

## **NEW BRIDGES FOR HAITIAN SUCCESS (NB4HS)**

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**Location:**

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**MISSION:** The mission of New Bridges for Haitian Success is to empower and serve the Haitian and Afro-Caribbean community of Rhode Island by providing culturally attuned direct programs, legal services, basic needs, and partnerships.

**NB4HS Board of Directors:**

- Bernard Georges Executive Director
- Wander Pierre, Vice President
- Valery Desrosier, Treasurer
- Grace Gonzalez, Secretary
- Rodney Derogene, Director
- Lunine Pierre Jerome, Director
- Rosener Depestre, Director

**NB4HS Current Operating Budget:** \$650,000.00

**NB4HS Current Funders:**

- US HHS ACF ORR ESH
- RI DLT
- RIDE
- Papitto Foundation
- City of Providence
- Champlin Foundation

### **NB4HS Current Programming:**

- Wrap Around Case Management
- Dual Language Employment Skills Development and Employment Transition Services
- Computer Literacy/Digital Divide
- Microsoft Suite Certification Training
- ESOL
- Immigration Services
- Legal Services
- Translation Services
- Basic Needs Assistance (food, clothing, housing)
- Advocacy/Community Organizing

## **Haitians in Rhode Island**

**2022-24 - 1,100 people are estimated to have arrived from Haiti to Rhode Island.**

### **Early Arrivals (1970s–1980s)**

The first significant Haitian migration to Rhode Island began in the **late 1970s and early 1980s**, driven by:

- Political repression under the Duvalier regimes
- Economic instability in Haiti
- Family reunification with relatives in Rhode Island, who emigrated previously from Haiti.
- Most early arrivals settled in **Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls**, drawn by affordable housing and entry-level manufacturing jobs.

### **Growth Through Family Networks (1990s–2000s)**

During the 1990s and early 2000s, the Haitian population grew steadily through:

- **Family reunification visas**
- **Secondary migration** from larger Haitian communities in New York and Boston
- Employment opportunities in **healthcare, hospitality, and manufacturing**

Churches such as **Église Baptiste Haitienne de la Nouvelle Jérusalem** and community groups became anchors for cultural and social support.

### **Post-Earthquake Migration (2010–2015)**

The **2010 Haiti earthquake** triggered a new wave of migration. Rhode Island saw:

- An increase in **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** holders
- Families relocating to join established Haitian communities.
- Growth in Haitian-led organizations, including the creation of **New Bridges for Haitian Success (NB4HS) in 2013.**

### **Haitian Southern Surge (2018 – 2021)**

Haitian migration to the United States — including the large wave that eventually reached Rhode Island — was **directly shaped by Chile’s immigration policy changes between 2018 and 2021.** The shift was dramatic, and it fundamentally altered the migration routes Haitians used across the Americas.

### **Recent Arrivals and the New Migration Wave (2021–2024)**

Rhode Island experienced its **largest Haitian migration wave in history** between 2021 and 2024 due to:

- Political collapse and gang violence in Haiti
- Economic instability
- U.S. humanitarian parole programs
- Expanded TPS eligibility.

More than **1,100 new Haitian immigrants** arrived in Rhode Island during this period, with many settling in **Pawtucket, Providence, and Central Falls.** This influx created:

- Severe overcrowding in sponsor households
- Increased demand for ESOL, workforce training, and legal services
- A need for culturally specific transitional housing — a gap NB4HS is now positioned to fill.

Haitians are now one of the **fastest-growing immigrant groups** in the state. The community is:

- Concentrated in **Pawtucket, Providence, and Central Falls**
- Deeply connected through churches, cultural organizations, and mutual aid networks
- Active in healthcare, manufacturing, hospitality, home care, and small business sectors

## Snapshot of Current Haitian Communities in Rhode Island

### **Providence, RI**

**Estimated Haitian population:** 2,800–3,200

**Key neighborhoods:** Elmwood, South Side, West End

**Notes:** Largest Haitian community in Rhode Island; strong church and cultural networks.

### **Pawtucket, RI**

**Estimated Haitian population:** 550–600

**Key neighborhoods:** Woodlawn, Downtown/Barton Street, Darlington, Fairlawn

### **Central Falls, RI**

**Estimated Haitian population:** 900–1,100

**Key neighborhoods:** Dexter Street, Broad Street

**Notes:** Densest Haitian population per square mile in the state.

### **Cranston, RI**

**Estimated Haitian population:** 350–450

**Key neighborhoods:** Park Avenue corridor, Arlington, Auburn

**Notes:** Smaller but growing community.

# Haitian Housing Crisis in Rhode Island (2024–2030)

 A Rapidly Growing Population Facing Severe Overcrowding

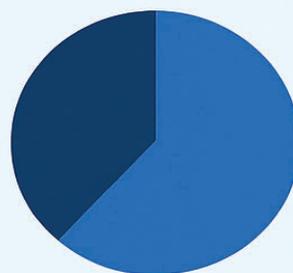
**1,100 Haitian immigrants arrived in Rhode Island in the past two years**

Families are entering a housing market with 1% vacancy and limited Creole-speaking landlords.



**40–55% of Haitian newcomers live in overcrowded sponsor households**

- 8-12 people in 2–3 bedroom units
- Children sleeping in living rooms or shared spaces
- Families unable to stabilize or pursue employment



Overcrowded  
40–55%

## Multi-Year Projection (2024–2030)

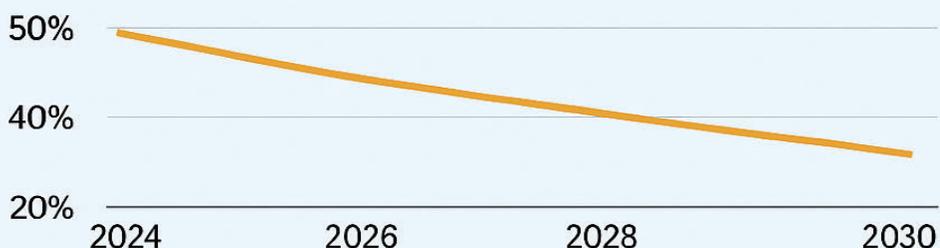


Chart 1

### Rhode Island Haitian Overcrowding Dataset (2024–2026)

- Haitian arrivals to RI (2022–2024): **1,100**
- Estimated Haitian households experiencing overcrowding: **40–55%**
- Estimated Haitians living in overcrowded housing: **450–600**
- Estimated Haitian children in overcrowded housing: **120–180**
- Primary drivers: work authorization delays, sponsor household saturation, limited Creole-speaking housing, high RI rents.

**Table 1 - Cost to Live Alone in Rhode Island and Providence Metro (Single Adult)**

Category	Rhode Island	Providence Metro Area	Notes
Average Rent (1BR)	\$1,300–\$1,800/mo	\$1,542–\$2,111/mo	Based on 2024–2026 rental datasets
Total Monthly Cost (Single Adult)	\$3,000–\$3,500	\$3,200–\$3,900	Includes food, transport, utilities
Required Hourly Wage	\$19–\$23/hr	\$22–\$25/hr	Based on 2080 hrs/year full-time
Rent + Utilities	\$1,600–\$1,900/mo	\$1,936/mo	LivingCost 2025 data

**Table 2 -Estimated Wages for Newly Arrived Haitian Single Adults in Rhode Island (2022–2024)**

Category	Estimated Hourly Wage	Notes
Typical starting wage	\$15.00-\$16.00/hr	Most common range across sectors
Lower end	\$14.50/hr	Fast food dishwashing temp agency placements
Upper end	\$17.50-\$18.00/hr	Warehousing manufacturing some hotel roles
Rare cases	\$19-\$22/hr	Only if English strong or prior specialized skills

## Type of Housing Needed for Transitional Housing Solution

The ideal property would be a multi-story, mixed-use building designed to support NB4HS's mission of housing stability, workforce development, and community empowerment.

The top floor would contain (at a minimum) **three residential living units** dedicated to transitional housing for individuals participating in NB4HS programs.

- Each unit provides a safe, stable, and culturally responsive environment that supports residents as they work toward permanent housing and employment.

The **ground-floor commercial space** would house NB4HS's nonprofit operations, including job training and adult education center.

- This space would feature a **20-station computer lab** for digital literacy, ESOL instruction, workforce readiness, and online credentialing.
- The program area also includes **five private offices** used for case management, employment counseling, benefits navigation, and administrative functions.

Together, the ideal building would create a fully integrated service hub where residents could access housing, education, workforce training, and wraparound support in one location.

Below is an example of a current on-the-market property that aligns with the needs of the NB4HS Transitional Housing Proposal:



Sample property (100 Harold Street, Providence, RI) - Estimated \$875K

- Residential Units on top floors
- NB4HS Offices on Ground Floor

### NB4HS Transitional Housing Operating Cost Estimate

Category	Annual Cost	Notes
Staffing – House Manager	\$56,250	Salary + fringe
Staffing – Case Manager	\$62,500	Salary + fringe
Staffing – Employment Specialist	\$60,000	Salary + fringe
Total Staffing	\$178,750	---
Total Building Operations	\$70,200	---
Total Program Costs	\$23,800	---
Subtotal (Direct Costs)	\$272,750	Staffing + building + program
Indirect Cost (15%)	\$40,912	15% of direct costs
<b>Total Operating Cost</b>	<b>\$313,662</b>	---
<b>Resident Rent Contributions</b>	<b>-\$21,600</b>	<b>12 residents × \$150/mo</b>
<b>Net Operating Cost</b>	<b>\$292,062</b>	<b>Final annual cost</b>
<b>NB4HS Current Available Operating Resources</b>	<b>216,500</b>	<b>Resources currently funded from other sources</b>
<b>Operating gain/deficit</b>	<b>(75,562)</b>	<b>Total balance</b>

New Bridges for Haitian Success (NB4HS) is the leading Haitian led, Haitian serving community organization in Rhode Island, providing culturally grounded support to one of the state’s fastest growing immigrant populations.

Founded and directed by Haitian community leaders, NBHS fills a critical gap in the state’s human services landscape by offering linguistically appropriate, culturally informed, and community embedded services that no other agency in the region provides. As the only formal organization in Rhode Island dedicated specifically to the needs of Haitian residents, NBHS serves as a trusted bridge between Haitian families and the complex systems of housing, education, health, workforce development, and civic life.

Rhode Island’s Haitian population is concentrated in Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Cranston, with many families facing significant barriers including limited English proficiency, trauma related to migration, economic instability, and difficulty navigating state and municipal systems.

While churches, immigrant nonprofits, and state agencies offer important services, none are structured to meet the cultural, linguistic, and trust-based needs of Haitian residents. NB4HS occupies a unique and essential role by providing direct support while also connecting families to broader resources and advocating for systemic improvements.

NB4HS delivers a comprehensive set of services that include case management, housing navigation, school enrollment support, workforce and ESL pathways, immigration assistance, and crisis intervention. The organization is frequently called upon by schools, hospitals, and municipal agencies to provide Haitian Creole interpretation, cultural mediation, and outreach to households that traditional service systems struggle to reach. This dual role—direct service provider and systems navigator—positions NBHS as the connective infrastructure that ensures Haitian families do not fall through the cracks.

Beyond direct services, NB4HS plays a central role in community leadership and advocacy. The organization mobilizes Haitian residents during public health emergencies, immigration policy changes, and crises affecting Haiti. NBHS also supports civic engagement, voter education, and leadership development for Haitian youth and adults, strengthening the long-term capacity of the community to participate fully in Rhode Island’s civic and economic life. As a Haitian led institution, NB4HS brings shared experience, cultural fluency, and community trust that are essential for effective engagement and sustainable impact.

NB4HS collaborates closely with Haitian churches, local schools, municipal departments, and regional nonprofits. These partnerships allow NB4HS to extend its reach while ensuring that Haitian families receive coordinated, culturally appropriate support. In many cases, NB4HS is the first point of contact for families in crisis and the primary liaison guiding them through complex systems.