MISSION

Women in the workforce are vital to the nation’s economic security. The Women’s Bureau champions policies and standards that safeguard the interests of working women; advocates for the equality and economic security of women and their families; and promotes quality work environments.

RESEARCH

Throughout its history, the Women’s Bureau has focused on documenting issues that impact working women. Our extensive research and analysis of these topics inform policy and program reforms that better support women in the workforce. Then, we work with an array of partners and stakeholders to effect change.

GRANTS

The Women’s Bureau carries out its mission in part through grant making. We manage the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) and Fostering Access, Rights and Equity (FARE) grant programs. WANTO helps women enter Registered Apprenticeship programs and high-growth, high-wage STEM occupations. FARE helps women workers who are paid low wages access benefits and know their rights in the workplace.

OVERVIEW

Established on June 5, 1920, the Women’s Bureau is the only federal agency mandated to represent the needs of wage-earning women. For more than 100 years, we have been at the forefront of advocacy for working women.

We have been involved in the formulation of key legislation and policies such as the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, and the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. We accomplish our mission through a combination of research and policy analysis, grant making, and education and outreach.

We use data and policy analysis, grantmaking and national and state-based stakeholder engagement to drive changes in policy and practice that increase wage and wealth equity for women and people of color through:

• Improving pay and working conditions in key, female-dominated sectors
• Getting more women in pathways to high-wage jobs
• Expanding access to paid leave and affordable child and elder care
• Ensuring workers know and can exercise their rights in the workplace
• Eliminating pay inequity, and gender-based discrimination and harassment in the workplace
Top occupations by decade and percentage of women in the top 10

Annual data on full- and part-time employment and unemployment rates by sex, age, race and origin Labor force and earnings by sex, age, race and origin

Mothers' labor force participation rates, unemployment, occupation, family type, and earnings

Women's employment and earnings by occupation

Employment and earnings profiles for over 300 occupations

Women veterans' employment and unemployment rates

Explore https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/data