

The Vermont Commission on Women and Main Street Alliance of Vermont Announce Series of Paid Family and Medical Leave Forums

Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) and Main Street Alliance of Vermont will host a series of free community forums across the state this fall focusing on long-term paid family and medical leave. These morning forums will be held in five locations in September and October:

BRATTLEBORO at the Latchis Theatre, Tuesday 9/15 from 8:00 am-9:30 am.

MANCHESTER at the Community Library, Tuesday 9/22 from 10:30 am-12:00 pm.

ST. ALBANS at Back Inn Time, Tuesday, 9/29 from 9:00 am-10:30 am.

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

WOODSTOCK at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, Thursday, 10/14 from 8:00 am-9:30 am.

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 a discussion with business owners and community members. Coffee and refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP for an event, please contact Ashley Moore.

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New: Statewide Events Calendar: www.vtwomen.org

VCW just launched this new calendar tool, an exciting way to increase public participation and awareness of special events/meetings/conferences around our state that are of interest to women and girls. Our 25 Advisory Council organizations were the first to take part: check out their events! Event entry is now open to all. VCW wishes to thank Modern Tribe for providing a free copy of Events Calendar PRO for WordPress, and Pallas Web Development for the generous donation of developer time.

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Please Mark your Calendars: Vermont Women's Economic Security Summit

Presented by: Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) and the Women's Legislative Caucus
Thursday, October 8th at the Vermont State House

Women make up half of our state's workforce and are critical to Vermont's economic future. The aim of this summit will be to generate a range of policy recommendations that better support women as essential contributors to their families' economic security and to Vermont's economy as a whole. From wages and benefits to work-family balance and caring for children, come hear state legislators, community leaders, and advocates discuss policies that will not only improve the economic wellbeing of women and their families, but all Vermonters. Stay tuned to VIEW for more details.

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Learn more about appointments to VCW here and recent events, including a press conference for Women's Equality day here.

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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 19th Annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference

Saturday, September 19th at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center

Always free and fantastic, Senator Leahy's WEOC conference features two dozen workshops, helping participants capitalize on social media, gain invaluable marketing know-how, and achieve that critical work-life balance. Jane Lindholm, host of Vermont Public Radio's Vermont Edition, presents this year's keynote address, sharing personal stories about her professional endeavors. As always, the conference is FREE, with FREE lunch, FREE snacks, and if pre-registered, FREE CHILD CARE. **Registration deadline: September 13th!** REGISTER NOW [here](#). Look for VCW's table!

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Vermont Pride Festival and Parade

Sunday, September 13th 12-5pm

The Vermont Pride Festival and Parade will be held on Sunday, September 13th, 2015. A parade down Church Street will start at 12:30pm, with festival in Battery Park from 1pm-5pm. Learn more [here](#). Events before, during and after listed [here](#)!

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Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

VCW staff were part of the packed room celebrating the heroes that work with women and families in Vermont at domestic and sexual violence shelters and programs last week. [Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) presented awards to Judy Szeg, Chief Michael Shirling, Kiona Heath, and Naomi Smith for exceptional leadership and advocacy. Senator Leahy [gave a rousing and moving keynote address](#). Guest Artist [Candy Barr](#) provided 40 paintings for sale with 50% of proceeds going to purchasing art to hang in area shelters. Every painting sold. Ms. Barr's remarks included some inspiration for the artist in all of us, "... Making art lifts the energy. And it gives us the freedom to be ourselves...and go beyond. Painting creates an environment of equilibrium. In the artworks, it's the artifact of one person giving to another. Trusting your instincts or perceptions. What do you care about enough to spend the next two hours investigating?" A great event celebrating all who work in this challenging field!

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Three Steps Forward

Learn more about this Rutland area program targeting young women who are failing to achieve the goal of becoming economically self-sufficient [here](#).

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New fall offerings at Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Women's Health Resource Center

Free programs and support groups at the mall in Lebanon, NH. More info [here](#).

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Registered VT Child Care Apprenticeship Program

Presented by the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council (VCCICC) and Vermont Department

of Labor

Are you a child care center owner wanting to engage employees in furthering their education and also prepare for the new regulations? Are you a child care center staffer that would love an opportunity to take 6 FREE COLLEGE CLASSES and be qualified to open your own center some day? Get in touch with the Apprenticeship program! Apprentices are typically newer employees in the field who could benefit from on-the-job mentoring and college coursework. Employers match apprentices with a more experienced co-worker who serves as a mentor for a couple of years. At the same time, apprentices enroll in a sequence of 6 college courses -- 1 per semester-- at CCV campuses. Classes typically meet on a weeknight are TUITION FREE for apprentices. Learn more, contact Adri Taylo-Behrman at 802-985-2700

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Got extra time and computer skills? Database volunteers needed at Umbrella

Maintaining and accurate donor database system is crucial to this important service provider in the NEK. Please email athena@umbrellanek.org or call 802-748-1992 x 314 if you have the skills and time!

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Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills Workshops in September and October

Vermont Department of Labor, 100 Main Street, Suite 210, Newport

All workshops: 9:00 -10:00 AM

September Workshop Dates- 9/10 Resume, 9/17 Interviewing , 9/24 Resume

October Workshop Dates-10/1 Interviewing, 10/8 Resume, 10/22 Resume

Improve your chances of landing that job. Learn what goes into a resume to create a professional and polished work search document. Learn how to sell yourself and stay positive during that stressful interview. FREE. Call now to register: (802) 334-6545.

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Mercy Connections' Women's Small Business Program

Fall 2015 Class Offerings:

- Start Up: Comprehensive Business Planning, 15-weeks starts Sept. 10
- Personal Financial Empowerment class, 7-weeks starts Sept. 15
- Getting Serious: Introduction to Self-Employment, 4-weeks starts Oct. 6
- Gig Life: Managing a Multiple Income Stream Lifestyle, starts Nov. 7 Find out more, contact [Gwen Pokalo](#) today!

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WIOA

In July 2014, [the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) was signed into law. This was the first update to the nation's core workforce training programs since the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 16 years ago. Low-income, lower-skilled workers face more barriers than ever to securing an education and getting a good job. Learn more [here](#) about ideas for how to make WIOA work for everyone, from CLASP, the Center for Law and Social Policy, Inc.

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Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity's *What Should Happen When Your Child Reports School-Based Aggression*

Just in time for back-to-school, this is the third revision of this publication covering what parents, guardians and community members need to know when a Vermont child reports being a victim of school-based aggression.

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VCW Commissioner Dr. Felicia Kornbluh recently penned this VT Digger piece on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) welfare policy.

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Listen to **Women Get the Vote**, a commentary on Vermont Public Radio by Peter Gilbert of Vermont Humanities Council.

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2015-2016 Vermont Victim Assistance Academy

Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services

Four 2-day sessions from October 2015 to May 2016

The Academy is a practical, interactive training presented by seasoned professionals from a variety of fields and consisting of 64 hours of guided instruction on victims' rights, services, and their experience of crime and its aftermath. It is open to those whose work and lives intersect with victims and survivors of crime. Registration deadline is September 25th, 2015. More information and applications here.

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Sharing two recent pieces from New York Times: Paid Leave and Wage Gap

The Real War on Families: Why the U.S. Needs Paid Leave Now, details about data showing that nearly 1 in 4 employed mothers return to work within two weeks of childbirth.

Let's Expose the Gender Pay Gap, an opinion piece by Joanne Lipman, former editor at The Wall Street Journal.

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Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE)

White River Junction Health Center has moved. The new location is 79 South Main Street. An open house event will take place Friday, October 2nd from 5-7pm with music, refreshments and special presentations. More info or to RSVP: supportus@ppnne.org or 1-800-287-8188 ext.9704

Access Plan - FREE family planning services at any Planned Parenthood health center

Need an STI test? A well woman check up? Birth control? Are you an uninsured Vermonter? You may qualify for the Access Plan, a free and confidential family planning program for low income Vermont residents. Learn more by calling 866-476-1321 or link here.

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"Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic" film screening

The Eleanor B. Daniels Fund, a special fund at the UVM Cancer Center, in partnership with The Hicks Foundation

Tuesday, October, 13, 2015 , 7pm, at Catamount Film and Arts Center, St. Johnsbury, VT
Showtime: 6:00- 9pm movie starts at 7pm.

This Award winning film takes viewers through the lives of 5 courageous women who were diagnosed with HPV, which tragically turned to Cervical Cancer. HPV is known to cause several types of cancer in men and woman, beyond cervical cancer. Free showing. Heavy appetizers and drinks provided. Cash bar on site. Learn more about HPV and vaccine in this Vt Digger piece [here](#).

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Rocking Horse: Circle of Support for Women

Sponsored by: Vermont Dept. of Health – Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs, Hedding United Methodist Church in Barre, and Central Vermont Substance Abuse Services

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, September 9, 2015 to November 11, 2015

Hedding United Methodist Church, Church Street, Barre

Confidential and FREE – for women who have or had substance abuse/alcohol issues or have/had someone in their lives with these problems. Child care provided. Call Louise @ (C) 279-6378 or Lynda @ 476-4328.

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News from Let's Grow Kids

Vermont's new Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care met for the first time recently. Find a recap of the meeting [here](#). For the latest news on the Blue Ribbon Commission, stay tuned to the special [commission page of the Let's Grow Kids website](#).

Read about Vermont's [Early Childhood Superheroes](#). The deadline to nominate a Superhero for the next round is October 15! Is there someone from your community who's gone above and beyond to help children succeed? Give them the recognition they deserve! [Click here](#) to submit your nomination.

Vermont's Promise Communities initiative brings together local representatives from education, health care, social services, private and public sectors, as well as parents and community members. This collaboration creates a comprehensive approach to transforming the community in order to better support young children and families—particularly those with high needs. While many states have implemented this type of place-based initiative, Vermont is among the first to use this model to address the nature of rural poverty. Vermont has identified seven Promise Communities so far:

- Barre City/Town
- Bellows Falls
- Brattleboro - Green Street Neighborhood
- St. Albans - Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union
- Rutland City
- St. Johnsbury
- Winooski

Please contact [Julianne Nickerson](#), *Promise Communities Director for the Vermont Department for Children and Families* for more information about this initiative.

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Former VCW Commissioner Elayne Clift will be doing a series of readings from her new and **award-winning collection of short stories** Children of the Chalet. More info [here](#).

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Vermont Early Childhood Alliance, c/o Vermont Community Loan Fund

The [Alliance's website](#) is a source of information for those interested in early childhood advocacy. Access information about [Upcoming Events](#), the [2015 Legislative Summary](#) and the 2016 [Agenda Setting Process](#), [Alliance Membership](#) and [Steering Committee](#) roster.

From the Alliance: **Public Comments on Proposed Child Care Licensing Regulations**

Public comment on two sets of proposed child care licensing regulations is now open through September 28th. Download the proposed regulations by clicking on the following links: [Registered and Licensed Family Child Care Homes](#) and [Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs](#)

There are three ways to submit comments on the proposed regulations:

1. Use online the survey link for [Homes](#) or [Programs](#) (corresponding to the above sets of regulations).
2. Attend a public hearing at a [Vermont Interactive Technologies](#) site across the state on September 14th from 9:00 to 11:00 am or September 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
3. Mail written comments to: *Proposed Child Care Regulations Comments, Child Development Division, 103 South Main Street, 3 North, Waterbury, VT 05671-5500*

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A [new report](#) by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) and MomsRising finds that working women—especially single mothers, women workers of color, and women working in service and administrative support positions—**have the most to gain from an increase of the overtime salary threshold** to \$50,440 proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor in July 2015. The report finds that of currently exempt women workers, nearly half of single mothers (44 percent), Black women (46 percent) and Hispanic women (48 percent), will gain automatic eligibility to earn overtime pay with the new threshold. These same groups of women stand to gain the most in earnings because they work more overtime hours than other groups. Newly covered single mothers who currently work more than 40 hours per week could earn as much as an additional \$243 per week if they were to receive premium pay for all their overtime hours.

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WIC Rocks

The US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) just presented several Vermont WIC local agencies with awards of excellence for efforts to increase breastfeeding. The Loving Support Award of Excellence program was established to recognize WIC agencies across the country that have provided exemplary breastfeeding promotion and support activities which increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates among WIC participants.

Bennington District Office, Vermont Department of Health WIC Program—**Gold Premiere**
Middlebury District Office, Vermont Department of Health WIC Program—**Gold Premiere**

Rutland District Office, Vermont Department of Health WIC Program—**Gold Premiere**
Burlington District Office, Vermont Department of Health WIC Program—**Gold Premiere**
St. Albans District Office, Vermont Department of Health WIC Program—Gold

A total of 55 local WIC agencies across the nation qualified for a Loving Support Award. Fifty agencies have been selected for a Gold award and **only five agencies were selected for a Gold Premiere award, four of which are in Vermont.**

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Vermont Commission on Women (VCW)

VIEW Message – Vermont Information Exchange for Women
126 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633-6801

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [NEW: VT Equal Pay Compact](#)

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