



# RHODE RULES FOR RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN FACT SHEET



## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

**Rhode Rules for Rhode Island** is a public health awareness campaign aiming to educate and inform Rhode Island residents about the **Social Host Law**, which states it is illegal to buy, provide, supply alcohol or provide a place to consume alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. The campaign also raises awareness of the health and social consequences of underage drinking, including impacting brain development and decision making skills.

The campaign was launched by six Rhode Island Prevention Coalitions (Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7) funded by the **Partnerships for Success Grant**. Rhode Island Regional Prevention Coalitions are partnerships comprised of dedicated members and partners working together to provide substance use prevention strategies, mental health resources and advocate for policies that support healthy and safe communities. Coalition members are youth, parents, elected officials, healthcare providers, faith leaders, local businesses, law enforcement, educational leaders, youth-serving organizations and treatment providers. Seven regional coalitions connect 36 local coalitions across the state.

## WHAT IS THE SOCIAL HOSTING LAW?

Rhode Island is one of the majority of states that maintain a **Social Host Law**. The law states it is illegal to “permit” an underage person to consume alcohol.

“Permit” is defined as “to give permission for, or approval of, the possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage by any form of conduct, that would cause a reasonable person to believe that permission or approval has been given”.

In essence, this means it is illegal for adults to buy, provide, supply alcohol, or provide a place to consume alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Adults are also held responsible even if they don’t know youth are consuming alcohol on their property.

## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF BREAKING THE LAW?

First offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a minimum fine of \$350 and a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or a prison sentence not to exceed six months.

Second offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a minimum fine of \$750 and maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or a prison sentence not to exceed one year.

## FUNDER

Funding for the Campaign was made possible by the Partnerships for Success II grant provided from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH).

## CONTACT

Kate Manning, PFS Coordinator, MA, CPS  
Tri-County Community Action Center  
kmanning@tricountryri.org

Cynthia Rego, PFS Coordinator, BA, CPS  
Kent County Regional Prevention Coalition  
crego@risas.org

Kathy Gardner, PFS Coordinator, MA, ACPS  
South County Regional Prevention Coalition  
Kgardner@risas.org