
May 21, 2020

News & Resources

Share your COVID-19 Story with VCW

We want to hear about the numerous and complex ways COVID-19 impacts you, in your own words. Your stories or ideas might be used to increase public awareness, inform or inspire public policy, enhance state government's response and recovery, or perhaps even help reimagine or restructure systems. [Share your story with us.](#)

As the Covid-19 economic crisis unfolds, Vermont women stand to be hit hardest | VTDigger

"Advocates worry the historical inequities women have faced in employment – the average gap between the average salary of men and women working full time in the Green Mountain State is \$8,000 – will deepen during the crisis.

"We know where women are starting, which is that more of them are concentrated in low wage jobs, more of them are tipped workers' said Cary Brown, the executive director of the Vermont Women's Commission, in an interview during the week of Equal Pay Day in late March.

Rhoni Basden, executive director of Vermont Works for Women, said in an interview shortly after Scott declared a state of emergency that her "biggest concern" for the women her organization works with is how many of their jobs would return, and what the economic landscape will look like. "How can we really make sure women are getting back on their feet?"

Watch One Event, Many Perspectives: Centennial of Women's Suffrage videos on demand

Presented on Saturday, May 16th by Ethan Allen Homestead, and co-hosted by VCW, VT Suffrage Centennial Alliance and League of Women Voters of VT, videos of each symposium presentation are available for viewing. Learn from:

- St. Mike's history professor Kathryn Dungy about the history of the 1913 march for women's suffrage in D.C; the exclusionary and racist practices of suffragist leaders including Alice Paul; and the role of Delta Sigma Theta, founded just six weeks before the march, in coalescing Black women members and mentors to be politically active and march, but not in the back of the parade as requested;
- Beverly Little Thunder on the voices of youth and importance of women's activism;
- Melody Walker addressing how Abenaki culture and tradition generate broader thinking about the rights of all: "When we speak, we're speaking for all the seven generations: great grandparents to our great-grandchildren";
- St. Mike's professor Susan Ouellette who weaves together the story of Emma Willard, the movement for women's education and women's higher education in the US, and the fight for women's suffrage.

[Find links to the symposium videos here.](#)

Families with children enrolled in free & reduced-price lunch program to receive additional food assistance next week

A temporary food benefit has been approved by the federal government to help households affected by COVID-19 related school closures, called P-EBT. Vermont households with children who receive free or reduced lunch, including those enrolled in community eligibility provision schools, will automatically receive \$387.60 per child, either on their existing EBT card or on a special P-EBT card mailed to them. **Benefits should arrive by May 27th.** Families who were participating in the program as of April 1, 2020, will get a letter explaining the new benefit. Families that were not enrolled in the program but whose financial situation has changed since schools closed are eligible to apply now. The Department for

Children & Families has issued an [FAQ document on the P-EBT](#) benefit Vermonters can reference for more information.

New law prevents eviction during the pandemic

Governor Scott signed S.333 into law, preventing evictions and ejections due to foreclosures during the pandemic. It does not waive the obligation to continue to make rent and mortgage payments. [Read the bill here.](#)

Reopening guidelines released for Vt. child care centers, day camps

Vermont's Department of Health, Agency of Education, and Department for Children and Families released [health guidance for childcare programs, summer, and after school programs](#), allowing programs to open as early as June 1. Programs can have no more than 25 individuals in a classroom, staff will need to complete additional VOSHA training, follow additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols, adhere to social distancing requirements, and wear masks. Staff and children will be subject to daily health checks, and the state recommends children over two wear masks.

On the reopening and operation of child care during COVID-19 position paper | Let's Grow Kids

Let's Grow [Kids offers proposed solutions to some of the challenges faced](#) in reopening and running child care programs during COVID-19.

Equity Through Access – Letter to Legislators on COVID-19 Response | Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance & Partners

The Alliance collaborated with community partners on [a letter urging legislators](#) to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in a way that promotes strength, resilience, and equity. Among other things, the letter raises questions for legislators to consider as they make policy and budgetary decisions related to COVID-19 response and

recovery.

Scott decries targeting of family from New York in Hartford | Valley News

"A Hartford man who recently moved to the area says he was targeted for having out-of-state license plates and yelled at last week amid rising fears over the spread of COVID-19...[Scott said the incident against new Hartford resident Chris Brown, who is African American, also had racial undertones.](#) 'This virus cannot be used as an excuse for hate, bigotry or division,' Scott said Wednesday."

Navigating pregnancy during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic | UNICEF

[UNICEF spoke with Franka Cadée, President of the International Confederation of Midwives](#) to discuss how pregnancy women can protect themselves and their little ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What rights do pregnant workers have in a pandemic? | The New York Times

"[Requests like avoiding contact with the public, having additional protective gear, an isolated space to work,](#) or changing your role to involve telework are all examples of reasonable accommodations, Martin said, depending on what your job is."

No additional COVID-19 positive tests at women's prison after 1 staff case | VTDigger

"Vermont Agency of Human Services Secretary Mike Smith said mass testing of staff and inmates at the state's only women's prison following a positive test of one staff member has [yielded no additional positive test results.](#)"

Coronavirus Information Cards in Many Languages | Equality Labs

As part of their work to combat disinformation during COVID-19 and equip communities with the tools they need, Equality Labs created a medically vetted series of Coronavirus information cards, in an expansive array of languages. Disinformation during COVID-19 is more than just fake news — it can mean life or death in terms of how people take care of themselves and their loved ones.

New data shows Covid-19 racial disparities in Vermont | VTDigger
[Black Vermonters are testing positive for Covid-19 at the highest rate in the state of any racial group](#), according to statistics on the demographics impacted by the coronavirus compiled by the Vermont Department of Health. The report, which the state plans to update every Friday, looks at the 932 cases of the new coronavirus identified in Vermont from March 5, when the outbreak began in Vermont, through May 14.

Low-income workers face higher coronavirus exposure | VTDigger

[“The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown into sharp relief some of the forces that make the work experience unfair.](#) Many of the occupations that bring workers in closest contact with the public – and therefore in the most peril regarding infection with Covid-19 – are among the lowest-paid, according to an analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those include cashiers and retail salespeople, whose annual pay hovers around \$30,000, according to the BLS, and police officers, who make about \$50,000.”

What it’s like to be undocumented & unemployed in the coronavirus pandemic | Refinery29

“What is the hardest part about this for you? [‘Being treated like I’m disposable. As an undocumented worker, you are already vulnerable.](#) Once I was working for a

woman who took advantage of undocumented Latinas by employing us to clean multiple houses for just \$40 each day. She knew that we didn't have other options and had to feed our children, so she exploited our situation. I worked with her for eight months until I was able to find something else. I've had an employer tell me he would give me the job if I kissed him, as though I don't have any rights, because he knows I'm undocumented I'm tired of being treated like an animal. I'm feeling really depressed and I'm trying to keep going, but it's really, really hard.”

After a full month of business closures, women were hit the hardest by April's job losses | National Women's Law Center

[The new National Women's Law Center fact sheet](#) highlights that women are overrepresented among the front-line workforce, in part-time, low-wage, and tipped work, and women accounted for 55% of the job losses in April.”

Untold Stories of Black Women in the Suffrage Movement | Washington State Women's Commission

It wasn't until the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that all African Americans were granted the full right to vote, but the fight began in the 1800s alongside the women's suffrage movement. [The Washington State Women's Commission and KD Hall present a documentary](#) that delves into the lives of the women who were leaders in the fight for equal rights for African Americans, especially women. Ida B. Wells was an African American investigative journalist, educator, and early leader in the civil rights movement. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was started by 22 college women in 1913 who marched with suffragettes and took a stand on social justice. Born into slavery in 1858, Anna Julia Cooper triumphed against the odds to receive a world-class education eventually receiving a Ph.D. at the age of 67. Explore the untold stories of black women in the women's suffrage movement.

How the Spanish Flu Almost Upended Women's Suffrage | NYTimes

"A century later, as the coronavirus pandemic brings America to a standstill again just as the country was gearing up for celebrations to mark the amendment's centennial, the suffragists' near-miss provides us with valuable lessons, said Weiss. ['It takes persistence and taking disappointment and turning it into momentum,'](#)" she said. "These women were masters at protesting but they were never just protesters. They used all the tools of democracy and learned to use the system to change the system."

Mothering in a Pandemic | Boston Review

["Single mothers now face a personal—and nonetheless tragic—choice.](#) With schools closed and daycare shuttered, children need a parent at home. But a single mother who stays home can risk eviction and starvation: without a paycheck, the rent goes unpaid, and groceries are unaffordable. These risks are most pressing for the lowest-paid workers. But as the lockdown continues, more and more white-collar mothers, too, will find themselves without a paycheck if they cannot work. Going to work—if childcare can somehow be found—now poses a literal physical danger not only to the woman but to her children as well."

Jen Desorcie named Vermont Jump\$tart 2020 Teacher of the Year | Vermont Business Magazine

[The Vermont Jump\\$tart Coalition has named Jen Desorcie as the 2020 Jump\\$tart Teacher of the Year.](#) The award is given annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their effort to advance financial literacy of Vermont youth. Jen is the Business Education Curriculum Content Leader at Essex High School in Essex Junction, Vermont. A former banking industry member with personal knowledge of the importance of financial education, she has been teaching at Essex High School for six years.

Jan Demers, Executive Director of CVOEO to retire | Vermont Business Magazine

Since 2010, Jan has overseen ten programs at CVOEO—which provides services and advocacy, from food shelves, housing and fuel assistance to financial asset development, early childhood education, to fair housing, tenant and mobile home park resident rights and responsibilities in four counties (Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle). The organization’s tagline “Bridging gaps, Building futures,” is an excellent description of the vision that has guided Jan’s deep commitment to social justice and serving the most vulnerable people in the community over the last decade. [Read the entire announcement.](#)

Employment Opportunities

Assistant Director and Program Manager (full-time) | National Center on Restorative Justice at Vermont Law School

The new National Center on Restorative Justice at Vermont Law School seeks both an Assistant Director and a Project Manager. The Assistant Director will work closely with the Director and the partner entities to ensure federal grant management and compliance and will possess a background that includes understanding and/or experience in restorative justice principles and applications.

The Program Manager will work closely with the Assistant Director and Director, as well as the partner entities, to ensure federal grant

management and compliance, and will possess a background that includes understanding and/or experience in restorative justice principles and applications. [Read the complete job descriptions.](#)

Co-Director | SafeArt

This person will develop and supervise SafeArt's program offerings, support staff development through professional learning workshops, and facilitate several of SafeArt's youth programs. They will partner with the other Co-Director to lead SafeArt's strategic development as an organization. We believe in walking our talk at SafeArt, we offer a healthy and enriching work environment for all staff members. [Read the job description.](#)

Community Relations Development Coordinator (part-time) | Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice of Barre

Primary responsibilities will be to plan, manage, and execute CVHHH special events and recruit, coordinate, and manage volunteers to support these events. This person reports to the Director of Community Relations & Development. [Read the full job description.](#)

Culinary Program Instructor (full-time) | Vermont Works for Women of Winooski

This position is the lead instructor for a basic culinary employment-training program for women incarcerated at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington. Primary responsibility is

Funding Opportunities

Restart Stipends Available for Child & Summer Care

[Programs providing care for Vermont children this summer may qualify for a stipend](#) to help with additional expenses associated with COVID-19 from the Department for Children and Families.

The deadline to request a Restart Stipend is this Friday, May 22.

COVID-19 Response Business Development Grants | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

In FY2020, the Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) plans to award a total of \$180,000 in

methods and
then organization,
ills and reading recipes,
& measures, and
[the full job description.](#)

Manager for COVID-19 Recovery Project for Business Center

for the development and
COVID-19 Recovery Project for
Business Center
as programming for
recovery from the impact
on their
[job description.](#)

COVID-19 Response
Business Development
Grants within the sectors
of agriculture and
forestry. These funds are
designed to complement
a business's ability to
maintain operations while
increasing capacity to
rebuild and/or recover
during an unprecedented
time of need. Grants will
be awarded within the
range of \$5,000 to
\$25,000. Read the
[request for applications](#).

Upcoming Events

**Human Trafficking Online Training | Clarina Howard Nichols
Center**

Tuesday, May 26, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**Personal/Business Financials 3-Part Series | Center for Women &
Enterprise**

Tuesdays May 26 – Tuesday, June 9, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Vermont Lt. Governor Candidate Forum | Rights and Democracy

Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Vermont Early Childhood Forum on Mental Health: supporting children through transitions during the coronavirus crisis | Building Bright Futures

Wednesday, May 27, 1:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Same Storm, Different Boats: The Pandemic's Outsized Impact on Marginalized Communities | VBSR, Change The Story VT, Equity Solutions

Thursday, May 28, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Workforce discussion panel | Vermont Works for Women

Mondays, resuming on June 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Suffrage Scramble 5K | Central VT Runners, to benefit VT Suffrage Centennial Alliance

Saturday, August 15, Waterbury, VT

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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