



Resource Guide

State Economic Networks For Women Business Owners

★ *October 2003* ★

Table of Contents

Alabama..... 1

Alaska..... 2

Arizona 3

Arkansas 4

California..... 5

Colorado..... 7

Connecticut..... 9

Delaware..... 10

Florida..... 11

Georgia 12

Hawaii..... 14

Idaho..... 15

Illinois 16

Indiana..... 18

Iowa 19

Kansas..... 21

Kentucky 22

Louisiana 23

Maine 24

Maryland..... 25

Massachusetts 26

Michigan..... 28

Minnesota..... 29

Mississippi.....30

Missouri.....31

Montana32

Nebraska.....33

Nevada.....34

New Hampshire35

New Jersey36

New Mexico.....37

New York.....38

North Carolina40

North Dakota41

Ohio42

Oklahoma.....43

Oregon.....44

Pennsylvania45

Rhode Island.....47

South Carolina.....48

South Dakota.....49

Tennessee.....50

Texas51

Utah.....52

Vermont53

Virginia54

Washington55

West Virginia56

Wisconsin.....57

Wyoming.....58

Alabama

No organizations found

Alaska

No organizations found

Arizona

No organizations found

Arkansas

No organizations found

California

California State Economic Network

8811 Franz Valley School Road

Calistoga, CA

Phone: 707-942-2140

Fax: 707-942-2204

Website: www.sencalifornia.org/

E-mail: denise@thehatchery.com

Executive Director: Denise Drawsky

Mission: The California State Economic Network (CAL SEN) is a statewide coalition of over 40 corporate, governmental, entrepreneurial and non-profit organizations representing more than one million people, that champions economic opportunities, communications, resource building and grassroots networking. CAL SEN is a statewide network of organizations aimed at providing economic empowerment for women and girls.

Member Organizations: www.sencalifornia.org/about/member_orgs.html

Structure: CAL SEN leadership: www.sencalifornia.org/about/leadership.html

Priorities: www.sencalifornia.org/about/issues.html

The SEN Initiative will launch a national communication and advocacy network of women business owners and advocates in each of the 50 states. They will serve to raise the visibility of women entrepreneurs' economic contributions, advance the national Women's Economic Agenda developed at the National Women's Business Council's 1996 Summit, and assist in implementing the Master Plan produced at the Council's 1998 Summit.

California Women's Commission

1303 J Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95814-2900

Phone: 916-445-3173

Fax: 916-322-9466

Website: www.statusofwomen.ca.gov

E-mail: info@women.ca.gov

Executive Director: Mary Wilberg

Chair: Elmy Bermejo

Mission: The Commission on the Status of Women, a nonpartisan state agency, works in a culturally inclusive manner to promote equality and justice for all women and girls by advocating on their behalf with the Governor, the Legislature and other public policymakers, and by educating the public in the areas of economic equity including educational equity, access to health care including reproductive choice, violence against women and other key issue areas identified by the Commission as significantly affecting women and girls.

Members: The Commission shall consist of 17 members: three Members of the Senate and one public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, three Members of the Assembly and one public member appointed by the Speaker, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chief of the Division of Industrial Welfare in the Department of Industrial Relations, and seven public members appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. The Members of the Legislature shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing powers.

Commissioners & Staff: www.statusofwomen.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=21

Links: www.statusofwomen.ca.gov/doc.asp?ID=4

Legislation Creating the Commission: www.statusofwomen.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=50

By-laws: www.statusofwomen.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=32

Responsibilities:

Study:

- Women's educational and employment problems, needs, and opportunities;
- State laws in regard to the civil and political rights of women, including pensions, tax requirements, property rights, marriage and dissolution of marriage provisions, and similar matters;
- The effect of social attitudes and pressures and economic considerations in shaping the roles to be assumed by women in the society;
- Any laws, practices, or conditions which impose special limitations or burdens upon them or upon society, or which limit or tend to limit opportunities available to women.

Act as an information center on the status of women and women's educational, employment, and other related needs.

Recommend, develop, prepare, or coordinate materials, projects, or other activities, and shall give technical and consultative advice to public or private groups or persons concerned with any of the following:

- Preventing or minimizing problems brought about by the changing roles and responsibilities of women;
- Developing programs to encourage and enable women to be fully contributing members of society.

A prime function of the Commission shall be to encourage women's organizations and other groups to institute local self-help activities designed to meet women's educational, employment, and related needs. The Commission shall make reports on its activities, findings, and recommendations to the Legislature from time to time, but not less often than every odd-numbered year.

Colorado

Colorado Minority & Women's Business Council

Denver, CO

Website: www.coloradomwbc.org/

E-mail: info@coloradomwbc.com

Mission: The Colorado Minority & Women's Business Council serves as a clearinghouse for minority and women's businesses and organizations to promote, educate and advocate on issues impacting opportunities for minorities and women in business.

Members: www.coloradomwbc.org/

Structure: www.coloradomwbc.org/

Responsibilities:

- Providing a public forum for minorities and women in business to address critical issues such as procurement, access to capital and technology;
 - Promoting minorities and women in business to city, state, and private industries;
 - Network and support for member organizations;
 - Acting as a voice in the larger community for minorities and women in business;
 - Advocate to appointed and elected officials at all levels of government.
-

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade - Women's Economic Development Council

Executive Chambers, 136 State Capitol

Denver, CO 80203-1792

Phone: 303-866-2471

Website: www.wedccolorado.org

E-mail: otrwl@aol.com

Chairs: Lea A. Faulkner & Maury C. Dobbie

Mission: To support women in business with resources and information to enhance their development and success. To inform women-owned businesses of the current state of Colorado economic development programs, initiatives and policies.

Members: www.wedccolorado.org/members.cfm

The Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) consists of members appointed by the Governor of Colorado to represent the concerns of the state of women-owned businesses. Council Members serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Office of Economic Development as described in Executive Order B01499.

Resource Guide: www.wedccolorado.org/resources.cfm

Executive Order: www.wedccolorado.org/about.html

Responsibilities:

- provide a public forum at which the perspective of women-owned businesses can be brought to the attention of the State;
- serve as a resource to the Office of Economic Development on statewide women business issues;
- identify any unique problems confronting women-owned businesses in Colorado that can be remedied by executive agencies;
- make recommendations for regulatory changes needed at all levels of government to encourage the initiation, stability and growth of women-owned businesses in Colorado.

The Council shall meet as needed to pursue its work and submit findings and recommendations to the Office of Economic Development. Council members shall not receive compensation for their activities.

Colorado Women's Leadership Coalition

7084 S. Cherry Drive
Centennial, CO 80122
Phone: 720-482-4020
Fax: 303-779-1186
Website: www.co-wlc.org/
E-mail: info@co-wlc.org

Executive Council: www.co-wlc.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=PostWrap&file=index&page=executive_council.html

Affiliates: www.co-wlc.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=Affiliates&file=index

Priorities: Leadership of Women; Family and Education issues; Women in business; Diversity; Health and Wellness; Technology.

Connecticut

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

18-20 Trinity Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860-240-8300

Fax: 860-240-8314

Website: www.cga.state.ct.us/pcsw/

E-mail: pcsw@po.state.ct.us

Executive Director: Leslie J. Brett

Chair: Cindy R. Slane

Commissioners: www.cga.state.ct.us/pcsw/Commissioners/COMMISSIONERS.htm

Links: www.cga.state.ct.us/pcsw/Publications/womens_directory.asp

Structure: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was established by the State Legislature in 1973. Seventeen appointed volunteer Commissioners join a staff and volunteers to work to eliminate sex discrimination in Connecticut.

Responsibilities:

- inform leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination;
- serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women;
- promote consideration of women for governmental positions;
- work with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.

2003 Legislative Priorities: www.cga.state.ct.us/pcsw/legislation2003/legislative_priorities.htm

Delaware

Delaware Commission for Women

4425 North Market Street, 4th Floor

Wilmington, DE 19802

Phone: 302-761-8005

Website: www.delawareworks.com/divisions/dcw/welcome.htm

E-mail: cgomez@state.de.us

Mission: Advocates for the equality of women in a way that fosters self-esteem and self-reliance among women of all ages by promoting the political, economic, social, educational, personal and professional growth of Delaware women.

Commissioners: www.delawareworks.com/divisions/dcw/home.htm

Resources: www.delawareworks.com/divisions/dcw/resources.htm

Structure: The Delaware Commission for Women is a division of the Department of Labor for the State of Delaware. It is a clearinghouse for information and activities that foster and promote the full participation of women in all sectors of society. The office is responsible for monitoring legislation and advising the Governor and General Assembly on issues impacting women.

Responsibilities: The office publishes information and legal resource materials; provides referral services; presents public forums, educational conferences, and events that celebrate women's history and achievements. Through a network of over 200 women's organizations, the Commission facilitates collaboration among public and private agencies, community service organizations, businesses and individuals to advance issues impacting women and their families.

Priorities: Violence prevention; Work and family; Civil rights; Women's health; Economic empowerment; Recognition and celebration.

Florida

Florida Commission on the Status of Women

Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, PL-01

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Phone: 850-414-3300

Fax: 850-921-4131

Website: www.fcsw.net/

E-mail: webmaster@fcsw.net

Chair: Patricia Clements

Mission: The Florida Commission on the Status of Women, through coordinating, researching, communicating and encouraging legislation, is dedicated to empowering women from all walks of life in achieving their fullest potential, to eliminating barriers to that achievement, and to recognizing women's accomplishments.

Commissioners: www.fcsw.net/commissioners.htm

Resources: www.fcsw.net/resources.htm

Legislation creating the FCSW: www.fcsw.net/statute.htm

Structure: Since 1991, the Florida Commission on the Status of Women has been fully supported by the Governor, the Cabinet and the Florida Legislature. The FCSW is administratively located in the Office of the Attorney General, and is composed of 22 members who represent the diversity of the state's population. The Governor, Attorney General, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives each appoint three members to four-year terms. The Secretary of State, Comptroller, Insurance Commissioner, Commissioner of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Education each appoint two members for four-year terms. As required by Section 14.24, the Commission's Responsibilities is to study and to make recommendations to the Governor, Cabinet, and Legislature on issues affecting women.

Responsibilities: The duties and interests of the FCSW include, but are not limited to:

- identifying and studying the socio-economic factors influencing the status of women;
- aiding in the development of individual potential;
- encouraging women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles;
- coordinating the efforts of numerous organizations interested in the welfare of women;
- identifying and recognizing the contributions made by women to the community, state and nation;
- implementing recommendations to improve working conditions, financial security and legal status of both sexes.

Georgia

Georgia Women's Business Council

1001 Main Street
Stone Mountain, GA 30086
Phone: 770-413-1520
Fax: 800-878-0699
Website: www.gwbc.biz
E-mail: info@gwbc.biz
Chair: Roz Lewis

Mission: To enhance the competitive value of women-owned business enterprises through certification, education and corporate partnership opportunities.

Members: www.gwbc.biz/members.html

Board Members: www.gwbc.biz/board.html

Responsibilities: The Georgia Women's Business Council (GWBC) is an organization for women business owners interested in promoting, developing and maintaining business relationships with major corporations, governmental agencies and other women business owners.

We are a non-profit organization with a mission to certify bonafide women-owned business enterprises (WBE) and to promote the activities directed toward the development, establishment, expansion and encouragement of businesses owned by women. GWBC is a certifying partner organization of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC). Through our affiliation with WBENC, our certification is nationally recognized and accepted by over 400 corporate members

Georgia Women Entrepreneurs (GWEN)

1180 East Broad Street, Chicopee Building
Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706-542-6822
Fax: 706-542-6803
Website: www.sbdc.uga.edu/index.aspx?page_name=GWEN_home
E-mail: nstaton@sbdc.uga.edu
Executive Director: Nancy Staton

Mission: In 1999, we began a statewide initiative for women business owners called Georgia Women Entrepreneurs (GWEN) that operates as part of the Georgia SBDC Network. This initiative has two major goals: to provide technical assistance needed to help women-owned businesses grow and become an even greater economic force in Georgia, and to provide sharing and networking opportunities among Georgia women business owners.

Links: www.sbdc.uga.edu/index.aspx?page_name=gwen_links

Structure: Operates as part of the Georgia SBDC Network

Responsibilities:

- Provides an annual statewide conference to bring women business owners together for learning and sharing. On April 25 and 26, 2001, the first statewide GWEN Conference was held in Augusta, Georgia;
- Recognizes excellence in women-owned businesses through the annual GWEN Award. The recipient is announced at the annual GWEN Conference;
- Provides technical assistance and training with applications for WBE Certification;
- Provides a strategic alliance with the NWBOC (National Women Business Owners Corporation) to assist with site visits and expediting the certification process;
- Organizes GWEN Dialogues and Roundtables in local communities;
- Provides technical assistance and training for developing bids for contracts;
- Provides an avenue for success stories and articles for, about, and written by Georgia Women Entrepreneurs through various GWEN publications;
- Provides networking opportunities through the annual conference, regional conferences, and local dialogues or roundtables.

Hawaii

Hawaii's State Commission on the Status of Women

235 W. Beretania Street #407

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-586-5757

Fax: 808-586-5756

Website: www.state.hi.us/hscsw

E-mail: hscsw@pixi.net

Executive Director: Allicyn Hikida Tasaka

Chair: Leslie Wilkins

Mission: The mission of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is to ensure equality for women and girls in the state by acting as a catalyst for positive change through advocacy, education, collaboration, and program development.

Commissioners: The Commission's appointed directors are selected on the basis of their ability to make knowledgeable contributions to the solution of problems relating to the status of women. The Commission also has seven ex-officio members representing the state administration in areas of concern to women, including the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of Human Resources Development.

Resources: www.state.hi.us/hscsw/resources.html

Structure: The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1964 by executive order of Governor John Burns. The Commission was made permanent by the State Legislature in 1970 as a statewide organization concerned with improving the lives of women in Hawai'i. The Commission is administratively attached to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Responsibilities:

- Aids the State Legislature by making recommendations, developing long-range goals for legislative action, and coordinating research, planning, programming, and action;
- Targets the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Hawai'i in the areas of education, civil and criminal rights, labor, employment, childcare, and home-making;
- Acts as a central clearinghouse for information and activities relating to women;
- Co-sponsors programs and services that benefit Hawai'i's women.

(Project of HSCSW:) The Hawaii Women's Coalition consists of private and professional groups, governmental agencies and individuals interested in legislative issues which impact the lives of women and girls in Hawaii. It is open to all parties and operates through consensus building. Every year for the past two decades, members have come together to define common themes which require legislative action. The HSCSW facilitates and co-chairs the Coalition.

Idaho

Idaho Women's Commission

P.O. Box 8915

Moscow, ID 83843

Phone: 208-885-3758

Fax: 208-885-3759

Website: <http://www2.state.id.us/women>

E-mail: cagidius@women.state.id.us

Executive Director: Cindy Agidius

Chair: Yolanda Lopez

Mission: Through educational and informational efforts, the Idaho Women's Commission works toward equal opportunities for women. Our goal is to represent the women and families of Idaho. The Commission is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all Idahoans, particularly women and families. Commission members representing communities across the state meet two to three times yearly. They dedicate their time to examining women's and family issues and to representing the Commission in their communities. Those issues are communicated to policy makers and administrators in government and private sectors.

Members: <http://www2.state.id.us/women/who.html>

Resources: <http://www2.state.id.us/women/resources/resources.html>

Directory for Women-Owned Businesses: <http://www2.state.id.us/women/resources/businessdirectory.html>

Responsibilities: As a state agency under the aegis of the Governor's Office, the Commission is in a unique position to obtain information and to gain cooperation from both the public and private sectors to improve the lives of women and families.

Illinois

Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois

James R. Thompson Center, Suite 16-100

Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: 312-814-5743

Website: www.state.il.us/commission/women/about.htm

E-mail: rebecca_fyffe@gov.state.il.us

Executive Director: Ellen Solomon

Chair: Judith Anne Gold

Honorary Chair: Corinne Wood

Mission: The Commission was charged to work with both the private and public sectors to study the issues surrounding women's equity in Illinois, to examine ways to raise awareness of these issues, to develop collaborative public and private solutions and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Commissioners: www.illinois.gov/gov/women2/commis.cfm

Resources: www.state.il.us/commission/women/resource.htm

Structure: The Governor re-created the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois as a permanent Commission on January 21, 1999 by Executive Order. Following in the tradition of the prior Commission (June 1997-December 1998), the 25 Commissioners were appointed by the Governor and are a bi-partisan group of women and men with expertise in a broad range of issue areas including law, social welfare, education, business, health, community service, government, and child/family issues.

To accomplish its goals, the Commission is organized into eight working groups. Each working group is chaired by a Commissioner with additional Commissioners serving as co-chairs and members of the working group.

Responsibilities:

- Works to implement the recommendations published in the 1998 Final Report Economic Independence for Women: An Action Plan for Illinois;
- Monitors, collects, evaluates, and reports data concerning women's economic and social status;
- Using the 1998 Report as a guide, the Commission is currently working to implement recommendations by moving legislation forward, planning extensive outreach designed to "lift up the voices of women," developing collaborations with private and public sector entities to encourage practices which will assist women in achieving economic independence.

Women in Business and Entrepreneurship Working Group: (Hedy Ratner - Chair) - To move toward parity of women in the Illinois marketplace, the Women in Business & Entrepreneurship Working Group seeks to establish new policies and initiatives and to strengthen programs already in existence to create new economic opportunities for women in Illinois. They are creating and changing public policy, initiating and supporting legislation influencing policy in the private sector, and working with women in Illinois to educate, encourage and promote women's economic empowerment and business ownership. The Working Group will move to strike down the barriers that prevent women from succeeding and replace them with bridges to take them to leadership roles in private business and the public sector. With optimism, the Women in Business & Entrepreneurship Working Group looks to the future to continue our efforts toward gender parity.

Illinois Women's Business Ownership Council

100 W. Randolph, Suite 3-400

Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: 312-814-2811

Fax: 312-814-1843

Website: www.commerce.state.il.us/bus/IWBOChome.html

E-mail: bdoria@commerce.state.il.us

Chair: Hazel A. King

Mission: Providing information, education and a statewide forum to listen to and collect data on the business climate for Illinois' current and prospective women entrepreneurs.

Links: www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/related.html

Structure: The Council was established in 1994 by Public Act 88-99: The Illinois Women's Business Ownership Act (the "Act"). The Act charges the Council with reviewing the status of women business owners in Illinois and, on the basis of that review, with making annual policy recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. By making these recommendations, the Council catalyzes public and private actions that enable women business owners to attain an equal footing with their male counterparts.

Council members are appointed by the Governor and the leaders of the General Assembly. The members include the director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), who appoints a designee. Since the Council's inception, DCEO staff members have also served as Council staff.

Responsibilities:

- identifies remedies for removing the obstacles that block women business owners' full participation in the state's economic life;
- identifies the roles that government can play in removing these obstacles;
- and tracks the participation levels of women-owned businesses so that effective, ameliorative strategies can be deployed in order to achieve parity for these business owners.

To fulfill its Responsibilities, the Council:

- sponsors public hearings, educational seminars and business roundtables;
- presents testimony;
- consults to local, state and national bodies that share its mission and lobbies Illinois public officials.
- Annually, the Council submits a report to the Governor and the General Assembly describing its activities and the progress that Illinois' governments and businesses have made in assisting women business owners.

NOTE: The Illinois Women's Business Ownership Council ceased operations in 2003. Plans are afoot for the re-establishment of a similar organization.

Indiana

Indiana Commission for Women

10 North Senate, SE 204, Indiana Government Center South

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: 317-232-6720

Fax: 317-232-7485

Website: www.in.gov/icw

E-mail: ICW@state.in.us

Executive Director: Annette E. Craycraft

Chair: Gazella A. Summitt

Mission: To eliminate barriers to equality by:

- Informing leaders of business, education, governments and media of the nature and scope of the problem of sex discrimination with a view to enlisting their support in working toward improvement;
- Serving as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women.
- Promoting consideration of qualified women for all levels of government positions;
- Overseeing coordination and assessing programs and practices in all state agencies as they affect women.

Commissioners: www.in.gov/icw/about/commission.html

Links: www.in.gov/icw/links/

Structure: The Indiana Commission for Women, established in 1992, was created by Executive Order 92-15. During the 1996 legislative session, members of the Commission for Women and women throughout Indiana supported and actively sought the passage of Senate Bill 500, which created by statute the Indiana Commission for Women.

Statute: www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title4/ar23/ch25.html

Responsibilities: To encourage full participation of the women of Indiana in government, politics, business, education, the judicial system and all other aspects of life by:

- Promoting women's full participation in public policy making at all levels of local, state, and national life;
- Advocating for women the removal of legal and social barriers;
- Representing Indiana's commitment to improve the quality of life for women and their families.

Iowa

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

Dept. of Human Rights, Lucas State Office Building

Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: 515-281-4461

Fax: 515-242-6119

Website: www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw

E-mail: dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us

Executive Director: Charlotte Nelson

President: Suzanne O'Dea

Mission: The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) is a state agency that seeks to assure equality for Iowa women. The ICSW advocates for Iowa women, working to equalize women's opportunities and to promote full participation by women in the economic, political, and social life of the state.

Citizen members and ex-officio members: www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/contacts

Links: www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/links.html

Structure: Established in 1972 by the Iowa Legislature, the ICSW is a division of the Department of Human Rights. The ICSW is composed of nine citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Two members of the Senate, two members of the Iowa House of Representatives, and the director of the Department of Human Rights, serve ex officio.

Responsibilities: The ICSW represents the interests of women in a number of areas including pensions, elder care, sexual harassment, welfare, insurance, divorce, nontraditional jobs, displaced homemakers, pay equity, housing, domestic violence, sexual assault, education, and credit. It also serves as a clearinghouse for information on these and many other topics of interest to women and women's equity.

The ICSW is a responsive, visible advocacy agency for Iowa women's needs and provides a basis for statewide study and action on issues affecting women. Through research, education, legislative action, and special projects, the ICSW is a strong voice for women's rights.

Annually, the ICSW researches and submits a program of legislative priorities to the Governor and the General Assembly in the areas of aging issues and long-term care, economics, education, health, insurance, violence against women, welfare reform, justice, and government. The ICSW also advocates for women's interests at the federal level, testifies on behalf of women at legislative hearings, and monitors pending legislation for its impact on women.

As is legislatively mandated, the ICSW administers grant funds to programs that provide services to Iowans in Transition. It also administers grant funds for training on issues of violence against women.

The ICSW works on a number of projects that seek to advance the status of women. The ICSW:

- Collects employment related information and works toward pay equity.
- Administers a Challenge Grant to address the needs of females in the juvenile justice system.
- Serves as a clearinghouse on programs and agencies operating to assist women and publishes and disseminates information relating to women.
- Strives to equalize women's participation in policy-making positions by accepting appointment resumes for state boards and commissions and by instituting a database of women and minorities who wish to serve on corporate boards of directors.
- Recognizes Iowa women through the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame and the annual Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest, for students grades 6-9. The ICSW also awards the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice.

Kansas

Kansas Dept of Commerce - Minority and Women Business Development

1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100

Topeka, KS 66612-1354

Phone: 785-296-3425

Fax: 785-296-3490

Website: http://kdoch.state.ks.us/ProgramApp/program_detail_display.jsp?RECNO=996008588532

E-mail: rharris@kansascommerce.com

Executive Director: Rhonda F. Harris

Mission: Promotes business development with a focus on minority and women owned businesses.

Links: http://kdoch.state.ks.us/ProgramApp/program_site_display.jsp?RECNO=996008588532

Responsibilities: The office provides assistance by providing information and referrals in the following areas: procurement, contracting, subcontracting, financing, and business management. The office also partners with other business advocates to sponsor business education workshops and seminars. A statewide directory of minority- and women-owned businesses is published annually to assist those searching for businesses, products and services.

This office also administers The Kansas Statewide Certification Program where women and minority businesses can be certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). Certification may increase opportunities for women and minority businesses to gain contracts and subcontracts from governmental and private entities committed to the inclusion of minority and women owned businesses in the contracting and procurement process. The services of this program are free.

Kentucky

Kentucky Commission on Women

312 West Main Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 502-564-6643

Fax: 502-564-2315

Website: <http://women.ky.gov/>

E-mail: betsy.curry@mail.state.ky

Executive Director: Betsy Nowland-Curry

Chair: Hannah Hume Baird

Mission: To improve the status of women in Kentucky. We serve as an informational clearinghouse for the needs of Kentucky women. During the present administration, KCW has been active in several areas including women's health, encouraging women and girls to consider public service as a viable career option, and furthering the incorporation of women's history into Kentucky schools and communities.

Board: <http://women.ky.gov/who.htm>

Resources: <http://women.ky.gov/resources.htm>

Structure: Established by executive order in 1964 during the Breathitt administration, the Kentucky Commission on Women became an official state agency through legislative action in 1970. In 1984, it was placed under the Cabinet for General Government as an administrative body attached to the Governor's Office. KCW has a board membership comprised of the Lt. Governor, First Lady Judi Patton, and not more than an additional 25 members including the chair.

Responsibilities:

- Promote, encourage, and provide advisory assistance in the establishment of local volunteer community improvement programs for, and of interest to, women;
- Conduct programs, studies, seminars, and conferences, and encourage state and local women's business, professional, and civic organizations to do likewise, to educate the public to the problems of women;
- Consult with and advise the Governor and the agencies, departments, boards, and commissions of the state and local and municipal governments on matters pertaining to women;
- Cooperate with the federal government and with the governments of other states in programs relating to women.

Louisiana

Louisiana Women's Commission

Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004
Phone: 225-342-0991
Fax: 225-342-7099
Website: www.state.la.us/lawomen
Chair: Diane Winston

Mission: To improve the lives of women of all ages in Louisiana.

Members: www.state.la.us/lawomen/WomenMembers.htm

Priorities: The Commission is seeking specific state actions and programs to deal with:

- enforcement of employment discrimination;
 - employer education on pay equity;
 - non-traditional job training for women by state employment agencies;
 - micro-enterprise promotions for women-owned transportation companies serving working women;
 - prescription equity for working women;
 - the effectiveness of state health education programs.
-

Women's Business Council Gulf Coast

400 Poydras, Suite 1730
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504-680-1886
Fax: 504-680-6412
Website: www.wbcla.org
E-mail: blanca@wbcla.org
Executive Director: Blanca E. Robinson
Chair: Marie Casse

Mission: To advance and enhance business opportunities between women-owned businesses and corporations, to administer a reliable Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) certification program, to provide business development training programs for WBEs and to facilitate mutually beneficial procurement opportunities for WBEs and corporations on a local and national level.

Board of Directors: www.wbcla.org/about.htm

Structure: The Women's Business Council Gulf Coast is one of the 14 partner organizations of WBENC. All of the partner organizations adhere to WBENC's stringent Standards and Procedures in their certification programs.

Maine

Maine Centers for Women, Work & Community

Stoddard House, 46 University Drive

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-621-3440

Website: www.womenworkandcommunity.org/

E-mail: nardone@maine.edu

Executive Director: Gilda Nardone

Mission: Women, Work, and Community is committed to improving the economic lives of Maine women and their families. We work with women "where they are" and provide them with support, guidance, and the tools they need to take the next steps toward a more promising future.

Responsibilities: We provide training, advocacy and assistance in four program areas:

- Workforce development, including career planning, employment, retention and advancement in jobs that pay a living wage; and access to education and skills training;
- Microenterprise development, including business plan development, start-up support and coaching, access to credit through a micro-loan fund, and linkages to on-going technical assistance;
- Asset development through a matched saving program, car and computer donations, and training in money management;
- Leadership development, including a curriculum that explores the workings of the local economy, women's roles in building community, and opportunities to practice leadership; a legislative awareness day, conferences, and outdoor adventure challenges.

Maryland

Maryland Commission for Women

45 Calvert Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: 410-260-6047

Fax: 410-974-2307

Website: www.marylandwomen.org

E-mail: mcw@dhr.state.md.us

Executive Director: Dory J. Stacks

Chair: Randa Fahmy Hudome

Mission: The Maryland Commission for Women advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women.

Commissioners: www.marylandwomen.org/commstaf.htm

Resource Directory: www.marylandwomen.org/redirec.htm

Structure: The Maryland Commission for Women, created in 1965 and established by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1971, is a 24-member citizen's group appointed by the Governor from among persons interested in the improvement of the status of women. The Commission's membership represents the geographical regions and diversity of the State. Members are appointed for terms of four years. The Commission is housed in the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Goals:

- To advise government, as a voice for Maryland women, in the development of executive, legislative and judicial policies;
- To promote solutions that address the needs of Maryland women;
- To serve as a statewide resource center for Maryland women.

Responsibilities:

- Studies and reviews the status of women;
- Addresses critical problems facing women;
- Recommends methods of overcoming discrimination against women;
- Encourages women to become politically active;
- Maintains a clearinghouse of information, including information on where women can get help for themselves and their families, information about issues of concern to women, and information about special events and programs;
- Maintains the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame;
- Chairs the Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (LAMW);
- Distributes publications concerning women's and girls' issues;
- Maintains a web site that includes the most up-to-date information about women and girls.

Massachusetts

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues

State House, Room 111

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-973-8646

Website: www.state.ma.us/womenissues/mainpage.htm

E-mail: jthompson@somwba.state.ma.us

Chair: JoAnne Thompson

Members: www.state.ma.us/womenissues/members.htm

Executive Order: www.state.ma.us/womenissues/executive.htm

Responsibilities:

- Advises the Governor on what priorities around women's issues should be;
- Advises the Governor on policy decisions which have impact on women;
- Represents the concerns and needs of women to the Governor, Cabinet Secretaries, and other policy representatives of the administration;
- Helps to develop and review budget recommendations and policy proposals of the administration for the purpose of assuring a positive impact on women;
- Seeks the ideas and involvement of women's organizations, the Women's Legislative Caucus, and other active women in the formation and evaluation of state policy;
- Is responsible for special efforts to reach out to women from all points of the Commonwealth and from all walks of life.

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford Street, 6th Floor

Boston, MA 02114-2502

Phone: 617-626-6520

Fax: 617-626-6530

Website: www.mass.gov/women

E-mail: mcsw@state.ma.us

Executive Director: Linda Brantley

Chair: Marianne C. Fleckner

Mission: To provide a permanent, effective voice for women across Massachusetts. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights and the full enjoyment of life for all women throughout their lives.

Commissioners: www.state.ma.us/women/aboutus/comm&staff.htm

Resources: www.state.ma.us/women/resources/resources.htm

Responsibilities:

- Study, review and report on the status of women in the Commonwealth;
 - Inform leaders of business, education, health care, state and local governments and the communications media of issues pertaining to women;
 - Serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues pertaining to women;
 - Identify and recommend qualified women for appointive positions at all levels of government, including boards and commissions;
 - Promote and facilitate collaboration among local women's commissions and among women's organizations in the state.
-

The Women's Union

356 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617-536-5651
Fax: 617-247-8826
Website: www.wei.org
E-mail: info@wei.org
President: Mary M. Lassen

Mission: To expand educational and economic opportunities and achieve social justice for all women. The Women's Union advocates for and supports women's efforts to enhance their lives and the well-being of their families and communities.

Board of Trustees: www.wei.org/index.php?page=65

Priorities:

- supportive housing for battered women and their children;
- job-readiness training and mentoring for low-income women;
- home health care training and services for elderly and disabled adults;
- and statewide advocacy for economic self-sufficiency.

M.A.D.E. for Business (Manufacturers, Artisans, Designers, Entrepreneurs)

M.A.D.E. for Business is a micro-enterprise program, initiated in 1996 by The Women's Union to assist women artisans in establishing or expanding their own product-based businesses. Assistance is provided in the form of lectures, workshops, individual counseling, and referrals.

Participants learn business planning; product pricing; product development and marketing; how to package and distribute their products.

In 2000, M.A.D.E. for Business joined with the Commonwealth Corporation's Entrepreneurial Training Services to enhance the business skills portion of the program. Now, the Commonwealth Corporation, a quasi-public organization that administers a wide range of public and privately funded initiatives to foster career success through skill-building, will administer M.A.D.E. for Business. The Commonwealth Corporation is located in The Schrafft Center, 529 Main Street, Suite 110, Boston, MA 02129.

This partnership with the Commonwealth Corporation will enable M.A.D.E. for Business to better serve the needs of more women by expanding its reach across Massachusetts. M.A.D.E. for Business will continue its collaboration with The Shop at the Union as a marketing point for products.

Michigan

Michigan Women's Commission

124 W. Allegan Street, Suite 100

Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: 517-373-2884

Fax: 517-335-1649

Website: www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,1607,7-138-4957---,00.html

E-mail: mwci1@michigan.gov

Executive Director: Judy Karandjeff

Chair: Emma Bell

Mission: Works to improve the quality of life for Michigan women.

Links: www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,1607,7-138-4957-17218--,00.html

Resource Directory: www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,1607,7-138-4957_5922---,00.html

Strategic Plan:

- increase the economic independence of women
- improve the health and safety of women
- prevent discrimination against women
- increase the Public Profile and Identity of the Michigan Women's Commission as a Resource for Women.

Minnesota

Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

G-22 State Capitol

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 612-296-8590

Website: www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcesw/

E-mail: lcesw@commissions.leg.state.mn.us

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

Chair: Barb Sykora

Mission: The commission advises the legislature and provides basic information and statistics on women in Minnesota. The commission gathers information on population characteristics, educational attainment and enrollments, marital and parental status, household characteristics, labor force status and employment characteristics, and basic information on women's legal and economic rights.

Structure: The commission, formerly the Council on the Economic Status of Women, was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1976. In 1983 it was reorganized as a joint legislative advisory commission and the name changed.

The commission's biennial report provides further information about the commission and its activities.

The commission consists of ten legislative members and three staff. Legislative leadership appoints commission members each biennium, with current terms for both the House and Senate expiring in December 2004.

Commission Members: www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcesw/contactus.htm

Minnesota Women's Consortium

550 Rice Street

St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651-228-0338

Website: www.mnwomen.org

E-mail: info@mnwomen.org

Mission: The Minnesota Women's Consortium is the only one of its kind in the country. As a statewide collaboration of 170 member organizations, the Consortium serves as a resource center to enhance equality and justice for women and children. The Consortium does not take a stand on issues but rather helps women working for progressive social change stay in touch. As a clearinghouse, the Consortium keeps member organizations informed on issues pertinent to their work, increasing members' strength and impact.

Member Organizations: www.mnwomen.org/memberorgs.html

Resources: www.mnwomen.org/resources.htm

Mississippi

Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women

P. O. Box 13372

Jackson, MS 39236

Website: www.geocities.com/mississippiwomen2002/about.html

E-mail: mississippiwomen2002@yahoo.com

Mission: To assess and influence policies and practices that affect women through an inclusive, collaborative process. The Commission serves by administering and supporting; collecting and disseminating information; and recommending policies to public and private groups and persons.

Commissioners: www.geocities.com/mississippiwomen2002/whoswho.html

Links: www.geocities.com/mississippiwomen2002/links.html

Structure: The State of Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women was created in 2001 by the Mississippi Legislature under House Bill 797. Four commissioners were appointed by the Governor. Three commissioners each were appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Attorney General. All of the commissioners serve in a voluntary capacity and are active in other groups that studies issues of concern to women.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct research and study issues affecting the status of women;
- Advise and consult with the executive and legislative branches of government;
- Publish periodic reports documenting the status and concerns of women;
- Act as an information center on the status of women;
- Serve as a liaison between government, private interest groups, and the general public regarding the status of women;
- Recommend policies and make recommendations to public and private groups and persons concerned with any issue related to improving the status of women;
- Promote consideration of qualified women for all levels of government positions;
- Report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the Commission's activities and findings.

Missouri

Missouri Women's Council

P.O. Box 1684, 421 E Dunklin Street

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: 573-751-0810

Fax: 573-751-8835

Website: www.womenscouncil.org

E-mail: wcouncil@mail.state.mo.us

Executive Director: Cheryl Grazier Myers

Chair: Kim Carlos

Mission: The Council now acts as a resource and referral center connecting women from all socioeconomic backgrounds to information ranging from employment and non-traditional programs, domestic violence and health issues, to entrepreneurship and advocacy. The Missouri Women's Council of 2003 is committed to the pioneering of changes necessary to advance the economic, social and political parity of women in Missouri.

Structure: The bipartisan Council is comprised of 15 members: 11 appointed by the Governor, 2 Missouri State Senators, and 2 Missouri State Representatives. The Missouri Women's Council was established in 1985 by the State's 83rd General Assembly to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of women in Missouri.

Council Members: www.womenscouncil.org/councilmembers.html

Links: www.womenscouncil.org/womenslinks.html

Women's Resource Guide: www.womenscouncil.org/pdf/womensresourceguide.pdf

Montana

No organizations found

Nebraska

Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women

301 Centennial Mall South

P. O. Box 94985

Lincoln, NE 68509-4985

Phone: 402-471-2039

Fax: 402-471-5655

Website: www.women.state.ne.us/

E-mail: ncswmail@mail.state.ne.us

Executive Director: Carlene Bourn

Chair: Marcie Lechtenberg

Mission: The Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women is committed to the principle that women should have the opportunity and freedom to fulfill the roles they choose to pursue without discriminatory barriers.

The Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of societal issues affecting all facets of women's lives -- within the family, workplace, educational setting and other private and public institutions.

Commissioners: www.women.state.ne.us/Commission.html

Links: www.women.state.ne.us/WOMEN'S_ORG.htm

Structure: An equitable political and geographical balance of 30 Commissioners are maintained through gubernatorial appointments from each of the six, 1972 NE Supreme Court Districts. Not more than one half of the members serving may be from any one political party. Commissioners may serve for two three-year terms.

Responsibilities: Research, legislative advocacy, information and referral services, publications, education, outreach and recognition.

Nevada

No organizations found

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women

State House Annex, Room 334

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-271-2660

Fax: 603-271-4032

Website: www.state.nh.us/csw/

E-mail: tdelangis@admin.state.nh.us

Executive Director: Theresa deLangis

Chair: Lucy Hodder

Mission: Serves as a strong voice for women in the state by monitoring legislation, overcoming discrimination against women, promoting opportunities for women to develop their skills and continue their education, and recognizing women for their accomplishments.

Commissioners: www.state.nh.us/csw/photos.html

Resource Directory: www.state.nh.us/csw/resourcedirectory.html

On-line resource guide for Women Business Owners/Future Owners: www.state.nh.us/csw/business.html

Structure: The Commission was established by the New Hampshire legislature in 1969. The duties of the Commission, are outlined under RSA 19-B.

New Jersey

New Jersey Division on Women

101 S. Broad Street, P.O. Box 801

Trenton, NJ 08625-0801

Phone: 609-292-8840

Fax: 609-633-6821

Website: www.nj.gov/dca/dow

E-mail: dow@dca.state.nj.us

Acting Director: Ileana Montes

Mission: To create, promote and expand the rights and opportunities for all women in the State of New Jersey. The Division conducts research leading to public policy to support the development, coordination and evaluation of programs and services for women.

Resources: www.nj.gov/dca/dow/resources.shtml

Structure: The Division on Women was established in 1974 by law to serve as state government's central permanent agency for the coordination of programs and services for women.

New Mexico

New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women

4001 Indian School Road NE, Suite 300

Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone: 505-841-8920

Fax: 505-841-8926

Website: www.state.nm.us/womenscommission/

E-mail: womenscommission@state.nm.us

Executive Director: Rebecca Jo Dakota

Chair: Elizabeth McKinney-Brown

Mission: To increase the awareness of the rights, responsibilities, and interests of women and girls in New Mexico and to preserve women's history and contributions to the state.

Commissioners: www.state.nm.us/womenscommission/

Links: www.state.nm.us/womenscommission/referrals/referrals.html

Structure: The NM Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1973 by Governor Bruce King. The Commission is governed by 15 volunteer commissioners, appointed in staggered terms by the governor, representing each of the state's seven planning districts.

Responsibilities:

- Stimulate and encourage the study and review of the status of women in New Mexico, and act as
- clearinghouse for all activities involving women;
- Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women in private and public
- Employment;
- Promote methods for enabling women to develop their skills and continue their education;
- Cooperate with and assist private and public entities in the delivery of services and information;
- Conduct periodic conferences throughout the state to apprise women of their rights and opportunities
- and listen to their needs and problems;
- Secure recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to New Mexico.

New York

Empire State Development - Division of Minority- and Women-owned Business Development

30 South Pearl Street

Albany, NY 12245

Phone: 518-292-5250

Fax: 518-292-5803

Website: [www.nylovesbiz.com/Small and Growing Businesses/mwbe.asp](http://www.nylovesbiz.com/Small_and_Growing_Businesses/mwbe.asp)

Director: Jorge Vidro

Mission: The Division of Minority and Women's Business Development administers, coordinates, and implements a statewide program to assist the development of M/WBEs and facilitate their access to state contracting opportunities, and promotes equal employment opportunities. Through the process of certification, this agency is responsible for verifying minority and women-ownership and control of firms participating in the program.

Executive Law: www.nylovesbiz.com/pdf/artcl15a.pdf

Responsibilities:

- assist state agencies in their efforts to award a "fair share" of contracts to MWBEs;
 - develop standardized forms and reporting documents for purpose of implementing Article 15-A;
 - conduct educational programs to facilitate access to assistance under the program;
 - periodically review agency practices and procedures to determine compliance with program requirements;
 - report annually to the Governor and Legislature;
 - prepare and maintain an updated directory of certified minority and women-owned firms;
 - appoint independent hearing officers to preside over certification appeal hearings;
 - file complaints for violations in regard to equal employment opportunities.
-

New York State Division for Women

633 Third Avenue, 38th Floor

New York, NY 10017

Phone: 212-681-4547

Fax: 212-681-7626

Website: www.state.ny.us/women/

E-mail: elaine.conway@chamber.state.ny.us

Executive Director: Elaine Wingate Conway

Mission: Serves as an advocate for women's issues because it acts as a direct link between the women of New York State and the Governor; gathers and supplies information on the problems and challenges faced by women of their regions.

Structure: Relies on its twelve regional advisory councils to gather and supply information on the problems and challenges faced by women of their regions.

Responsibilities: The Division for Women is charged with reviewing and monitoring proposed legislation, state policies, procedures, practices and programs for their impact on women. It tries to improve the opportunities for and delivery of services to women by sponsoring programs, conferences and summits designed to increase the participation of women in State Government.

New York Women's Agenda

355 Lexington Avenue, 17th Floor

New York, NY 10017

Phone: 212-297-2155

Fax: 212-370-9047

Website: www.nywa.org

E-mail: info@nywa.org

President: Elinor C. Guggenheimer

Mission:

- To advocate and collaborate for the interests of New York women in public policy decisions that affect our lives;
- To increase women's participation in public policy discussions on economic, political and social issues;
- To support member organizations in their individual efforts.

Informing and educating the public and advising policy makers about the impact of public policy decisions on the welfare of women and families is central to NYWA's mission.

Members: www.nywa.org/memberorganizations.html

Structure: NYWA is a coalition of nearly 100 women's organizations.

Policy Agendas: Each year, NYWA chooses a small number of issues to concentrate the full of NYWA's powerful coalition within the following targeted Policy Agendas:

Governmental Affairs Agenda promotes to appropriate government officials policies that will help women and their families. The leaders of this agenda, with help from active participants, also develop and disseminate position statements to underscore the importance of such issues. Co-leaders of this agenda are Sally Goodgold, Jo LoCicero, and Lois Blades Rosado.

Economic Security Agenda increases women's economic clout within the city through initiatives that will enlarge woman-owned businesses' ability to participate in city contracts, that will help businesses owned by women to flourish, and by promoting more women business owners for corporate board appointments. Co-leaders of this agenda are Rosemary Bova, Marsha Firestone and Nancy Ploeger

Quality of Life Agenda focuses on what may improve living conditions for New York women and their families, including affordability of housing, the physical environment, recreation, health, safety, culture, and the sense of community. Co-leaders of this agenda are Suleika Cabrera-Drinane, Kathy Dunphy, Barbara Gerard, and Joan Tucker.

North Carolina

North Carolina Council for Women and Domestic Violence Commission

1320 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699

Phone: 919-733-2455

Fax: 919-733-2464

Website: www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cfw/cfw.htm

E-mail: Leslie.starstoneck@ncmail.net

Executive Director: Leslie Starstoneck

Board Members: www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cfw/bdcfw.htm

Structure: The N.C. Council for Women and Domestic Violence Commission is an advocacy agency within the North Carolina Department of Administration. The Council was created by Executive Order of the Governor in 1963 and funds were appropriated in 1973. The Domestic Violence Commission was created and funded in 1999 by Executive Order. The agencies consolidated in 2001. Both the Council and Domestic Violence Commission rely on the services of many private citizens concerned about the work of each.

Responsibilities: This agency staffs the Domestic Violence Commission, and advises the governor, the North Carolina legislature and the state departments on the special needs of women in North Carolina by:

- Identifying and assessing needs;
- Collecting and distributing information about the status of women;
- Acting as a resource for local Councils/Commissions for Women;
- Collaborating with other groups and individuals working on behalf of women;
- Identifying and assessing statewide needs, including domestic violence;
- Assuring that necessary services, policies, and programs are provided to those in need and strengthening existing programs.

North Dakota

North Dakota Commission on the Status of Women

P.O. Box 1913

Bismarck, ND 58502

Phone: 701-530-2059

Fax: 701-530-2111

Website: governor.state.nd.us/boards/boards-query.asp?Board_ID=114

E-mail: carol.reed@nd.usda.gov

Chair: Carol Reed

Structure: 5 voting members, 1 non-voting member

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate activities and serve as a clearinghouse and an advisory group to the Department of Economic Development and Finance for information relating to economic development programs that focus on career development for women;
- The Commission shall prepare for and perform follow-up duties in connection with state, regional, and national conferences;
- It shall encourage interest, participation, and cooperation with state departments, agencies, and other organizations in developing needed services, facilities, and opportunities, and provide consultant help to local organizations created for the purpose of coordinating activities for the economic and career development of women.

Ohio

Ohio Women's Business Development Council, Inc

462 West Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614-621-0881

Fax: 614-621-2633

Website: www.wings-women.com/wbdc

E-mail: owbdc@aol.com

Mission: The Ohio Women's Business Development Council, Inc. (OWBDC), a non-profit organization, is dedicated to the economic empowerment of women. The Council provides services and programs that support the impact of women on the economy and helps them to compete more effectively in the marketplace.

Programs:

- WBE Showcase provides corporations and Certified WBEs an opportunity to network in a private setting. Each Showcase is held quarterly and includes a forum that provides and fosters procurement opportunities for women-owned businesses in the private sector;
- Roundtables with a Twist;
- OWBDC, Inc. Roundtables provide a forum for networking and Idea exchanging among women business owners and private sector Fortune 500 Corporations. Roundtables help women-owned businesses to combat the isolation of entrepreneurship by bringing women into a mutually beneficial environment;
- The Women's Input Committee is a network of women business owners and supporters whose mission is to provide, translate and advocate the needs, issues and benefits of Certified WBEs throughout Ohio.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

2101 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Phone: 405-522-6897

Fax: 405-524-6942

Website: www.opm.state.ok.us/OCSW/

E-mail: ocsw@opm.state.ok.us

Chair: Debbe Leftwich

Mission: To improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma.

Members: www.opm.state.ok.us/OCSW/

Links: www.opm.state.ok.us/OCSW/html/links.html

Structure: The Secretary of State is mandated by statute (74 O.S., Section 673) to provide staff support for the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission consists of thirty (30) members who serve staggered five year terms. Ten (10) members are appointed by the Governor, ten (10) by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, and ten (10) by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Responsibilities:

- Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and businesses of this state which desire the services of the Commission;
- Act as a monitor on legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation;
- Act as a resource and a clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias;
- Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission;
- Make an annual report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of its activities under this act. Such recommendations may include recommendations concerning needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to equity and gender bias.

Oregon

Oregon Commission for Women

PO Box 751-CW

Portland, OR 97207

Phone: 503-725-5889

Fax: 503-725-8152

Website: bluebook.state.or.us/state/executive/commis_for_women/comm_women_home.htm

E-mail: ocfw@pdx.edu

Executive Director: Roslyn Farrington

Mission: To work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equality for women and to maintain a continuing assessment of the issues and needs confronting women in Oregon.

Structure: The Commission is comprised of eleven members, nine appointed by the Governor, with three-year terms which are confirmed by the Senate. Two members represent the Legislative Assembly and are appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, and serve for two years. The Oregon Commission for Women was legislatively established in 1983 to work for women's equality.

Responsibilities:

- Advocating for women in the community, providing information on women to the governor and state legislature, serving as a link for women to state agencies, and providing services to individual women in Oregon;
- The commission meets at various locations around the state to gather information about women;
- It also publishes a handbook called Oregon Women and the Law, as well as holding an annual fundraiser to honor Oregon's outstanding women;
- The commission's women's educational program provides seminars statewide on women's health, wellness and financial literacy;
- The commission produces a quarterly newsletter.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Commission for Women

Room 205, Finance Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone: 717-787-8128

Fax: 717-772-0653

Website: www.pcw.state.pa.us/

E-mail: ra-pcwwebe-mail@state.pa.us

Executive Director: Leslie Stiles

Chair: Donna L. Kreiser

Mission: The Pennsylvania Commission for Women (PCW) serves as a strong advocate for women's rights and works to ensure that women and girls have equal opportunity and treatment in all aspects of life.

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PA_Comm_Women/i-miss.html

Commissioners: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PA_Comm_Women/i-comm.html

State Services Directory: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PA_Comm_Women/services.html

Links: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PA_Comm_Women/links.html

By-laws: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PA_Comm_Women/i-exec.html

Priorities: Economic self-sufficiency; Child care; Family violence prevention.

Responsibilities:

- Sponsors educational seminars and programs.
 - Provides a professional speakers bureau.
 - Serves as the link to the Governor for individuals, women's groups and organizations.
 - Works at the county and statewide level to implement new policies.
 - Provides publications and information on issues impacting women and families.
 - Functions as a resource center to refer citizens with questions about programs, funding resources and business opportunities to the appropriate source.
-

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development - Women's Business Advocate Office

Department of Community and Economic Development

400 North Street, 4th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone: 800-280-3801

Fax: 717-234-4560

Website: www.inventpa.com/default.aspx?id=6

E-mail: mvanarsdal@state.pa.us

Mary Anne Van Arsdale - Women's Business Advocate

Mission: The Women's Business Advocate Office, located within the Department of Community and Economic Development, encourages the creation, expansion and retention of women-owned businesses as part of Pennsylvania's overall economic development strategy.

Responsibilities:

- Provides information and referrals to women business owners on financing, technical assistance, networking and business development opportunities;
- Assists women business owners in resolving issues with state agencies, exploring marketing options and identifying financing strategies;
- Supports and promotes activities within the Commonwealth such as conferences, workshops and business development and training programs;
- Publishes and distributes the statewide Women's Business Organization Directory.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Commission on Women

One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401-222-6105
Fax: 401-222-5638
Website: www.ricw.state.ri.us/
E-mail: ricw@state.ri.us
Chair: Jane M. Anthony

Mission: To support women in achieving full equity in all areas of life, through the promotion of rights and opportunities for all women. A non-partisan state agency, it works to promote rights and opportunities for all women across all arenas, including - but not limited to - education, health, economic development, employment, legal rights, political participation and the quality of individual and family life.

Commissioners: www.ricw.state.ri.us/commissioners2.htm

Links: www.ricw.state.ri.us/links_web.htm

Structure: The Rhode Island Commission on Women is a 26 member commission supported by a director, administrative assistant, and a corps of volunteers. Its mission is to advance women toward full equity.

The Commission began in 1970 as a Permanent Advisory Commission on Women in Rhode Island. After 22 years as an advisory commission, in 1992 the General Assembly amended the General Laws of Rhode Island (Title 42, Chapter 119) to change its status to an agency of Rhode Island Government.

Responsibilities:

- Advise and submit recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly;
- Gather and disseminate information to women and/or the general public on issues relating to women;
- Develop and/or support programs and services for women (1999 projects include a Legal Rights Handbook, public information on breast cancer, Handbook of classroom practices in teaching gender equity, and education awards;
- Collaborate with concerned organizations, groups, and state departments on issues of common concerns;
- Educate and encourage women to exercise the right to vote; encourage candidacy for public office and promote appointment of qualified women to boards, commissions, and government positions at all levels;
- Evaluate, monitor, and propose federal and state legislation and advise legislators on issues relating to women.

South Carolina

South Carolina Governor's Commission on Women

1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 366

Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-734-1609

Website: www.govoepp.state.sc.us/gcw.htm

E-mail: dow@govoepp.state.sc.us

Executive Director: Rebecca Collier

Chair: Susan Romaine

Mission: To enhance the quality of life for all South Carolinians by promoting equality of opportunity for South Carolina women and their families.

NOTE: Governor eliminated funding for this commission in June 2003 -- now exists in name only

South Dakota

No organizations found

Tennessee

Tennessee Economic Council on Women

Snodgrass Tower, 312 Eighth Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: 615-253-4264

Fax: 615-253-4263

Website: www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/

E-mail: Barbara.Devaney@state.tn.us

Executive Director: Barbara Devaney

Chair: Brenda Speer

Mission: The Economic Council on Women assesses Tennessee women's economic status. It develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs to help women achieve economic autonomy.

Members: www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/members.htm

Links: www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/additional.htm

Regional Directory: www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/resource_directory.htm

Current and Future Activities:

- Identify barriers preventing women and girls from completing their education or training;
- Encourage disadvantaged women and girls to complete their education and job training through public awareness campaigns;
- Offer mentoring programs for women and girls in collaboration with the private sector;
- Determine whether Tennessee's job training programs help women get and keep jobs that pay enough for self-sufficiency;
- Inform Tennessee legislators, policymakers and the public about Tennessee women's economic needs and proposed solutions;
- Work with state departments to gather information about services for women and assist in eliminating duplication of services;
- Obtain 3-5 grants from private and governmental sources to fund Council initiatives and multiply the effect of legislative appropriations;
- Gather and publish objective economic information and statistics on women.

Texas

Governor's Commission for Women

Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428

Austin, TX 78711

Phone: 800-839-5323

Fax: 512-463-1849

Website: www.governor.state.tx.us/women/women

E-mail: Lguthrie@governor.state.tx.us

Executive Director: Leslie Guthrie

Chairs: Patty Huffines, Julie Attebury

Mission: To improve the personal and professional status of women in Texas and to advocate programs that provide solutions to problems faced by Texas women.

Commissioners: www.governor.state.tx.us/women/women/commissioners/view

Resources: www.governor.state.tx.us/women/women/resources/view

Business Links: www.governor.state.tx.us/women/women/business/businesslinks

Structure: Governor Rick Perry authorized the Governor's Commission for Women by Executive Order on August 15, 2001. Commissioners are appointed to two-year terms and meet on a quarterly basis

Priorities: Domestic violence awareness; immunization rates.

Responsibilities:

- Identify and research key issues that affect the women of Texas;
- Advocate issues through the distribution of information, media events, and community outreach programs for the purpose of increasing public awareness;
- Serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups that provide services to women;
- Coordinate and host the Texas Hall of Fame Awards, which honors outstanding women in Texas;
- Field inquiries on women's issues and provide referral assistance.

Utah

Governor's Commission for Women and Families

111 State Capitol

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Phone: 801-538-1533

Fax: 801-538-1304

Website: www.families.utah.gov/women.html

E-mail: mreese@utah.gov

Mission:

- Advise and confer with the Governor and State Agencies concerning issues of importance to Women and Families in Utah;
- Serve as a contact and coordinating group to analyze state and local rights of men, women, and families;
- Serve as a catalyst for creation of needed services and programs for women and families of Utah.

Links: www.families.utah.gov/links.html

Vermont

Vermont Commission on Women

126 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05633-6801

Phone: 802-828-2851

Fax: 802-828-2930

Website: www.women.state.vt.us

E-mail: info@women.state.vt.us

Chair: Victoria Young

Mission: Vermont's Commission on Women, as a state agency, works to shape policy by educating and informing the public. The Commission works to find long-term solutions to the problems that confront women and their families by increasing educational, economic, social, and health-related opportunities.

Commissioners: www.women.state.vt.us/commstaf.html

Resources: www.women.state.vt.us/resource.html

Structure: Vermont's Commission on Women was founded in 1964 by Governor Philip Hoff. The Commission's purpose is to help women achieve legal, economic, social and political equality in Vermont.

Responsibilities:

- The Commission acts as a public policy advisor, planner and information source for both the Governor and the Legislature on issues affecting women;
- The Commission also acts as an educational resource by conducting research, producing publications and providing educational conferences;
- Lastly, the Commission serves as a clearinghouse for information and referrals to the general public, handling over 1,000 inquiries each year.

Priorities: paid leave; pay equity; early childhood care and education; reproductive rights; sexual assault of persons in the custody of the department of corrections.

Virginia

VA Department of Business Assistance - Minority & Women Businesses

Website: www.dba.state.va.us/mwbusinesses/

Chair: Catherine Giordano

Mission: Evaluating the needs and challenges facing Virginia women-business owners. The Advisory Council's goal is to make recommendations to the Department of Business Assistance as to future initiatives that would best promote the growth and success of this fast-growing sector of the Virginia economy.

Board: www.dba.state.va.us/about/boards.asp

Resources: www.dba.state.va.us/mwbusinesses/resources.asp?SECTION_ID=110

Structure: 19-member work group

DBA's Advisory Council on Women's Business has a six-month work plan and is targeting September 2003 for presenting its exploration summary and key recommendations to DBA and the Warner administration.

Washington

Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises

406 South Water Street, Post Office Box 41160

Olympia, WA 98504

Phone: 360-753-9693

Fax: 360-586-7079

Website: www.omwbe.wa.gov/

E-mail: jhuey-ray@omwbe.wa.gov

Executive Director: Juan Huey-Ray

Mission: The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises helps create and sustain an equitable business environment by promoting the participation, in public contracting and procurement, of all qualified and available businesses owned and controlled by minorities, women and all others who may be socially and economically disadvantaged.

Links: www.omwbe.wa.gov/links.htm

Responsibilities:

- Maintaining a central MBE/WBE/DBE certification list;
- Providing statewide certification services;
- Identifying barriers to equal participation in public contracting;
- Monitoring state entity compliance;
- Establishing voluntary state contracting goals;
- Developing plans and implementing programs to ensure opportunities for firms;
- Collecting data concerning goal attainment;
- Serving as "proactive" business advocates;
- Implementing the liaison program with state entities;
- Providing technical assistance and training on various contracting and procurement issues;
- Establishing ad hoc advisory committees to assist in the development of policies to carry out the program. This mechanism for gathering stakeholder input is important in ensuring that the unique perspectives of minority and women business owners are represented in the program.

West Virginia

West Virginia Women's Commission

Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 850

Charleston, WV 25305

Phone: 304-558-0070

Fax: 304-558-5167

Website: www.wvdhhr.org/women/index.asp

E-mail: wvwc@wvdhhr.org

Executive Director: Alison Wood

Chair: Wendy Thomas

Mission: The West Virginia Women's Commission promotes the status and empowerment of all West Virginia women through advocacy, research, education, and consensus building. The Commission exists to foster women's economic, political, educational, and social development; to ensure their full participation in society; and to recognize their achievements.

Commissioners: www.wvdhhr.org/women/staff.asp

Affiliates: www.wvdhhr.org/women/affiliates.asp

Structure: Eleven citizen members, appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, oversee the Commission's projects and support of issues. Six state agency department heads also serve as ex-officio members. Operates as a state agency within the Department of Health and Human Resources

The Women's Commission was created in statute by the West Virginia Legislature in 1977, with strong support from Governor Jay Rockefeller and women and men statewide. Their goal was to create a comprehensive state agency that would study the status of West Virginia women, recognize their accomplishments and work to better their lives.

Objectives:

- Advance the economic status, health, personal safety, education, leadership, and advocacy of state women.
- Develop, publish, and distribute informative and statistical data about and for the women of West Virginia.
- Develop legislative recommendations affecting women;
- Work with other state agencies and nonprofit groups to develop statewide educational and awareness forums;
- Sponsor workshops that enhance the knowledge, skills, and legal rights of women;
- Seek partnerships with government agencies; nonprofit groups; and private businesses to contribute information, expertise, volunteers, money, or other resources to the goals and work of the commission.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Women's Council

Department of Administration, P.O. Box 7869
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: 608-266-0239
Fax: 608-261-2432
Website: <http://wwc.state.wi.us/>
E-mail: info@wwc.state.wi.us
Chair: Mary Jo Baas

Mission: To enhance the ability of all Wisconsin women to participate fully in all aspects of life.

Members: www.wwc.state.wi.us/home/members

Structure: The Women's Council has fifteen members: the Governor or Governor's designee; six public members appointed by the Governor; two public members appointed by the President of the Senate; two public members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; two members of the Senate, and two members of the Assembly. The Council Chair is designated by the Governor.

Resources for Women Entrepreneurs: www.commerce.state.wi.us/mt/mt-fax-0907.html

Responsibilities:

- Promoting public and private sector initiatives at all levels that empower women through education;
- Providing a clearinghouse for information relating to women's issues and working cooperatively with related groups and organizations;
- Promoting unique opportunities for partnerships and involvements to address issues impacting women.

Priorities: <http://wwc.state.wi.us/home/strategic.htm>

Wisconsin Women's Network

122 State Street, #404
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-255-9809
Website: www.wiwomensnetwork.org/
E-mail: wiwomen@execpc.com
Chair: Mona Steele

Mission: A coalition of organizations and individuals working to improve the status of women in Wisconsin.

Members: www.wiwomensnetwork.org/orgmembers.html

Board: www.wiwomensnetwork.org/board.html

Links: www.wiwomensnetwork.org/links.html

Wyoming

Wyoming Council for Women's Issues

214 West 15th Street

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 800-262-3425

Fax: 307-777-2838

Website: http://wyomingbusiness.org/home/womens_issues/index.cfm

E-mail: WCWI13@state.wy.us

Members: http://wyomingbusiness.org/home/womens_issues/members.cfm

Links: www.wyomingbusiness.org/home/womens_issues/women_organizations.cfm

Structure: The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues is a 13-member council with representation from each of the nine Judicial Districts in addition to four at large members and one ex-officio member for the Wyoming Business Council. The Governor through the Boards and Councils Application process appoints WCWI members.