You Elevate the Voices of Women

Thank you for being a champion for women and girls. Without you, we can’t fight for gender equity in Connecticut.

Policies that advance the economic security of women in our Connecticut are critical to the well-being of our workforce, the prosperity of our state’s economy and the retention of young workers. Thanks to supporters like you, CWEALF continues to call on our Connecticut leaders in elected office, and in the private sector, to address any abuse of power whether through sexual harassment, pay inequity, or hostile environments that discourages women from seeking leadership opportunities.

New Poll Shows 88% Support Paid Leave

Thanks to your financial support, CWEALF continues to lead the CT Campaign for Paid Family Leave. Because of you, REAL paid leave that is publicly administered, inclusive and accessible to all Connecticut workers is closer than ever to passage in Connecticut, after approval by two committees. A new poll from BLS Research & Consulting finds 88% of voters in Connecticut support paid family and medical leave. Voters agree - the time is NOW to pass paid leave!

CWEALF’s Top Legislative Priorities in 2019:

1. Pass paid family and medical leave
2. Expand sexual harassment prevention training
3. Combat the wage gap

Stay Informed

Be ready to take action for women and girls by signing up for CWEALF’s email newsletter at cwealf.org. Find CWEALF’s public testimony and issue briefs on pay equity, sexual harassment, and more on our website.
Thank you to all our attendees and hosts at the Party for Paid Leave with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro in East Haven!

Thank you to the guests at the Party for Paid Leave with Beth Bye in West Hartford!

Thanks to you, the Campaign for Paid Leave is visible at the State Capitol hosting weekly lobby days during the 2019 legislative session to #MakeCTnext for paid leave.
Thanks to our supporters like you and the Community Foundation for Eastern Connecticut’s Policy Task Force, CWEALF led our first *Raise Your Voice for Paid Leave: Advocate Training* in February. Deputy Director Catherine Bailey and Policy Manager Maddie Granato educated attendees on the importance of advocacy, how to effectively share your story to influence policy change, and the basics of paid family and medical leave. Trained advocates learned how to submit public testimony, write letters to the editor and op-eds, and attended a paid leave lobby day for Eastern CT at the Capitol, where they put their new advocacy skills into practice. Thank you to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and to working to pass paid leave now!

CWEALF in Congress

In March, Executive Director Kate Farrar was invited to testify before the House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security chaired by CT’s own Congressman John Larson. At CWEALF, we hear from women every day who struggle financially to make ends meet. Protecting and strengthening Social Security will boost retirement security for low-wage workers, who are disproportionately women and people of color. Thank YOU for making it possible for CWEALF to elevate the voices of women!
She Leads Justice

This spring CWEALF was proud to announce the She Leads Justice Project. With generous supporters like you and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, we launched this unique and innovative three-year project to better serve legal education clients.

CWEALF will expand our in-depth bilingual Community Advocacy services and staff capacity, which provides critical access to legal services for low-income and marginalized women. In 2019, a new Community Advocacy Assistant will provide one-on-one legal advocacy services to women in the Greater Hartford region.

She Leads Justice empowers women to be leaders in their communities through our Peer Advocacy Program. The Peer Advocacy Program will provide former CWEALF clients customized training and development to successfully advocate for their peers in legal and social service systems as well as prepare them to advocate for systemic change in their own communities. In 2019, CWEALF will develop curriculum and hire a Peer Advocacy program coordinator. The Peer Advocacy Program will launch in early 2020.

We look forward to updating you on this exciting new project. She Leads Justice is only possible because of champions for women and girls like you. Thanks to you, the She Leads Justice Project will empower women to lead and be agents of change in their own community.

You would be surprised how much women that have just been through everything, how much they know. We learn a lot from each other.

- CWEALF Client, Hartford, CT

You Bridge the Justice Gap for Women

Thanks to donors like you, CWEALF bridges the justice gap by empowering women with their legal rights and options, connecting them with resources, and providing individual support as they navigate the justice system.

With your support, CWEALF responded to the immediate and growing legal needs of immigrant populations with the family preparedness plan, created under former Governor Malloy in response to aggressive immigration policies.
The plan provides undocumented parents a clear legal plan for the care of their children should parents face deportation, and gives families a measure of security in the midst of such uncertainty. CWEALF staff educates, guide, and support low-income and Spanish speaking clients to understand and complete the multi-step form.

Starting in January, as part of our continued partnership with JUNTA for Progressive Action in New Haven, CWEALF coordinated a three-part Family and Immigration Workshop Series. CWEALF staff coordinated and held a Know Your Rights workshop about immigration as related to child custody at Junta. We followed this workshop with one-one one meetings with Community Advocacy Manager Nilda Rivera and Advocacy Fellow Nicole Sanclemente to address their concerns individually, and to understand and complete the Family Preparedness Plan, which required multiple steps.

“One of my clients who needed help creating a Family Preparedness Plan recently moved to Connecticut from Ecuador and works hard to provide for her two children, no matter what it takes,” Nicole said. “She wakes up at 4:30 a.m. every day to make lunches to sell to workers in her area, works at a factory and cleans houses to make ends meet. Her dedication to her family inspires me.”

We then coordinated a series of free in-person attorney consultations from CWEALF’s Cooperating Attorney Network over a seven-week period to review the plan, learn of additional legal options, and to address other immigration concerns.

Thank you to Attorney Lauren Hopwood and Attorney Ellen Messali for coordinating the volunteer Cooperating Attorneys for this important workshop series. CWEALF cannot provide access to justice without our donors, volunteers and the Cooperating Attorney Network!

Thank you to Cooperating Attorney Meghann LaFountain (pictured), Attorney Shanique Fenlator and Attorney Michael Boyle for your time and commitment to justice!

Client demand is high in New London, Hartford, and New Haven counties. Do you know of attorneys or law firms who would join CWEALF to advance justice? Contact Denise Rhone to join our Cooperating Attorney Network at drhone@cwealf.org or (860) 610-6049.
I got to know CWEALF through my involvement in the Campaign for Paid Family Leave. Their leadership and persistence on this issue is powerful and effective. I decided to become a donor because I want to see my monthly donation and be reminded of the work CWEALF does every day to make CT a place where my daughters can thrive.

– Monica Belyea, Middletown, CT

CWEALF is grateful to Shirley Bysiewicz’s daughter, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (pictured left), for her recent contribution to our endowment fund!
Volunteer Spotlight

Meet CWEALF volunteer Olinike Orisamolu. Nike is a digital enthusiast with a background in corporate merchandising and content marketing. Her love for the digital space led her to pursue a Google Analytics certification.

As a proud feminist, Nike is passionate about the advancement of women and girls and is thrilled to lend her expertise to the CWEALF team to help nurture and grow their online community. She is also a Computer Lab Volunteer for Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford. Her hobbies include running, thrifting, and reading.

Thank you to ALL our volunteers! Volunteers and Legal Education interns donate over 1,200 hours every year answering calls on our Information and Referral line (I&R). Learn more about volunteer opportunities at cwealf.org/get-involved/volunteer/

Save the Date!

One Woman Makes a Difference
Annual Awards Dinner

October 1, 2019 | Aqua Turf Club

Get Real with Sex Education

This spring, Research and Evaluation Intern Holly Pianka represented CWEALF and the Hartford Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (HTPPI), at the training for “Get Real,” an evidence-based sexual education curriculum for grades 6 - 8. Thanks to your ongoing support, CWEALF continues our work as a core partner on this initiative, which aims to reduce the rate of STIs and teen pregnancy in Hartford through medically informed and age-appropriate sex ed. Holly enjoyed learning how to use gender-inclusive language, specifically when talking about the body!
Stay Connected with CWEALF

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Contact CWEALF’s Legal Education Program
Information & Referral Service
{Hablamos Espanol}
Call 860.524.0601
or toll free 1.800.479.2949
Mon-Thurs 9AM – 2PM
Fri 9AM -1PM
Visit cwealf.org for more information and resources