COVID-19, WOMEN, AND VERMONT’S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Women are carrying the majority of the “essential work” weight.

Here in Vermont:
• Women make up majority of nurses (91%)
• Women make up majority of healthcare workers (82%)
• Women make up majority of personal care workers (82%)
• Women make up majority of tipped workers (81%)
  (the largest percentage in the country)

Sourced data available at women.vermont.gov/covid19

Women are more likely to leave the workforce.

• Women were 4 times more likely than men to cite family and/or personal obligations as reasons for working part-time—and 7 times more likely to cite child care problems. Time out of the workforce impacts promotion, opportunity, and long-term financial opportunity. (Change the Story VT, Women, Work and Wages, 2019)

“Access to childcare. I was a teacher, got on wait lists at 3 months pregnant. Didn’t get off in-home and center-based daycare (wait) lists until my son was 2. That’s 2 years of missing out on experience, salary, promotions, etc. That shouldn’t happen.”

-Addison County woman between 25 and 34

Sixteen cents on the dollar may not sound like a lot….but for a single person, $8,000 would pay for about seven months of rent. For a family of four it could buy about a half a year’s groceries or four months of child care for two children.

-Change the Story VT

The wage gap mattered before—it matters even more now.

• Women were financially behind pre-COVID-19 (making 84 cents to every dollar a man makes). That 16-cent gap widens for women of color and those with disabilities.
• 60% of the wage gap is linked to two factors: occupational segregation and time in and out of the labor force.

(Change the Story VT, Women, Work and Wages, 2019)

Women are essential to getting Vermont back to work.


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