

Jobs

Why is this an issue?

- Job creation and economic opportunity are critical issues for women, many of whom continue to struggle with economic insecurity and wage discrimination.
- The recent recession has hit women hard. Women have either lost proportionately more jobs or gained proportionately fewer jobs than men in [every industry](#) over the course of the last three years.
- Women have borne the brunt of the slow recovery, particularly women working in the public sector. While women comprised just over half of the public sector workforce in June 2009, they lost 71.2 percent of the jobs cut between then and September 2011. That's 407,200 jobs lost for women in just two years.

Why should I care?

- We must focus on creating jobs, training our workers for those jobs, and ensuring those jobs are good jobs – ones that pay equitably, and provide important protections for economic security.
- Due to the recession, many workers will need to access training to upgrade their skills to fit new demands.
- Access to high-wage, high-skill jobs should be a right for women and girls from all backgrounds, including training for nontraditional jobs.
- Any job creation legislation must promote equal pay – women who work full time earn about 77 cents on average for every dollar men earn – and family economic security. Women are increasingly the primary breadwinners in their households, so the wage gap undermines families' economic security.

Additional Resources

- *Job Growth Gaining Momentum for Women in Year Three of Recovery*. Institute for Women's Policy Research. www.iwpr.org/press-room/press-releases/job-growth-gaining-momentum-for-women-in-year-three-of-recovery
- *Economic News Release*, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t21.htm.
- *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*, AAUW: www.aauw.org/learn/research/upload/simpletruthaboutpaygap1.pdf