to incorporate AI-powered solutions into their workflows for optimization of operations.