



RI Small Business
Development Center
University of Rhode Island

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RI Riddle Room
East Greenwich, RI

Byron Delmonico

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RI Riddle Room



Success Story

Being stuck inside and trying to figure out a way out may sound a little too much like everyday life these days, but for Byron Delmonico, the entrepreneur behind RI Riddle Room escape room, he's not only used to it; he knows how to make the most of it and make it fun!

Byron first came to the RI Small Business Development Center in 2017 early on in his business for more routine items around bookkeeping and marketing, but when the COVID pandemic hit, he looked to RISBDC for timely, relevant, accurate information about small business programs and assistance.

Byron was able to secure funds from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), and the Restore RI grant program through Commerce RI. These funds help to stabilize and improve cash flow, cover rent and expenses, retain, hire, and train staff, and increase advertising which, according to Byron, "has been crucial to our growth and letting people know we are open, clean, and safe."

RI Riddle Room's ability to pivot quickly has been impressive. At the start of the pandemic, they developed fun new, virtual group games to be played at home. They were originally developing these games for corporate team building opportunities, but with everyone stuck at home, the games took off with that market! Now, Byron says, as things have been opening back up, "being one of the only venues offering small capacity, private group & in person entertainment, we have experienced week over week growth."

Byron adds, "Without the help received and the dynamic planning we would not be in the position we are today; I can't say enough positive things about these programs."

