

April 23, 2020

## News & Resources

### **Thanks to VCW's volunteers this National Volunteer Week!**

The Commission extends gratitude to our current volunteers, Celia Gottlieb a Junior, majoring in Political Science and Sociology at Middlebury College, and Brynn Connell, a junior who is double majoring in economics and political science at the University of Vermont.

### **The Vermont Commission on Women seeks applicants for appointment to the Commission, for terms beginning July 1, 2020**

VCW is an independent, nonpartisan state agency dedicated to advancing rights and opportunities for women in Vermont. We're seeking individuals of all genders and backgrounds who are passionate about dismantling structural inequities; dedicated to improving economic, social, health, and legal conditions for women; and committed to a vision of Vermont that embraces all its citizens.

Commission members guide our work, set priorities and direction, and establish policy positions. Commissioners are volunteers but are usually eligible for per diem compensation and mileage reimbursement.

Our work is best when a rich array of voices are included. People of color, people from working-class backgrounds, people with disabilities, men, young people, and LGBTQ+ people are encouraged to apply.

For more information, and application instructions, please email Cary Brown at [cary.brown@vermont.gov](mailto:cary.brown@vermont.gov).

### **Amid Backlash, VSC Chancellor Withdraws Plan to Close Three Campuses | Seven Days**

The [Vermont State Colleges System's chancellor has withdrawn his proposal to close three campuses](#) in response to a fiscal crisis caused by the coronavirus outbreak. "Our Board of Trustees heard loud and clear from thousands of students, employees, communities, and the State's elected leadership and determined that

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my recommendations would be damaging on many levels and would not be acceptable. I accept their judgement," chancellor Jeb Spaulding said in a press release Wednesday morning.

## **When running for office, minority candidates fear for personal safety**

Our VCW Commissioners Lisa Ryan and Emilie Kornheiser took part in [this online event, created by Kiah Morris](#) and addressing advice and resources for minorities interested in exploring a run for office in Vermont in this time of increased hate crimes. "I was getting individuals, people of color, folks from the LGBTQIA community, folks from various religious identities, who say I want to run for office but I'm worried ... about my safety," Morris told attendees on the call. "There are individuals who want to run, who want to step into this work ... with deep concerns about their own safety."

## **Girls Take the Lead National Outcomes Report | Girls Inc National**

[This report on girls](#) seeks to clarify some of the key challenges that girls face, especially girls of color, and to offer recommendations about the kinds of supports and experiences that help them push past those obstacles.

## **VCW's New COVID-19 Resources**

This page is being continuously updated, check back frequently:  
[women.vermont.gov/covid19](https://women.vermont.gov/covid19)

## **The Gendered Impact of COVID-19**

Carve out some time to read about the gendered impact of COVID-19 with Change The Story's [collection of articles and studies](#).

## **Planned Parenthood of Northern New England Launches New Telehealth Service Connecting**

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Patients to Care In recognition that people's reproductive and sexual health care can't wait, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE) announced the launch of a new telehealth program in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, which allows patients to access high-quality, affordable health care services by phone or through a private and secure video conferencing platform that connects them with PPNNE's trusted health care providers. For more information about connecting to PPNNE through telehealth, visit [www.ppnne.org](http://www.ppnne.org) or call 1-866-476-1321.

## **Women fill most of the front line jobs in Vermont | Public Assets Institute**

While many Vermonters are staying home, essential workers continue to go to work. [Data from Public Assets finds that more than 72,000 Vermonters continue to go to work](#), providing essential services from health care food to staffing grocery stores and pharmacies. Nearly two-thirds of these workers are women and almost one-third have children living at home.

## **Stimulus Check Information for Low-Income Vermonters**

Voices for Vermont's Children and Vermont Legal Aid are helping connect low-income Vermonters with their individual COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment. Some individuals receiving public assistance may not realize that if they did not file taxes recently, submitting an additional form is a requirement for getting this stimulus payment. The IRS recently launched the simple return for people whose income did not meet the threshold to file taxes in 2018/19. Help spread the word about this requirement and this resource. More information can be found on [Vermont Legal Aid's CARES Act Information page](#).

## **The Mend podcasts featuring Karen Tronsgard-Scott and Kira Krier | Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services**

Both episodes are focused on supporting your health, safety and wellbeing during this new era where COVID-19 is on the forefront of everyone's mind. [Episode 16 features Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#). [Episode 17 brings back together host Anna](#)

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[Nasset and Kira Krier](#), LICSW for an encore episode specific to our current situation.

## **Vermont Historical Society Seeks Assistance Documenting COVID-19 in Vermont**

The Vermont Historical Society created a [website to document the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Vermont](#) in 2020. Contribute your photographs, stories, poems, and videos of living through the COVID-19 crisis in Vermont. What's different in your community – empty streets and empty shelves, signs and restrictions, people talking to each other across the street? What's different in your own home – new routines, new office setups, new hobbies?

## **As national Covid-19 racial disparities emerge, Vermont lacks consistent data | VTDigger**

Reports across the country are emerging that African Americans are disproportionately getting sick and dying from Covid-19. But it will likely be some time before Vermonters know whether there are racial disparities in testing and treatment for the virus in the state. [The Vermont Department of Health has not consistently collected race data about the state's coronavirus patients.](#) This has raised concerns among activists and lawmakers who say the information is necessary to identify inequities or disparities that may emerge as Vermont responds to the pandemic.

## **UVM nursing students to graduate early to aid in coronavirus fight | VTDigger**

The [University of Vermont is allowing senior nursing students to graduate early and join the workforce](#), which will help ease the coronavirus-exacerbated nurse shortage. The Vermont State Board of Nursing will offer students temporary permits so they can start working immediately after graduating in May, instead of later in the summer as they typically would after passing the licensure exam. All 95 graduating nursing seniors at UVM opted to graduate May 1 instead of later in May, according to the university. The graduation move is pending the approval of the

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Faculty Senate.

## **Is Vermont's child care bailout fair? | VPR**

In a bid to ensure child care facilities can afford to reopen when the pandemic ends, Vermont has promised a massive bailout to the industry. But as part of the state's stabilization program, [families are being asked to pay 50% of the tuition they were paying before facilities closed](#) if they want to keep their spot in a program. That puts parents like Brittany Powell of Middlesex in a tough spot. Powell will keep paying partial tuition to keep her son's spot at the Sweet Clover Nursery in Montpelier, even though her husband, like tens of thousands of Vermonters, was laid off in the wake of coronavirus. He's applied for unemployment, but his claim hasn't been processed yet.

## **Vermont Arts Council and The Vermont Community Foundation Partner on Statewide COVID-19 Arts Recovery Fund**

The Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Community Foundation announced the creation of an [Arts Recovery Fund](#) to respond to the devastating and rapidly evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Vermont's arts and culture sector. The Arts Recovery Fund has two goals: to deliver fast-tracked support to Vermont's struggling arts and culture sector and to provide a central place to coordinate philanthropic giving. Direct grants will be available to support both individual artists and cultural organizations that are experiencing financial distress due to the spread of the novel coronavirus across Vermont. For donors, the Arts Recovery Fund is an opportunity to join a coordinated effort to facilitate the recovery of Vermont's creative sector. Donations are now being accepted.

## **Vermont Food Shelves on Front Lines of COVID-19 crisis**

According to a recent [VTDigger article](#), "[Vermont Foodbank](#) is the nonprofit hunger relief organization that works with a network of more than 300 community partners to distribute food across the state... Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis and the closing of all non-essential businesses last month, Vermont Foodbank's partners have seen an increase in people seeking food assistance that ranged between 30% and 100%."

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

- [Burton](#)
- SpinDridt Consulting

**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.

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## Upcoming Events

**Unemployment Benefit Changes Town Hall | Vermont Legal Aid**

*[Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m.](#)*

**Money Maintenance at Home | Greater Burlington Women's Forum**

*[Thursday, April 23, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.](#)*

**Stand Against Racism: National Tele-Town Hall | YWCA**

*[Thursday, April 23, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.](#)*

**ECO at Home – Daily Routines in Nature for Families | North Branch Nature Center**

*[Thursday, April 23 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.](#)*

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**Promoting Equity in COVID-19 Response | Vermont Early  
Childhood Advocacy Alliance**

[Monday, April 27, 11:00 am-12:00 pm](#)

**Youth Forum with Lt. Governor David Zuckerman**

[Monday, April 27, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.](#)

**People of Color (POC) in VT Affinity Group | Peace & Justice  
Center**

[Thursday, April 30 from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.](#)

**Getting Back to Advocacy on Child Care and Early Education  
with Let's Grow Kids | Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy  
Alliance**

[Monday, May 4, 11:00 am-12:00 pm](#)

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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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