



Women's Bureau Fact Sheet

Our Mission

- The Women's Bureau develops policies and standards and conducts inquiries to safeguard the interests of working women, to advocate for their equality and economic security for themselves and their families, and to promote quality work environments.

Fast Facts

- The Women's Bureau accomplishes its mission through the combination of research and policy analysis, grant making, and education and outreach.
- Established on June 5, 1920, Women's Bureau remains the only federal agency mandated to represent the needs of wage-earning women in the public policy process.
- Our regional offices located throughout the country also build critical relationships with our partners and serve as conduits for disseminating our research and resources and providing on-the-ground technical assistance.
- In September 2019, the unemployment rate for adult women fell to 3.1%, matching its lowest since 1953. Labor force participation rate for adult women is currently 59.1% (as of September 2019).
- Current priority areas for the Women's Bureau:
 - ✓ Increase opportunities for women to access and thrive in apprenticeship programs;
 - ✓ Assist women impacted by the opioid crisis get back on their feet and back to work;
 - ✓ Expand employment opportunities and reducing occupational licensing barriers for military spouses, 92% of whom are women;
 - ✓ Help increase working families' access to access to paid parental leave and affordable, quality child care; and
 - ✓ Grow opportunities for women in entrepreneurship.

Examples of Women's Bureau Work in Action

- Since 2017, the Women's Bureau has awarded approximately \$4 million through the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant program to encourage women's employment in underrepresented occupations and pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.
- Currently working to complete a case-based resource guide highlighting exemplary approaches to increasing diversity and inclusion in apprenticeship programs. The guide will feature four case studies, featuring a range of sectors including information technology and early childhood education.
- In 2019, the Women's Bureau launched the Re-Employment, Support, and Training for the Opioid Related Epidemic (RESTORE) grant program—awarding about \$2.5 million to five grantees around the country—to offer skills development, employment services, and support services to women workers who have been directly or indirectly affected by the opioid crisis.
- In 2018-2019, the Women's Bureau held a series of listening sessions across the country to hear directly from the military spouse community and better understand the employment challenges facing them.
- In 2018, in partnership with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), the Women's Bureau helped launch the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options interactive map as part of a dedicated online portal for military spouses, featuring a range of employment resources (<https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses>).
- In 2018-2019, the Women's Bureau held a series of stakeholder engagement sessions around the country to identify challenges and scalable solutions on the issue of child care. Participants included Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, a diverse group of child care/early education specialists, corporate executives, small business owners, researchers, parents, and teachers.
- Currently working to develop a new project to create a public-use database of child care costs based on local area data—the first data of its kind to be available at this more granular level.
- Collaborated with the U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Treasury to develop an e-learning platform that utilizes a modern, e-learning approach to entrepreneurship packed with the resources women need to set and achieve their goals and grow their business. The first phase of the platform will be launched in late 2019.