

**The Vermont Commission on Women & the Vermont Women's Legislative Caucus Present:  
THE VERMONT WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY SUMMIT**

A FREE event at the Vermont State House in Montpelier

**\*\*Next Thursday\*\*** October 8, 2015, from 8:30-3:30

[Register now](#) and join us for this energizing day focused on policy and legislative strategies to support women as essential contributors to their families' economic security and to Vermont's economy as a whole. **WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING ABOUT THIS EVENT?** [Latifa Lyles](#), Director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor will be our keynote speaker! She's responsible for shaping the federal agency's research agenda, and has directed focus on women in high-growth occupations, as older workers, and in non-traditional jobs. She oversaw last year's White House Summit on Working Families, and prior to current position, serving as Deputy Director, she managed the National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility, a nationwide event series. She'll of course address issues around women and work! Morning panel discussions titled "Getting Women to Work" and "Keeping Women at Work" feature Vermont experts and policy leaders. Participants will foster understanding of specific issues and have rich and real conversations in afternoon small group sessions. Offerings include citizen advocacy trainings, as well as issues like women in corrections and women's health. [Learn more and register now](#) for this free event.

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**Morning Forums Exploring Paid Family & Medical Leave**

Burlington: Wednesday, October 7th

Rutland: (\*\*venue change from Woodstock\*\*) Wednesday, October 14th

Vermont Commission on Women and [Main Street Alliance of Vermont](#) are hosting free community forums across the state this fall focusing on long-term paid family and medical leave. These forums examine the possibility of developing and implementing a state-run Temporary Disability and Caregiver Insurance (TDCI) Program in our state as a funding mechanism for leave. Participants will explore the need for a TDCI program; how similar programs have been implemented in other states; and what a successful TDCI program could look like for Vermont. The forums will consist of a brief presentation followed by facilitated discussion. Coffee and refreshments served. Events in Brattleboro, Manchester and St. Albans are completed. The last two morning forums are in:

**BURLINGTON** at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center Gallery Room, Wednesday, 10/7 from 8:00 am-9:30 am.

**VENUE CHANGE: RUTLAND** at Rutland Regional Medical Center's Leahy Center, Conference Room D Wednesday, 10/14 from 8:00 am-9:00 am.

The Vermont Community Foundation's Innovations and Collaborations grant program provided financial support to facilitate the coordination of these forums around the state. **For more information or to RSVP for an event, please contact [Ashley Moore](#).**

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Learn more about Vermont Commission on Women's (VCW) latest projects:

[Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#)

[VCW Awarded US DOL Grant to Help Develop State Paid Family Leave Program](#)

[Statewide events calendar](#)

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[Donations for VSEA Fund For The Children of Lara Sobel](#)

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Read the Vermont Women's Fund very latest newsletter [here](#).

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**The Governor's Institutes of Vermont's Symposium: Boys, Girls, and Gender Equity in Education**

Thursday November 12, 2015 from 8 am - 4 pm

Middlebury College's Kirk Alumni Center

Share knowledge about and stimulate action around gender equity issues in education, ranging from the growing crisis of boys' academic underachievement to long-recognized, entrenched issues in girls' participation and achievement. This one-time working conference aims to bring together Vermonters concerned about any form of gender-based inequity in K-16 education, including policymakers, educators, education administrators, parents, businesspeople, nonprofits, students, and other interested parties. Together, participants will explore the scope of issues here in Vermont, develop a shared understanding of contributing factors and language for dialogue, and lay the groundwork for subsequent action and collaboration in schools and society. Keynote speaker is Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Film Director and Gender Advocate, Producer/Director of The Mask You Live In & Miss Representation. [More info here](#).

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**Summer Camp, Vermont Works for Women-style! Watch this wonderful video about the experience of the 112 girls that participated in [Rosie's Girls](#) and [Dirt Divas](#).**

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Vermont Works for Women's Work-Readiness Program in the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility marked its 30th graduate in September! The program is in partnership with [Community High School of Vermont](#). [Read](#) this moving story of their latest women graduates.

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United Ways of Vermont and VT Early Learning Challenge Grant Launch Help Me Grow Phone Line for Parents and Caregivers

Parents and caregivers can now dial 2-1-1 to be connected with a trained Help Me Grow child development specialist who can answer questions about children's behavior and development and

connect families to resources and services in their community. The Help Me Grow initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen and align the systems that support young children and families in Vermont. Information collected by call center staff will help identify family needs as well as gaps in and barriers to services across the state. This data can then be used to help ensure that young Vermonters and their families get the support they need. More info [here](#).

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Vermont's Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality Affordable Child Care held its first meeting on Sept 2, 2015 at the State House. Commissioners generated a list of questions they'd like to answer to help them understand issues ranging from the barriers parents face when they try to find care, to the barriers providers face in trying to offer care. The next meeting will be held in October at a date to be determined. For more information visit <http://www.letsgrowkids.org/blue-ribbon-commission>.

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Read the latest update on Vermont Early Learning Challenge grant work [here](#).

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Learn more and register for this free webinar from the National Women's Law Center: [Planning for Retirement, Part I: What Women Should Know As They Start Their Careers](#). On-line, Thursday, Oct. 15th, at 2:00.

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Umbrella's Annual Meeting takes place Monday, October 20th at Lyndon State College. [Interested? Let them know](#). Read Umbrella's annual report [here](#).

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Second Edition of The [Vermont Suicide Prevention Platform](#) Released. The Platform offers a well-defined, structured guide to the priorities of suicide prevention in Vermont, built on a foundation of collaboration and ongoing research. Read it [here](#).

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Male Survivors of Violence Group at SafeSpace in Burlington. Peer led support group for all male survivors of relationship, dating emotional, physical, sexual or hate violence. Call for more info: 802-802-863-0003.

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[Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) recently updated its fact sheet, ["Gender Wage Gap: 2014,"](#) with new data from the U.S. Census Bureau showing that the gender wage ratio improved slightly from 77.6 percent in 2013 to 78.6 percent in 2014, which was not statistically significant. **IWPR analysis finds that, if current trends are projected forward, women will not receive equal pay until 2059: one year further out from last year's projection.**

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Read [the Center for Law and Social Policy's brief](#) examining ways that volatile job schedules complicate and constrain access to public benefits, including those provided under TANF, SNAP, the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and Medicaid. CLASP also recently issued this [in-depth look at 2014 Census data and policy solutions to address poverty](#).

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[Women Helping Battered Women's](#) Calendar of Events is full to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015. Check it out [here](#). Highlight: Join Vermont PBS, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center Film House, the Chittenden County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force, Women Helping Battered Women, and the community to watch and discuss the film *The Perfect Victim*, Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 PM. More info [here](#).

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**Vermont Works for Women's Step Up to Skilled Manufacturing** is a training program for women interested in pursuing the livable wage career of skilled manufacturing. Monday/Thursday Evenings and Saturdays...learn more [here](#).

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[Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#)

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