The background of the slide is a faded, light blue-tinted photograph of the Rhode Island State Capitol building. The building is a large, classical-style structure with a prominent white dome topped with a golden finial. The building's facade features numerous windows and classical columns. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Helping Rhode Islanders Get Back to Work

RI Office of Library & Information Services

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Background

- RI has one of highest rates of unemployment in country (current 12.6%)
- RI hit the recession early and will stay in recession longer
- RI is a blue collar state
- Traditional economic base of manufacturing has left state
- High tax burden (income, sales, property)

The Problem

“Many people who find themselves out of work do not have the technical skills to apply for jobs in today's job market. Even jobs that don't involve computers, such as cashiering or greeting customers, do require applicants to submit their information online.”

- Mark McKenney, Chair of the Library Board of Rhode Island

Libraries Respond

- Holding workshops
 - Resume / computer classes: how to craft resumes and how to send resumes by setting up and using email accounts
 - Career counselor sessions focusing on resume building and job interview techniques
 - Job interview practice sessions
- Creating resources
 - Brochures and handouts with recommended books and web sites, as well as resume and job search tips
 - Web pages and wikis with links to additional career sites and information
 - Purchasing new resume and cover letter books to meet increased demand
- Providing one on one assistance
 - Help residents apply for public assistance programs
 - Help file for unemployment
 - Help apply for jobs

OLIS Responds

- Libraries inundated with unemployed and jobseekers
- Establishes partnership with RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT)
- Work with DLT to identify resources and promote services of libraries & DLT
- Add databases to AskRI (Statewide Reference Resource Center)

AskRI

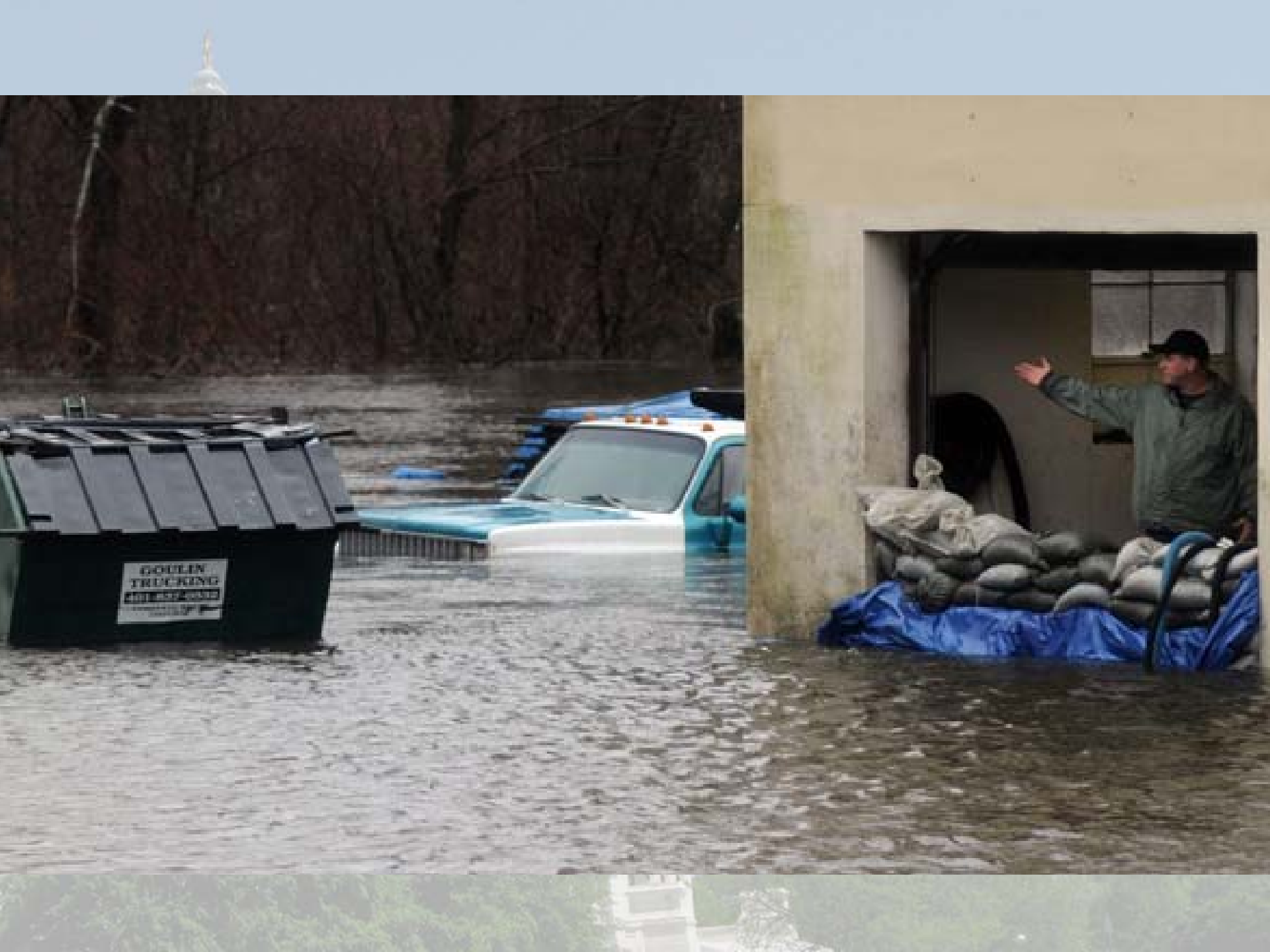


- Staffed by Providence Public Library
- Statewide databases funded through state and IMLS LSTA grants
 - Learning Express (aka Learn-a-Test)
 - ReferenceUSA
 - Adult Education & Career Center (Tutor.com)
- Databases purchased through cooperative agreements with library consortia
- Ask a Librarian (email & chat):
answers many state gov't questions
(in partnership with RI.gov)

Dept. of Labor & Training

- EmployRI: online resume development and career research
- OLIS makes AskRI databases available at NetworkRI One Stop Career Centers
 - Learning Express: test prep and tutorials
 - ReferenceUSA: US Businesses
- DLT Trainers run sessions for librarians
- DLT sessions at libraries







And when disaster strikes . . .

- During recent historic floods, DLT immediately turns to library partners
- Sessions scheduled at libraries around state on unemployment insurance and other resources for flood victims

Next steps

- More training of librarians
- More training for general public for computer and online skills
- More computers (labs coming to public libraries via BTOP grant to Ocean State Libraries, the public library consortium)
- Continue and increase cooperative efforts with DLT and other partners . . .

Partners



Small state, where everyone is interconnected . . . and so are the libraries, government & private sector



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