

## **CSC Project Synopsis -- 2012**

**Project Title:** Legislation & Policy to Support Land Conservation and Stewardship

**Goal:** To promote state legislation, policies and initiatives that safeguard and improve stewardship of protected lands in Rhode Island and that support land conservation.

### **Brief Description:**

The Rhode Island Land Trust Council (RILTC) represents the state's land trusts and the interests of the land conservation community, on legislative matters passing through the State House that impact land conservation. RILTC identifies needed changes to the law to strengthen the "permanence" of protected lands and pursue state funding to continue conservation efforts. RILTC also pursues legislation that safeguards conservation lands and fosters sound stewardship and defends against legislative proposals that threaten or undermine the status of conservation lands. This agenda requires consistent vigilance and expertise and covers a variety of issues that address high priority needs of land trusts and conservation organizations as they seek to effectively protect, manage and steward lands that have been protected.

RILTC has initiated a partnership with Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national group, to coordinate state policy work related to land conservation in northeastern states. Working with LTA's Director of Conservation Defense, the RILTC is assisting in developing priorities and a strategy for pursuing state policies/legislation that address issues being encountered by land trusts with their land conservation and stewardship activities. This partnership helps Rhode Island to coordinate land conservation stewardship work with other states and to be more proactive with Rhode Island's stewardship and land protection policy initiatives.

CSC funding is needed to support the ongoing vigilant and effective work of the RILTC on state legislation and policy efforts.

**Deliverables:** The deliverables for this project are:

1. Text of legislation introduced in 2012 and names of lead sponsors.
2. List of legislation monitored and influenced
3. Testimony submitted for legislation
4. Update on state policy collaboration with LTA
5. Report on legislative outcomes 2012

### **Timetable and Benchmarks:**

Nov. Dec. 2011	- Identify policy priorities for 2012 and draft legislation
January 2012	- Sponsors for legislation recruited
February	- Legislation drafted and introduced
January – June	- Monitor legislation introduced and build grass roots response to any proposed legislation detrimental to the state's land conservation efforts. Build grass roots support for viable legislation that supports land conservation efforts. Represent land trust community at Statehouse hearings as appropriate.

2012 January

- Issue check for \$20,000 to the RILTC with a clear statement that this funding should support staff and operating costs for the RILTC to continue its work shaping the legislative agenda for the land conservation community in Rhode Island, and collaborating with LTA on effective state policy strategies to address current threats and needs confronting land trusts and other non-profit conservation organizations who hold and manage conserved lands.

**Budget:**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$ 20,000	Support staff and operating costs for the RILTC state policy initiatives for the land conservation community in Rhode Island.

**Total \$ 20,000**

Payments will be made to the fiscal agent for the project:

Fiscal sponsor for RI Land Trust Council is Third Sector New England

Payment will be made to: TSNE- RI Land Trust Council at  
Rhode Island Land Trust Council  
PO Box 633  
Saunderstown, RI 02874

Project oversight will be done by: Rupert Friday, Director, RI Land Trust Council.