

VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women Newsletter



March 24th, 2021

News & Resources

New Video Podcast, (un)Equal Pay Day Podcast Series | Vermont Commission on Women

Today marks the day into 2021 that the average American woman must work to catch up to the wages earned by the average American man in 2020.

Based on median earnings for full-time, year-round workers, women are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) launched the second in a series of Equal Pay Day video podcast conversations today, March 24th, the day into the year women need to work before their earnings catch up to those of men in 2020 due to the wage gap.

This podcast conversation centers on the ways COVID-19 impacts decisions that women and their families are making. It touches on career choice and advancement, including occupational segregation. It explores the critical role of women as essential workers and as early care and education providers in keeping women in the workforce, while calling attention to how their worth is not reflected in earnings or status. Guests recount personal stories reflecting on the challenges and gifts of this time as women working in Vermont. The podcast concludes with a

hope-filled discussion about this unique opportunity to reconstruct and rebuild systems back to be more equitable.

Guests on this podcast include educator Lara Scott, the director of Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts (MOVE) at Saint Michael's College, and Sarah MacDonald, assistant director and classroom educator at the Early Learning Center in Colchester. The conversation is introduced by VCW's executive director Cary Brown and moderated by VCW Commissioner Kellie Campbell, Chair of VCW's Education and Human Development committee.

This podcast addresses equal pay day and the wage gap for all women in the U.S. VCW's first podcast launched March 9, Asian American and Pacific Islander women's equal pay day, and featured a conversation with Bor Yang, director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, Senator Keshia Ram, and VCW Chair Lisa Senecal. As the year progresses VCW will produce episodes marking equal pay days for mothers on June 4, for women living with disabilities on June 13, for the LGBTQIA+ community during national Pride month on June 28, for Black women on August 3, for Native American women on September 8, and for Latinas on October 21.

With these video podcast conversations, VCW hopes to raise awareness about pay equity, and the ways racism, sexism, homophobia, and ableism intersect, creating much larger wage gaps for women of color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and women living with disabilities.

Watch this video podcast on [YouTube](#), listen on [SoundCloud](#), or find it on the [Commission's website](#) and social media channels. **Please share this content widely!**



Seat at the Table: The Economic Well-Being of Vermont Women | Lt. Gov. Molly Gray

Lt. Governor Molly Gray hosted an International Women's Day "Seat at the Table" conversation on The Economic Well-Being of Vermont Women with Xusana Davis, the Executive Director of Racial Equity for the State of Vermont, Jessica Nordhaus, the Director of Change the Story VT, Meg Smith, the Director of the Vermont Women's Fund and VCW's Executive Director Cary Brown. Panelists presented existing data and discussed policy changes and initiatives addressing the short-term and long-term economic needs of Vermont women as our state responds and recovers from COVID-19. [Watch this conversation on YouTube.](#)

VCW Director Cary Brown talks women & COVID-19 | News Talk WVMT Morning Show

[Listen to WVMT's recent Morning Drive show interview segment with VCW's executive director Cary Brown.](#) They talk about women's unemployment during COVID-19 and the reasons why VT women are so hard-hit by job loss.

Menstrual Equity Update | Vermont Commission on Women

VCW has updated our [info sheet about access to menstrual supplies](#) to include [S.115](#), an act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws. This act now includes a provision that would require public schools in Vermont who serve grades 5 - 12 to provide menstrual supplies for free in student restrooms. It is being considered by the [House Committee on Education](#). Share your thoughts about this provision with the Committee and with your [representatives](#).

(Lack of) Paid Leave Story Collection | Vermont FaMLI Coalition

The Vermont FaMLI Coalition is collecting stories that highlight the critical need for a permanent federal solution to Paid Family and Medical Leave. They want to feature the many faces of paid leave to raise public consciousness about the necessity of this program. From individuals, parents, grandparents, children, child care providers, health care workers, social workers, the ripple effects of the lack of paid leave are far-reaching, and each story will help paint a more cohesive picture.

Paid leave undergirds other care systems and supports. It is an issue of racial justice, gender equity, disability rights, small business support, military family support, public health, economic growth, and justice. It's important to rural workers, frontline workers, small businesses, parents, caregivers, and every working family in this country. [Take a moment to share your experience and help lift up collective voice for Paid Leave!](#)

Westlaw & Fastcase Access for VT's pro se litigants | Community Legal Information Center at Vermont Law School

Vermonters who are representing themselves in court or researching a legal issue can [create a free, temporary account with Westlaw and Fastcase](#).

Well-Woman Chart | Women's Preventive Services Initiative

Developed by the Women's Preventive Services Initiative, a federally supported collaborative program led by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the [Well-Woman Chart](#) provides women information about preventive health care services recommended for their age group. The Well-Woman Chart is updated each year and available in both interactive

or print versions. Women can use it to prepare for their annual checkup appointment, knowing what health screenings they may need and gathering questions they might want to ask their healthcare provider.

Adjutant general, women leaders speak with Vermont Commission on Women | Defense Visual Information Distribution Services

“Vermont Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Greg Knight and several women leaders within the Vermont National Guard spoke via teleconference with members of the Vermont Commission on Women March 10. In opening remarks, Knight said he has taken action to create a diverse climate and to provide an environment where innovation can thrive. ‘In some instances, our actions are a first for the Vermont National Guard, leading to the sharing of best practices with other states and the National Guard Bureau,’ he said.” - [Donald Branum](#)

New video: COVID-19, pregnancy, breastfeeding, and fertility questions | Vermont Health Department

A new [Vermont Health Department video, Sara Asks](#), was inspired by community education sessions held with our partners to answer some commonly asked questions around the COVID-19 vaccine. This first video centers on pregnancy, breastfeeding, and fertility questions.

Spring 2021 Coaching Opportunities | Girls on the Run Vermont

[Girls on the Run Vermont's 2021 spring Coach Registration is open](#) and seeking additional coaches. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires girls in 3rd through 8th grade to be joyful, healthy and confident. The eight-week program incorporates running to teach critical life skills, encourage personal development and foster team building and community service. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. Lesson content covers topics such as empathy, friendship, identifying and managing emotions and more. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all teams participating in a celebratory 5k run/walk event. The season starts the week of April 5th statewide.

Online auction | SafeArt

[SafeArt hosts an online auction from Monday, March 15th to Saturday, April 10th](#), including items and experiences from local artwork to photoshoots and more.

Dru Roessle: Giving circles are one way we can change the world | VTDigger Commentary

“A profound national reckoning with systemic racial injustice and white supremacy culture is teaching us movement-building. I feel reminded that, though we may not have control, we do have power. We impact one another and our world every day through our actions. I also feel reminded that our sense of reality is overlaid with a filter of our own experiences, assumptions, stories, and biases, so acknowledging how much we don’t know is the first step to learning and adapting. The systems we’re in are deeply unjust, inequitable, and imperfect — but they are made, and we can make something different.”

- [Dru Roessle via VTDigger](#)

Molly Gray: Vermont women are in economic crisis. The Family Act is a solution | VTDigger Commentary

“It is true that the pandemic has been devastating, but working people in Vermont — especially women — have long been caught between their work and caregiving. Covid-19 has laid bare our country’s failure to support the economic well-being of working families and women, and it is past time we address this through effective legislation that is affordable for employers of all sizes. The good news is there’s a national solution that would address Vermont’s paid family and medical leave crisis head-on: The Family And Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The federal [Family Act](#) would provide Vermonters with 12 weeks of paid leave to recover from illness, care for a sick family member or recover from childbirth.”

- [Lt. Governor Molly Gray via VTDigger](#)

Mother Load | SevenDays

“The mothers, in general, are not all right, and single working mothers such as Bree have disproportionately borne the psychic and economic brunt of the pandemic. Overnight, she and many of the roughly 15 million other single mothers in the U.S. watched their already precarious safety nets disappear — their childcare routines, their incomes, any sense they might have had of being in control of their lives.” - [Chelsea Edgar for Seven Days](#)

**Note to our readers: this piece contains profanity.*

Vermont Legislative Research Service | UVM

Student researchers in UVM's Vermont Legislative Research Service recently completed a round of reports for the Vermont Legislature. The policy reports completed and available on the [VLRS website](#) include reports on the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions; The Impact of Casinos; Statute of Limitations on Debt; Alternative Wastewater Systems and Civics Education. Legislators can submit requests directly at the VLRS site or contact VLRS directly.

Key child care reform bill moves forward in Vt. House | WCAX

“Pugh says it allocates \$5.5 million next year to the state’s child care program for low-income families, expanding who is eligible for benefits. That money will also allow the program to put a cap on how much families with multiple children have to pay for child care. Second, the bill provides \$1.8 million for providers to pay off student loans and another \$700,000 for scholarships. The goal is to not only to attract child care staff into the workforce but to help them make a career out of it.” [Christina Guessferd for WCAX](#)

Bill Schubart: When the state takes a child | VTDigger Commentary

“I once was blessed to hear [Marian Wright Edelman](#), founder of the [Children’s Defense Fund](#), speak. A comment she made has stayed with me for 30 years: ‘We are willing to spend the least amount of money to keep a kid at home, more to put him in a foster home, and the most to institutionalize him.’” - [Bill Schubart via VTDigger](#)

A new, independent Office of the Child Advocate might have a chance this year | VTDigger

“Once again, Vermont is mulling whether it needs an office to provide independent oversight of cases in which children get involved in the courts or the state’s welfare system. The idea of establishing an Office of the Child Advocate has been on the table in Vermont for four of five years now, but has never actually made it through the Legislature, said Rep. Ann Pugh, D-South Burlington, chair of the House Committee on Human Services.” - [Ellie French for VTDigger](#)

Health insurance for undocumented children and pregnant women approved by House | VTDigger

The Vermont House voted Tuesday to give preliminary approval to expanding insurance coverage to help undocumented women and children obtain medical care. The legislation, H.430, would cover roughly 100 children and 22 pregnant women a year who are currently ineligible for health insurance because of their immigration status. - [Ellie French for VTDigger](#)

Why Child Care Staff Had to Show Up While Teachers Worked Remotely | NYTimes

“‘We treat public education as the public good that it is, but we don’t do that for child care,’ said Julie Kashen, director for women’s economic justice at the Century Foundation, a left-leaning think tank. ‘We’ve created this false dichotomy between the two.’” - [Eliza Shapiro for the New York Times](#)

Virus in Vermont series | VTDigger

As the Covid-19 pandemic entered its second year, [VTDigger interviewed dozens of Vermonters](#) about how they've coped, how they've grieved, and how they've changed.

Greater Burlington YMCA Is Closing Its St. Albans Child Care Facility, Leaving Families Scrambling | VPR

"Thirty-eight children and their families are now left with three weeks to find affordable child care, which many parents are finding near impossible." - [Jane Lindholm, Emily Aiken, and Lydia Brown for VPR](#)

Call for creative family-generated content celebrating unique routines at home | Mister Chris & Friends

[Vermont PBS](#) and [Mister Chris and Friends Band](#) is looking for families to help with a new project! Vermont PBS is calling for user-generated content for new Mister Chris and Friends Digital Shorts that celebrate our unique routines at home. Mister Chris, Wishing Well, and a new character named Elephant (a stuffed animal!), will tell a short story, and sing a new song about a different theme. The themes are Waking Up, Cleaning Up, Brushing Your Teeth, Washing Your Hands, and Going To Bed. The Digital shorts will come out in May as part of Vermont PBS's Distance Learning initiative with the Vermont Department of Libraries and Vermont Agency of Education. [The submission deadline is April 1.](#)

After role-play incident, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union agrees to anti-racism measures | VTDigger

"After students were asked to role-play an interview between an undocumented immigrant and an immigration official, school officials have agreed to make several policy changes in curriculum related to marginalized communities. Rutland Area NAACP President Mia Schultz had predicted that schools would dive into discussions about race in February, which is Black History Month, so she distributed a document with recommendations to teachers across the state about teaching Black history." - [Emma Cotton for VTDigger](#)

She is Free, by Esra Anzali | Young Writers Project

"She is free.
At least, that is
what she thinks.
What she feels."

[-Read more of Esra's poem via VTDigger](#)

Crime Victims' Rights Week | Center for Crime Victims Services

Crime Victims' Rights Week runs from April 18-24th, and the Center for Crime Victims Services hosts several events to honor crime victim survivors and the people who work hard to support them. The Crime Victim Service Awards Ceremony recognizes victim activists who have inspired Vermonters with acts of courage and compassion, programs or individuals whose work has been particularly innovative and pioneering, and those who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes victim service providers, some of whom are themselves victims of crime. This year, the ceremony will be held online and an invitation to join via virtual meeting portal will be shared with viewers/participants prior to the event. Time and date during CVRW 2021 will be announced shortly. [Nominate someone for an award.](#)

Annual report and data snapshot | Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Read the recently released [annual report](#) and new [data snapshot](#) from the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Employment Opportunities

Digital Communications Strategist | ACLU VT

The ACLU of Vermont is seeking a motivated, organized, and skilled [Digital Communications Strategist](#) to oversee and manage digital communications in support of our legal, advocacy, and development programs. The ideal candidate will be creative, enthusiastic, mission-focused, and results-driven, using digital platforms and innovative tactics to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including community partners, lawmakers, and a growing base of supporters.

Funding Opportunities

Power Forward Small Business Grant | NAACP

The Power Forward Small Business Grant program aims to create a lasting impact through the economic empowerment of Black-owned small businesses across New England. Qualified applicants must be Black-owned small businesses with 1 to 25 employees and be based in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, or select areas of Connecticut. [Applicants should be able to demonstrate the impact their small business has on their greater community and showcase how they intend to use the \\$25,000 grant award.](#)

Events

Find a Job That Fits | Vermont Works for Women

Tonight, Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Black Female Activists in Vermont - Racism in America Forum Series | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Tonight, Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Women's History Month Panel with VCW Commissioner Wendy Knight | Southern VT Young Professionals

Thursday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Glow Virtual Movie Night | Pride Center of VT

Thursday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

LunaFest | Vermont Works for Women

Friday, March 26 - Sunday March 28, online

Thursday, June 3, 8 p.m., Sunset Drive-In, Colchester

Creating Money and Blowing Big Bubbles | An Economy of Our Own

Monday, March 29, 8-9:30 p.m.

Conversation with Michelle Duster '85 on Ida B. The Queen | Dartmouth College

Tuesday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.

Wear Blue Day | Prevent Child Abuse VT

Thursday, April 1 Wear Blue Day

Gender Bias in the Media | VTDigger & Vermont Has Her Back

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

Medicare & You Workshop | Central VT Council on Aging

Tuesday, April 6, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Defunding Means...ABOLITION: Re-envisioning Community Involvement with Ashely Messier | UVM Women & Gender Equity Center

Tuesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Couple in Early Vermont | Vermont Humanities

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

For the Love of N'dakinna: Abenaki Continuity and Adaptation | Vermont Humanities

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Worksite Wellness Workshops | Vermont Department of Health

Thursday, April 8, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Anti-Oppression/Anti-Racism Discussion Group planning meeting | Elevateher

Thursday, April 8, 5:00 p.m.

Bystander Interventionist Training | Peace & Justice Center, Showing Up for Racial Justice, & the VT Human Rights Commission

Thursday, April 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Growing Together | Girls Inc. & Dartmouth Hitchcock

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Submit your event to our statewide events calendar



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