

COVID-19, PARENTHOOD, AND VERMONT'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

"Being a single, working parent was a challenge pre-COVID. It's even more difficult now. I was furloughed in March, and unemployment benefits took a month to come in. Thankfully, I had saved enough money to get us through but the budget was tight and I was very fearful for our future. Daycare has opened up but for limited hours and stricter guidelines. ... There are plenty of systems that help people who don't work, which is great. But I believe in the value of work and don't want to lose the career I've worked so hard to obtain. The furlough is expected to last until the end of September. I have the option to be "redeployed" to another position in the organization but I am hesitant to accept anything due to lack of adequate childcare."

—Chittenden County Resident, June 2020



Nationwide, COVID-19 is impacting mothers disproportionately.

- There are 8.5 million more single mothers than single fathers in the United States today. 21% of all children live only with their mother, compared to 4% living with their father only. (*Nat'l Bureau of Economic Research*)
- Black and Hispanic women are more likely than white and Asian women to be single heads of households. (*Center for American Progress*)
- Mothers already did a majority of such work in two-career households: 35 hours a week before the pandemic, compared with 25 hours a week by fathers. (*Bloomberg, Parents' Chores and Child Care Almost Double During Pandemic*)
- In two-parent households, about 44% of women said they alone provided child care in their household in early April, compared with 14% of men. (*Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California*)
- Data from April and May revealed that over 80% of U.S. adults who weren't working because they had to care for their children who were not in school or day care were women. (*NY Times, "They Go to Mommy First," July 15, 2020*)

This time and commitment will impact women's ability to work towards a promotion, go back to school, and engage in planning that could lead to career advancement.

*Women are essential
to getting Vermont back to work.*



MORE INFO:

Change the Story VT: changethestoryvt.org/covid-19/
COVID-19 Crisis & VT Women: women.vermont.gov