

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

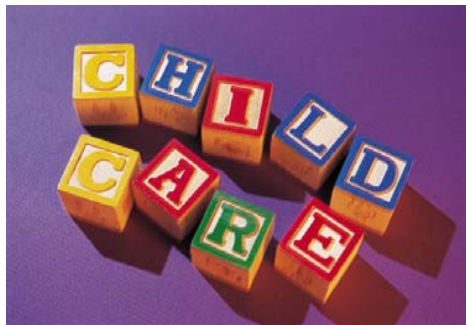


Where Connecticut Stands



Background: The Self-Sufficiency Standard

...how much a family needs to pay for



- Housing
 - Food
 - health care
 - taxes
- Child Care
 - transportation

without any public or private help

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Why PCSW Commissioned the Study

- To research characteristics of those who live below the Standard (gender, race, ethnicity)
- To target populations for policy solutions
- To identify ways to improve earnings & standard of living for women (and others below the standard)

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Where Connecticut Stands

- 19% percent -- nearly one in five -- CT households do not have enough to cover basic needs
- According to Federal Poverty Level, only 1 in 3 of these households is officially poor or in need

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1 out of 5 households in Connecticut are
below the Self-Sufficiency Standard

Who Lives Below the Standard?

- *Majority* of families w/ inadequate income are *White*
- People of color, esp. Latinos are *disproportionately* likely to be living below the Standard (Puerto Ricans, 56%)
- 78% of families who can't make ends meet have *at least* one worker

Others More Likely to Live Below the Standard

- Families with children – nearly 2/3 of households below the Standard
- Female-headed households
- Families w/ part-time workers



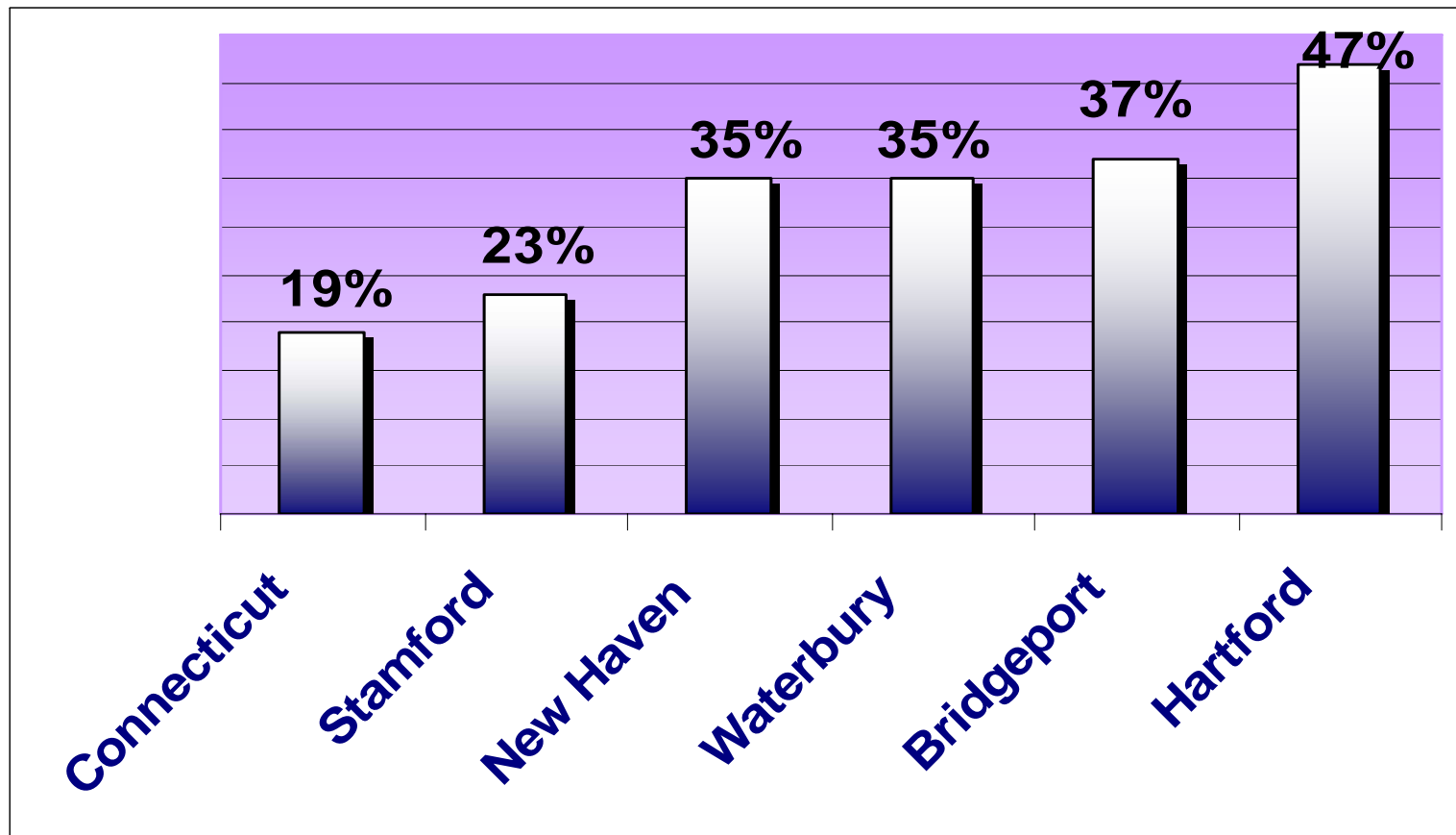
Below The Standard: Households w/ Children Maintained by Women Alone

- Latina - 80%
- African American - 69 %
- White - 45%
- Asian/Pacific Islander - 43%

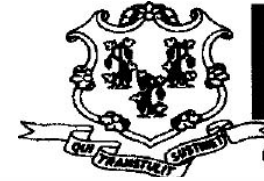
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Others More Likely to Live Below the Standard



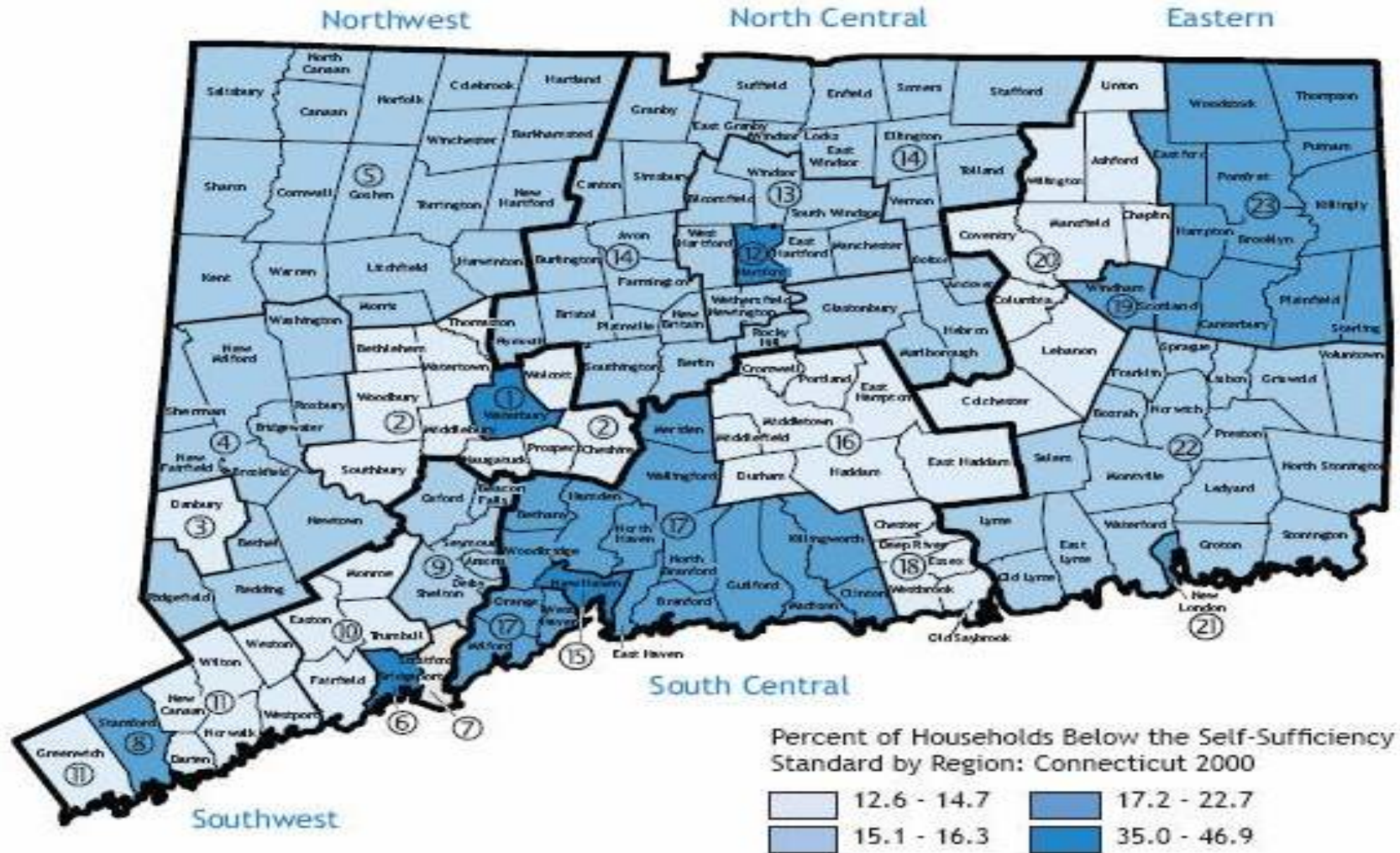
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PCSW
equality for women

Percent Below the Self-Sufficiency Standard: Connecticut 2000

Note: See Table 2 on previous page for region names



Top Two Solutions

- “Good” Jobs -- the wage level, (not the occupation) is biggest factor in income inadequacy
- Education, especially for People of Color and/or Women (returns are greatest for women of color)

Other Ways to Improve Wage Equity

- Affirmative action
- Enforcement of
anti-discrimination
laws
- Pay equity initiatives



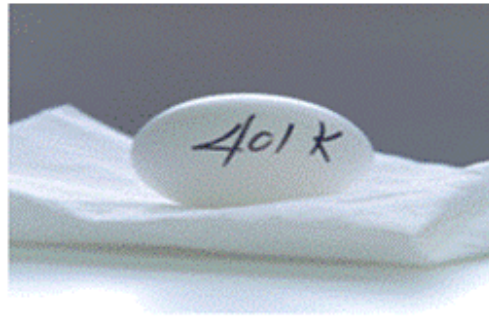
PCSW's Women's Economic Security Package



Part 1

Workforce Development Education & Training

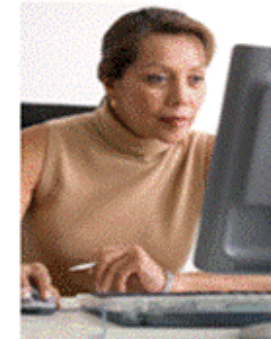
- Job training
- Adult education
- English as a second language
- Career & technical education
- Higher education
- Science Technology, Engineering, and Math



Part 2

Economic & Asset Development

- Small business support
- Sector initiatives
- Transportation
- Financial literacy
- Insurance
- Credit/Debt/Savings
- Taxes

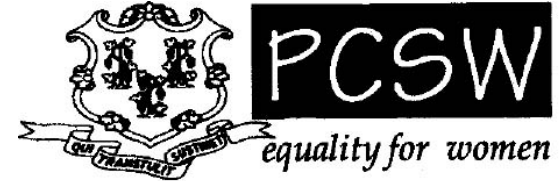


Part 3

Income, Work Supports & Workplaces

- Paid time off
- Flexibility
- Advancement opportunities
- Earnings
- Child care

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What Makes PCSW Package Unique?

- Builds on existing education and training approaches & places women at center of design
- CT's education & training network *not* designed for new workforce, esp. women, people of color
- Supports actions to correct historical bias in labor market