State:	**Rhode Island**
Project Name:	**H1N1 Pandemic Response**
Project Type:	**Strategic Technology Reserve**
Total PSIC Award:	**$7,365,694**

RHODE ISLAND STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY RESERVE INVESTMENT IN ACTION

During the H1N1 pandemic in 2009, the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) implemented their H1N1 vaccine distribution effort. Since the Rhode Island DOH Operation Center was located in the basement of a building, the Center's employees had trouble communicating with employees located at vaccine points of distribution. To address this obstacle, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) distributed its PSIC-funded radio cache to the State's DOH for use during the vaccine distribution effort.

The 100 radios operate on the Rhode Island Statewide Communications System (RISCON), a Project 25 700/800 megahertz communications system. The RIEMA-deployed radios enabled effective communications between the Department Operations Center and employees at the vaccine points of distribution (e.g., schools). This contributed to Rhode Island having the highest H1N1 vaccination rate in the country.

Additionally, Rhode Island used its PSIC-funded Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) during a Presidentially declared disaster. Four portable towers were deployed in advance of Hurricane Earl in September 2010. They were pre-positioned in safe, secure locations across the State so that if anything happened to the RISCON infrastructure, the 100-foot towers, generators, and repeater units could maintain secure communications across the State. The STR helped Rhode Island maintain interoperability during the event response.