

# **THE STATUS OF WYOMING'S WORKING WOMEN: 2011**

- Wyoming's gender wage gap remains the highest in the nation with women earning 65 cents for every dollar earned by men.
- The gender wage gap results in a total loss of \$1.2 million per year to Wyoming's women.
- The lack of economic security over the course of a woman's work life results in reduced retirement security.
- With women's earnings accounting for 36% of a family's income, the gender wage gap is a family and community issue.
- 26% of Wyoming's women-headed households live below the poverty level.
- Wyoming ranks among the worst in the nation for the number of four-year degrees for women and women-owned businesses.
- Women in Wyoming with a bachelor degree earn less than men with a high school diploma.
- The disparity between better-than-average wages for jobs held by men in Wyoming and lower-than-average wages for jobs held by women accounts for a large part of the gender wage gap.
- Wyoming ranks high in the nation for female labor force participation, but the quality of the jobs tends to be poor or low-paying.
- Male new hires are more likely to receive paid time off, health insurance and retirement benefits than female new hires in Wyoming.

**Turn this over to see what YOU can do to improve the economic status of women in Wyoming.**

## Support initiatives to:

- Increase wages and opportunities in healthcare, education (including substitute teaching), and leisure, where almost half of Wyoming's working women are employed.
- Support health insurance, retirement and paid time off in the private sector.
- Encourage women to consider careers that are typically male-dominated and provide incentives or funding to male-dominated fields that recruit women or become more diverse in their hiring.
- Improve educational attainment through increased female scholarships and work, educational, apprenticeship, and vocational support programs.
- Compensate female-dominated fields equitably and bring compensation up to national norms in fields such as health care, education and leisure.
- Increase minimum wage and tipped offsets.
- Monitor and support efforts for economic diversification and increased reporting of occupation and wages.
- Improve child care quality and availability.

All data taken from "The Status of Wyoming's Working Women: 2011, working paper prepared for the Wyoming Women's Foundation." For more information please visit: [www.wywf.org](http://www.wywf.org).



**WYOMING WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION**

*"When women and girls prosper, communities thrive."*

[www.wywf.org](http://www.wywf.org)

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