

In this issue: [News & Resources](#), [Employment Opportunities](#), [Funding Opportunities](#), [Upcoming Events](#)

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July 31st, 2020

News & Resources

New Guide: How to Vote by Mail or in Person in Vermont

Vote smart, safe, and early! Voting in Vermont's August 11 Primary looks a little different this year. Check out this [guide for tips and information](#) about how to vote by mail or in person, from a partnership effort of Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance, Disability Rights Vermont, VPIRG, Rights & Democracy Institute, Vermont Conservation Voters, Main Street Alliance--Vermont, and ACLU--Vermont.

New Housing Relief Programs

The Vermont State Housing Authority, an agency that manages federal rental assistance programs statewide, will administer the \$25 million rental assistance program. Applications, additional program eligibility requirements, and answers to FAQs available at www.vsha.org/rental-housing-stabilization-program/.

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency, an agency that finances affordable housing statewide, will administer the \$5 million mortgage assistance payments, providing some relief to lower-income homeowners who could otherwise face foreclosure. Applications, additional program eligibility requirements, and answers to FAQs available at <https://www.vhfa.org/map/>.

New Business Grants for VT's Sole Proprietors

A new COVID economic relief grant program is now available to qualifying sole proprietors through a lottery draw.

The grants of \$5,000, \$7,500 or \$10,000 are to be used for working capital to cover business costs, such as rent, utilities, and for retrofitting to meet COVID-19 requirements to re-open and remain open. This is not a first-come, first-serve program. The application portal is open now, and the lottery draw is August 14th. Read more about qualifications, eligibility, and how to apply:

<https://www.vermont-cdbg-cv.com/>

New Women Business Owner Network (WBON) COVID-19 Resource Page

[Vetted, verified information for women business owners](#), from women business owners, focused on information for self-employed, micro-business, and small business employers in every sector.

VCW Director Cary Brown Presenting on Wage Gap | Vermont Women in Higher Education's (VWHE) Summer Workshop series

VWHE continues its series of [virtual workshops throughout the summer](#) - a wonderful way to stay connected and inspired. Progress in closing the wage gap has all but stalled over the past decade in Vermont and the United States. One hundred years since the passage of the 19th amendment, women continue to be economically vulnerable in ways that may be surprising. This interactive presentation will reflect on the findings in Change The Story's 5th report a comprehensive look at women, poverty, and the wage gap - and discuss what can be done to move this needle more quickly.

Virtual Suffrage Scramble 5K | Central Vermont Runners in partnership with Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

Eight days until the virtual Suffrage Scramble 5k kicks off! Join the over 185 registrants so far in this healthy and safe way to mark suffrage centennial month. [Participants run, roll, paddle or walk the 5K route of their choice at any pace during Primary Week](#) - August 8th to the 15th – a reminder to exercise not only your body, but your right to vote! Event proceeds and donations go to the Rutland Area branch of the NAACP, dedicated to the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminating race-based discrimination in Vermont. Presented by Central Vermont Runners in partnership with the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance.

Smith, Brown et al.: Reshape child care – and ‘women’s work’ – for good | VTDigger Commentary

"Investing in a stronger, more equitable and sustainable child care system provides an elegant solution to one of Vermont’s biggest economic issues: the graying of our workforce. We desperately need young people to fill the jobs that sit open and the new ones we want to create. A high-quality, affordable child care system will help entice a younger demographic to our state, allowing them to raise a family and earn a living.

Our coalition committed to equity and advancing women’s economic power in our state is calling for Vermont to commit to solving our child care crisis. We believe Covid-19 relief funds should be targeted to address child care as an economic, workforce development issue because a strong Vermont requires a robust and affordable system of high-quality child care. We must pay early educators livable wages that reflect their expertise and value their work."

World Breastfeeding Week is August 1 – 7

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a global campaign to raise awareness about breastfeeding. [Join the Vermont Health Department in participating.](#)

Don't leave money on the table, complete the 2020 Census

Vermont's [Census response rate is just 56.4%, compared to the national rate of 62.8%](#), and that means that Vermonters could leave federal funding on the table. Each year, Vermont receives \$2.5 billion from federal government programs that rely on Census data to determine how to allocate funds. These programs include Head Start, Medicare and Medicaid, infrastructure initiatives, and hunger relief programs, among others. By law, all Census responses are completely confidential and are used only to produce statistics. Take 5 minutes today to fill out the census and make sure our state gets the funding we deserve at [2020census.gov!](#)

VCW's Erica Hare Featured in Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly as 1 of 76 to Know About

VCW Commissioner Erica Hare was featured in Mount Holyoke College's Alumni Quarterly as 1 of 76 alums to know about. [Read about Erica's accomplishments here.](#)

Health Care Stabilization Grant Program Information

The \$275 million [Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program](#) to support an array of health care providers is now accepting applications. The application period will be open through August 15, 2020. Health care and human service providers (including CIS) may use the application to seek grant funding for both COVID-19-related lost revenue and COVID-19-specific incurred expenses. The VT Department of Health Access COVID-19 [webpage](#) has detailed information on how to apply, links to webinars on the program, and the application itself.

Free Recorded Webinars on Equity in Schools, Managing Stress, and Building Resilience | VT Higher Education Collaborative (VT-HEC)

VT-HEC is offering a number of [free recorded webinars](#) covering the Equity Literacy Framework, Equity in Schools, and Building Stress & Resilience as we Navigate COVID-19.

Road to Recovery Passport | Vermont Chamber of Commerce

This new [virtual resource is dedicated to the Vermont community](#), offering timely economic, sales & marketing, health, and workforce webinars through August.

Vermont Works for Women's Economic Inequities Compound When Race and Gender Intersect

VWW launched [Economic Inequities Compound When Race and Gender Intersect](#), a social media campaign and blog to shed light on the economic disparities Black women experience, elevate policies and practices that focus on improving economic outcomes for Black women and gender non-conforming individuals, and amplify the voices of women of color.

Maura Collins: Systemic racism in the housing sector | VTDigger Commentary

“Throughout the U.S., including here in this region, there was a building boom after World War II, during which Black and brown households were largely excluded from homeownership opportunities through racist practices like redlining. That was followed by several decades of home price appreciation that we will likely never replicate.

And it is that wealth — that home equity — that white households like mine tapped into to send children like me to college. It is what was used to move up to nicer and bigger homes near more opportunities. It was shared with their grown children as they looked to buy a home, and ultimately it is passed on as an inheritance for future generations.” <https://vtdigger.org/2020/07/29/maura-collins-systemic-racism-in-the-housing-sector/>

‘It is a good, good body’ by Emma Paris | Young Writers Project, via VTDigger

Your body is not perfect,
but it is beautiful.

Your body is not perfect,
but it is a good body.

Your body is good enough,
it is good enough,
it has always been good enough,
[it is good enough for your soul.](#)”

“When Women Lead: Governor Madeleine Kunin of Vermont” Exhibit | Vermont Historical Society

Over fifty years post women's suffrage, a Vermont governor, not a first lady, wore a gown to an inauguration. Throughout her career, former Vermont Governor Madeline Kunin broke this and many other barriers for women in politics. Governor Kunin recently donated her three inaugural gowns to the Vermont Historical Society. They are on view, alongside an exploration of Kunin's life and political career, in the National Life Gallery at the Vermont History Museum.

Clothing and textiles can be richly symbolic objects, and Kunin’s gowns are no

exception. Clothing worn to public events by female politicians is still a subject of intense interest and debate. Kunin put it succinctly: "When women lead, they have to think about what to wear." ["When Women Lead: Governor Madeleine Kunin of Vermont"](#) is on view through January 2021.

Online Exhibit: Norwich Women Crafting the Future | Norwich Historical Society

[The Norwich Historical Society exhibit recognizes 200 years of Norwich women's advocacy](#) and is now available to view and interact with online.

ATHENA Leadership Award Nominations Open Through August 15th

Are you, or do you know, an emerging leader under 40 years old who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession, and who has shown a commitment to improving the quality of life of others in the community while serving as a role model for young women? [Nominations for the ATHENA Leadership Award are due to the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce by August 15.](#)

Rising Star Nominations Open | Vermont Business Magazine

Vermont Business Magazine will again honor Vermont's most accomplished young leaders at the Rising Stars event this fall. Award recipients are selected by a panel of judges for their commitment to business growth, professional excellence, and involvement in their communities. Candidates can nominate themselves as well as being nominated by someone else from non-profit and for-profit businesses. Candidates must be 39 years old or younger on October 1, 2020, and be employed and live in Vermont. [The deadline for nominations is September 4th.](#)

Vanderbilt Study: 1.5 million more hungry kids because of pandemic | WKU

The pandemic's ripple effects have meant [1.5 million more kids are going hungry, according to a new study](#) in the medical journal Pediatrics. The polling data puts numbers to a food insecurity problem that has been occurring out of sight.

Common Good Vermont Announces Vermont 2020 Non-Profit Wages & Benefits Survey

The Report tells an important story about the health and viability of Vermont's non-profit sector. This year's survey includes additional COVID-19 questions to help assess the short-term impacts of COVID-19 on Vermont's nonprofit sector. Common Good encourages all 501(c)(3),(4),(5), and (6) organizations to participate and ask nonprofit serving organizations and businesses to assist in expanding the reach of the survey. Survey participants and partnering organizations will receive the completed Report for free and all others may purchase the Report once it is released for \$125. [The deadline to complete the survey is August 21st.](#)

Employment Opportunities

Vermont Works for Women Seeks two Regional Re-entry Support Specialists in Rutland

Funding Opportunities

Opportunity for funding under the Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI)

and Brattleboro.

[Applications are due TODAY, Friday, July 31st.](#)

Peace and Justice Center of Burlington seeks Operations Manager, Racial Justice Advisory Committee members, and Program Facilitator

[Read the job descriptions and apply.](#)

The purpose of this program is to improve women's health across the lifespan by engaging a coalition of provider, academic, and patient-focused health professional organizations to recommend updates, increase adoption and utilization, and raise awareness of the Women's Preventive Services Guidelines, that cover 12 topics: well-woman visits, human immunodeficiency virus infection, cervical cancer, contraception, breast cancer, urinary incontinence, interpersonal and domestic violence, gestational diabetes mellitus, sexually transmitted infections, breastfeeding services and supplies, diabetes mellitus after pregnancy, and screening for anxiety. [Grants of up to \\$950,000 available. applications due October 5th.](#)

Upcoming Events

Events hosted virtually unless a location is noted.

Vermont Pride Theater | Chandler Center for the Arts

[Cloudburst, TONIGHT, Friday, July 31st at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Immediate Family, Saturday, August 1st at 7:30 p.m.

At the Right Place, At the Right Time photos and silent auction, online & Saturday and Sunday, August 1 & 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph

Business Plan Basics | CWE Vermont

Tuesday, August 4, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Our Blindspot: Implicit Bias in the Workplace and What You Can Do to Stop it with Elicia Mailhoit | VWHE

Tuesday, August 4, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Steps to Grow Your Business | CWE Vermont

Wednesday, August 5, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Black Women Leaders in Predominantly White Institutions of Higher Education: Exploring Empowerment and Sustainability Through Transformative Leadership with Nadia Mitchell | VWHE

Thursday, August 6, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Public Virtual Hearings: Law Enforcement in Vermont | Vermont House Government Operations & House Judiciary Committees

Thursday, August 6, 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 16, 4:00 p.m.

Vermont Reproductive Liberty Panel Series: "What does Reproductive Liberty Mean to Me?" | Planned Parenthood VT Action Fund, with ACLU-VT and the Pride Center of Vermont

An intimate conversation with members of Vermont's BIPOC Community:

Thursday, August 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

An intimate conversation with members of Vermont's Disability Community:

Thursday, August 13, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

An intimate conversation with members of Vermont's LGBTQ Community:

Thursday, August 20, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Recovery to Renewal and Resilience | COVID-19 Local Solutions and Community Action Team

Caledonia County: Thursday, August 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Bennington County: Thursday, August 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Essex County: Thursday, August 20, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Orleans County: Thursday, September 3, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Flourishing in a Time of Crisis: One Woman Business Owner's Story with Christie Garofano | Women Business Owners Network (WBON)

Friday, August 7, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Resources to Help Women-Owned Businesses Thrive | CWE

[Friday, August 7, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.](#)

Virtual Suffrage Scramble 5K | Central Vermont Runners in partnership with Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

[Saturday, August 8 – Saturday, August 15](#)

Seeing and Disrupting Racism: A Focus on White Fragility | VBSR

Wednesday, August 12, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

[Thursday, August 20, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.](#)

Idea to Action (Starting a Business) | Mercy Connections

[Wednesdays, August 12, 19, and 26, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.](#)

VCW Director Cary Brown, Barbara Murphy, Alison Lamagna, & Jessica Nordhaus Present Why the Wage Gap - And What We Can Do About It | VWHE

[Thursday, August 13, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.](#)

Creating Gender Affirming School Environments: What Leaders Need to Know and Do with Mara Iverson | VT-HEC

[Friday, August 14, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.](#)

Start Up: Comprehensive Business Planning | Mercy Connections

[Tuesdays, August 18 – December 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.](#)

Race Conversations | Waterbury Public Library

[Tuesday, August 18, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.](#)

Applying the Principles of Appreciative Inquiry to Your Work and Your Life with Laurel Bongiorno | VWHE

[Wednesday, August 19, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.](#)

Virtual keynote and networking session with Vermont's first Executive Director of Racial Equity, Xusana Davis | VWHE

[Monday, August 24, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.](#)

Gender Equity in Online STEM Learning | National Girls Collaborative Project

[Wednesday, September 2 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.](#)

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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