

Descriptions of the FY 2021 Fostering Access, Rights, and Equity (FARE) grants

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will assist low-wage women workers, especially women of color, immigrants, and refugees, so they can take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). FARE grant outreach and dissemination activities will occur statewide, and direct assistance for benefits will focus on three communities in Colorado with higher populations of people of color, immigrants, and refugees: the cities of Aurora and Denver, and Mesa County, located on the rural Western slope.

Government of Guam, Department of Administration, Bureau of Women's Affairs

The Government of Guam Department of Administration, Bureau of Women's Affairs will address workplace harassment among underserved, marginalized, and low-income women workers. Grant activities will include train-the-trainer sessions for multilingual representatives of partner organizations who will then conduct multilingual sessions throughout Guam to disseminate knowledge to targeted women workers. A corresponding media outreach and education campaign will include print, broadcast, and social media, and a benefits navigator website.

Illinois Department of Labor

The Illinois Department of Labor will partner with Women Employed to raise awareness of pay equity and pay transparency standards among women workers, particularly low-wage women of color. The project will include a multi-faceted media and community outreach strategy. A public education campaign will reach women of color in low-wage industries, sectors, and geographic locations with culturally appropriate materials, and a train-the-trainer model will create pay equity leaders throughout their communities. Surveys of grant participants will inform enforcement strategies and more proactive investigations of violations during and beyond the grant period.

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan Women's Commission will work with community-based organizations in Southeast Michigan, including the greater Detroit Metro region, to connect women workers to eligible benefits under the American Rescue Plan, prioritizing an uptake in available child care subsidies and eligibility for additional benefits. FARE grant navigators will conduct outreach to marginalized women workers, including women of color and women with disabilities, and help them access their rights and benefits, as well as connect them to programs to access higher-wage careers. The project will also conduct a 15-month statewide webinar series and social media campaigns.

New York State Department of Labor

The New York State Department of Labor will provide workplace rights outreach and education focusing on wage payment, overtime, and classification issues in order to promote equity in income stability. FARE activities will include direct educational outreach and marketing, and support to non-profit, community-based organizations as they conduct outreach to priority populations, including women in rural areas, women refugees, and immigrants. While digital outreach materials will be accessible to all state residents, the majority of funding will focus on regions outside of New York City that have limited access to community-based resources.

Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission will build on the success of a current language access hotline project created in response to high numbers of workers filing unemployment benefits claims related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will disseminate information to immigrants, refugees, and other communities in Oregon needing language assistance, with a focus on lower-income and women-dominated areas. Activities will also support individuals in registering with local American Job Centers for employment and training services and other supportive services such as childcare, rent assistance, and transportation assistance.