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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



April 7, 2020

News & Resources

VCW's New COVID-19 Resource Page

This new page dedicated to providing resources for COVID-19 is continuously being updated, and can be found at women.vermont.gov/COVID19.

The Census Matters More Than Ever | Voices for Vermont's Children

In 2010, The undercount of Vermont's children in the census resulted in a loss of \$2,300 per child per year in federal funding, more than any other state. In addition to funding for schools, hospitals, and roads, more than 300 federal programs use census data to determine how federal funds are allocated to state and local

governments. We cannot afford to lose out this time. The research is clear—in the 2020 census count, children ages 0-4 are more likely to be missed than any other age group. There are 29,681 kids in Vermont under the age of 5 today. If the research bears out and even 10% of these kids aren't counted, Vermont could be facing a serious loss of funding—\$4,000 per missed resident. An accurate count is critical to the health and future of our state. [Learn more.](#)

As of April 5th, **[only 35.3% of Vermonters have been counted](#)**, the **fifth-lowest response rate in the country.**

Vermont Named 2020's 10th Best State for Women

WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 24 key indicators of living standards for women and named Vermont #10. You can find the [full study here.](#)

Kiah Morris Joins RAD staff as Movement Politics Director

Former State Rep. Kiah Morris, a leader and consultant on issues of diversity, equity, and leadership, has [joined the Rights & Democracy staff as its Movement Politics Director in Vermont.](#) As Movement Politics Director, Kiah will be responsible for co-creating and building the movement-centered governing infrastructure in Vermont that shifts power into the hands of the people — especially marginalized community members — at every level of government.

“We are in a deeply urgent moment where it is clear that our government is struggling to develop responses to support the very survival of Vermonters in the midst of a global pandemic. All social safety nets and systems are being tested to their limits and many of those limits were set by people in elected office,” said Morris. “It is crucial that Vermonters are well represented by individuals of diverse backgrounds, life experiences and identities to speak truth to power and to ensure

no one is left behind. Through this movement work, we can strengthen Vermont and continue to lead the nation through courageous, crucial progressive policies.”

Women at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility Seek Sewing Machines & Material to Make Masks

The women at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in VT are looking for donated sewing machines and material to join the community DIY effort in making face masks during COVID-19. If you are able to donate, please contact [Heather Newcomb](#), Vermont Works for Women Program Manager.

A Call for Letters to Incarcerated Women from VCW Commissioner, Rep. Marybeth Redmond



As in-person visitation has been canceled at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, Commissioner Rep. Marybeth Redmond is calling for messages of hope and encouragement to share with the women. Email yours to marybethredmond@comcast.net.

One Event, Many Perspectives: The Centennial of Women's Suffrage Now Virtual

This event, originally taking place on Saturday, May 16th, will be produced as 4 separate videos on each topic. Watch VIEW for premiere details.

Women's suffrage was a complicated and far-reaching event. Academics specializing in this topic set the historical context and present the stories of the

suffrage movement in Vermont and beyond. Melody Walker, Beverly Little Thunder, Kathryn Dungy, and Susan Ouellette address the impact of women's suffrage from distinct perspectives: for Abenaki Women in Vermont, for Native Americans in Federally Recognized Tribes, for African American women, and in the role of education for women and girls. Presented by the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum with support from the League of Women Voters of VT, the VT Commission on Women, and the VT Suffrage Centennial Alliance, with special thanks to Burlington Cars, 802 Cars, and One Day In July Financial Advisors for their generous support.

Advocates Fear Surge of Domestic Violence Cases in Vermont | Seven Days

Prior to the pandemic, according to Steps to End Domestic Violence interim executive director Ana Burke, "If an abuser was off at work, it would give someone several hours of reprieve to do some safety planning — possibly to leave. But [now that everyone's at home, some people may be in situations where their abuser is home all day, all night.](#)" Leaders of domestic violence advocacy organizations say they intend to continue serving survivors throughout the crisis. They encourage those who feel threatened to contact [their local advocacy group](#) or to call the Vermont Network's statewide, 24-hour hotline: 800-228-7395.

Coronavirus and Xenophobia | VT Human Rights Commission

"Don't let your fear about COVID-19 cloud your humanity.

The public health concern surrounding the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) has resulted in alarming hate crimes, discriminatory acts, bullying and stigmatization against Asian-Americans in towns and cities across the country. News outlets and social media have further perpetuated the stereotype that Asian-Americans are the carriers of this virus. The virus can be carried by any person of any race and ethnicity.

As we deal with COVID-19, we would like to remind our [Vermont communities to educate themselves with facts and resources, not stigma](#). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides resources, up-to-date information, and strict guidelines about how to protect ourselves and our community. The Vermont Department of Health website also contains up-to-date information about the state of COVID-19 in Vermont."

Vermont Advocates Ask for Statewide Pause of Rent During COVID-19 Pandemic | Burlington Free Press

A [measure before the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs](#) calls for a "moratorium" on evictions, foreclosure proceedings, and repossession of rental properties. Landlords would still be able to file evictions in court, but the measure would place a stay on all current and new eviction proceedings until 30 days after Gov. Phil Scott's state of emergency order ends, Jean Murray, Legal Aid attorney said.

Details Start to Emerge on Unemployment Insurance, Other Relief Payments | VT Digger

People who are [filing for state unemployment insurance for this week will start receiving their weekly \\$600 supplement](#) from the federal government when they receive their unemployment check next week, according to state officials. Meanwhile, a federal one-time payment to Vermonters earning less than \$75,000 annually will be on its way within 30 days.

Most Workers Are Getting Adequate Unemployment Benefits | Public Assets Institute

One goal of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the \$2 trillion federal stimulus law, is to encourage workers to stay home by providing

them enough cash for their families to live on. [For many Vermont workers, the policy succeeds.](#) State unemployment benefits replace 58 percent of a worker's wages and are capped at \$513 a week. The federal government will provide \$600 a week on top of state benefits for unemployed workers through July 31.

What the Senate-passed COVID-19 Relief Package Means for Vermont | VTDigger

The U.S. Senate voted 96-0 late Wednesday to approve a sweeping \$2 trillion coronavirus disaster relief package to help workers, businesses, health providers and state and local governments across the country. [Here is the estimated funding that will be coming to Vermont,](#) according to Senator Leahy's office.

Child Care Needs for 'Essential' Workers Covered for Now | VTDigger

In most regions, [supply is meeting demand. For now.](#) The state has received requests to care for nearly 1,200 children so far, Ken Schatz, the commissioner of the Department for Children and Families, told lawmakers Tuesday. A little over 2,000 spots are available.

People Working During the Pandemic Need a Living Wage Too | Public Assets Institute

And now [we also need to turn our efforts to the people who are continuing to work](#) in grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals and doctors' offices, and scores of public jobs. They won't get federal unemployment compensation because they're still doing essential work. They will receive the one-time payment, which will be a help. But we also need to make sure that they, too, are paid enough to live on and support their families during this crisis.

Sometime soon, Vermont's minimum wage needs to ensure that all workers have a livable income. In the meantime, Vermont needs to set a livable, minimum wage for essential workers, possibly with state assistance, including school, municipal, and county employees, and perhaps others. They, also, deserve help from the rest of us to get through this pandemic.

Vermont Colleges Loosen Grading as COVID-19 Crisis Raises Equity Concerns | VTDigger

"It is unfair to punish students who may not have access to a stable internet connection, food, or housing while they are away from campus," [the petition says](#). "We must also recognize that UVM students reside in many different time zones and having scheduled lectures with strict due dates for assignments may be difficult to adhere to."

Survey: Food access and food security during Coronavirus | University of Vermont

UVM is conducting [a survey to understand how people are responding](#) to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as it relates to food purchasing and food access. This information will be used to inform policymakers and coronavirus responses as they relate to food security. If you provide your email address at the end of the survey, you can be entered in a raffle to receive one of 25, \$50 gift cards to a grocery store.

Homeless Shelters Scramble For Capacity As COVID-19 Spreads | VPR

State agencies and local shelters are scrambling to [prevent the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness](#) who may be particularly vulnerable to the disease. Public health officials have strongly urged Vermonters to self-isolate in

their homes. For the estimated 1,000 or so people that don't have one, however, the advisory is difficult to follow.

Small Business Administration Rolling Out Significant Financial Assistance | Vermont Business Magazine

[The Small Business Administration is rolling out two financing programs](#) to help small businesses. The Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). The EIDL includes an immediate grant of \$10,000 that is available to all businesses, including sole proprietors, in as soon as three days after applying.

VBSR COVID-19 Webinars for Vermont Businesses

VBSR offers [COVID-19 resources for businesses](#), including copies of past webinars on topics including transition to a remote workplace, supporting employees with child care needs, and keeping your business and community safe.

Know Your Rights Issues FAQ About COVID-19 & Title IX

Despite school campus closures, your rights are still your rights. [Learn more about what your school should be doing](#) to uphold and enforce your rights during this period of remote learning.

5 Ways State Policymakers Must Center Gender Justice in their COVID-19 Response | National Women's Law Center

Given that women, especially women of color, will be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, [state policymakers must center gender justice in the following ways when making policy decisions](#):

1. Protect front line workers—including health care workers, child care workers, and others whose work is critical to our public health—many of whom are women.
2. Eliminate barriers to health care – Medicaid, COVID-19 Testing and Treatment, Birth Control, and Abortion.
3. Support working people and families and stabilize state and local economies.
4. Support marginalized communities, including survivors of domestic violence, incarcerated populations, and people experiencing homelessness.
5. Ensure students can continue to receive an education while protecting their health, basic needs, and civil rights.

Does COVID-19 Hit Women and Men Differently? U.S. Isn't Keeping Track | NYTimes

As the novel coronavirus sweeps the world, sickening hundreds of thousands of people and killing at least 50,000 individuals to date, scientists have learned more and more about it. We know that older adults — aged 60 and above — are at greater risk of dying from it. And, based on data from China, Italy and South Korea, we also know that men seem to have higher fatality rates. But in the U.S., where ramped-up testing is churning out reams of data by the minute, [there's one thing we're not monitoring: the sex breakdown](#). How many women are infected versus men? Are men and women equally likely to get infected? What is the fatality rate for each sex? Are symptoms exactly alike for men and women?

The Coronavirus Is a Disaster for Feminism | The Atlantic

A pandemic [magnifies all existing inequalities](#). Working from home in a white-collar job is easier; employees with salaries and benefits will be better protected; self-isolation is less taxing in a spacious house than a cramped apartment. But one of the most striking effects of the coronavirus will be to send many couples back to

the 1950s. Across the world, women's independence will be a silent victim of the pandemic.

COVID-19: the Gendered Impacts of the Outbreak | The Lancet

Given their front-line interaction with communities, it is concerning that [women have not been fully incorporated into global health security surveillance, detection, and prevention mechanisms](#). Women's socially prescribed care roles typically place them in a prime position to identify trends at the local level that might signal the start of an outbreak and thus improve global health security.

Why This Economic Crisis Differs From the Last One for Women | The New York Times

The sectors that are going to be most affected — for example, the restaurants, which are all closed, or the travel sector — have fairly high female employment. More women will lose jobs. But the much bigger thing for most people who live with children is the extra child care needs — [everybody with young kids has to provide all of the child care all of a sudden](#). And we argue that the vast majority of this extra work will fall on women, therefore making it difficult for them to work as usual.

The Wage Gap Has Made Things Worse for Women on the Front Lines of COVID-19 | National Women's Law Center

Women experience a gender wage gap in nearly every occupation, including low- and high-wage jobs. And the over-representation of women and women of color in these low-paid jobs means [women on the frontlines of COVID-19 defense are being consistently undervalued](#) as they do the work that the rest of the country is depending on as never before.

The Coronavirus Gender Gap | Ms. Magazine

“The challenge of the emergency really puts additional strain on existing inequalities,” said Laura Addati, a policy specialist in women and economic empowerment for the International Labor Organization. “If there’s not already an egalitarian sharing of child care or housework, [it will be women who are responsible for remote school, for ensuring there’s food and supplies, for coping with this crisis.](#)”

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Moves Programming Online

Due to COVID-19 programs will be virtual prevention presentations beginning in April. This will be the same program offered to schools, daycare centers, parents and anyone that has an interest in keeping children safe. Please respond to ashangraw@aol.com if you're interested in learning more.

Sarah Briggs and Sarah Laursen of the Middlebury College Museum of Art Launch New Website, Vermont Art Online

The [new website www.vermontartonline.org](http://www.vermontartonline.org) is a portal for 360-degree tours of Vermont’s museums and galleries from Big Heavy World ‘Tiny’ Museum of Vermont Music History to Cold Hollow Sculpture Park. The website also includes a list of at-home activities from Vermont arts institutions to share with family or students.

Call for Poems: Virtual Voicing Art Poetry Reading Series

Calling all writers to help bring comfort and community to our shared moment of pause through Virtual Voicing Art Poetry Reading on April 18. Submit 1-4 one-page original works in response to the themes of “connection” and “independent interdependence” inspired by this unusual unprecedented global moment. See poetry.org/voicing-art for submission details and poems from past events.

Submission due date: April 17 to poetryproject@gmail.com

Women's Suffrage in Vermont

Learn more about the women's suffrage movement in our state with Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance history and research leaders, Rachel Onuf and Lyn Blackwell. Vermont Historical Society and co-sponsor Center for Research on Vermont presented this [virtual Third Thursday talk on Thursday, March 19th](#).

Elayne Clift: The female faces of leadership past, present, future

March is Women's History Month. What better time to [honor the women who influence the worlds](#) in which they live(d), whether they are contemporary or not, familiar or unknown.

Register Now for Suffrage Scramble 5K

Register now and prepare to run or walk a flat 5K (3 miles) to commemorate 100 years of the 19th Amendment! The [Suffrage Scramble 5K](#) is still on for Saturday, August 15th at the Waterbury State Office Complex. Presented by Central Vermont Runners, and produced in conjunction with Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance, \$20 entry fee gets participants cool "Votes for Women" T-shirts and potential awards for best period dress and best voting rights protest signs. Saturday, August 15th at the Waterbury State Office Complex.

Special thanks to Recent [Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#) Signers:

- Advantage Tennis Inc.
 - Burrow Sports
-

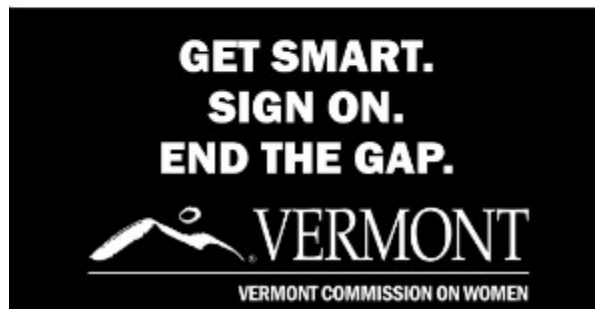
- Casey Inc.
- Castleton University
- Champlain Housing Trust
- Clarina Howard Nichols Center
- Downstreet Housing & Community Development
- Downtown Brattleboro
- Jasper Hill Farm
- Nancy Brooks Marketing
- Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging
- PC Construction
- Start Change, Inc.
- Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
- Vermont Works for Women
- VT Mechanical
- ZQuiet

Has your business signed on to the [Vermont Equal Pay Compact?](#)

The Compact is a **voluntary online pledge** that enables Vermont employers to learn about and indicate their commitment to closing the wage gap.

We offer a **[list of strategies](#)** to consider and resources to inform employers.

VERMONT EQUAL PAY COMPACT



Employment Opportunities

H.O.P.E WORKS is hiring for a full-time position of Victim Advocate.

For job requirement details and how to apply, please visit: <https://hopeworksvt.org/internships-and-employment>

Vermont Works for Women Seeks Translation Help

Vermont Works for Women is seeking professional translation services for Swahili, Nepali, Spanish, Vietnamese and Swahili/Mai Mai speakers involved in their job training programs. If you can help, please contact Alison Lamagna, VWW's Director of Programs and Gender Equity.



March Change The Story Commentary Series in VT Digger

provided by Vermont Commission on Women

Hannah Lane: The Gender Wage Gap for Doubters

If not an education gap, what drives the discrepancy in earnings? We have identified three key contributors to the gender wage gap: occupational segregation; time out of the labor force; and gender norms, bias, discrimination, and violence.

Read the [entirety of Hannah's commentary here](#).

Upcoming (Virtual) Events

Daily Virtual Support Group for All Self-Identified Women Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence | Women's Freedom Center

Every Monday-Friday from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., call 802-254-6954 to learn how to join.)

COVID-19 Policy Resources for Nonprofits with Common Good VT | VBSR

Tuesday, April 7 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Surviving the Pandemic & Transforming Our World Together | WILPF

Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

COVID-19 Legal Issues and Updates for Employers | VBSR

Friday April 10, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Women in Cannabis Summit

Saturday, April 11, 8:45 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Fair Housing Training | VT Human Rights Commission

Monday, April 13, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Dealing with COVID-19 Anxiety and Hope: Options for Business Resiliency | VBSR

Tuesday, April 14, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

From Equity Awareness to Equity Action: An Economic Justice Approach to Eliminating Socioeconomic Inequities in Schools | VTHEC

[Wednesday, April 15, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.](#)

VBSR Members Respond to COVID-19 | VBSR

[Thursday, April 16, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.](#)

Virtual Voicing Art Poetry Reading: Comfort and Community for Our Time

[Saturday, April 18, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.](#)

One Event, Many Perspectives: The Centennial of Women's Suffrage | Ethan Allen Homestead, League of Women Voters of VT, VT Commission on Women, VT Suffrage Centennial Alliance

[Saturday, May 16th at 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. | details on virtual event coming soon](#)



*We choose events for VIEW from our [statewide events calendar](#) for women and girls. **If you'd like your event featured in the VIEW**, make sure you [add it](#).*

Looking for more? You'll find many more events for women & girls in Vermont on the calendar.



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The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) is a non-partisan state agency advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls. Sixteen volunteer commissioners, along with representatives from organizations concerned with women's issues, guide VCW's public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. For more information, please visit us at <http://women.vermont.gov>.

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