

# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***A New Data Platform Launches in Connecticut to Advance Women and Girls***

Hartford, Connecticut (December 6, 2019) – Launched today, the [Women and Girls Data Platform \(WGDP\)](#) is a cutting-edge tool to share information and equip nonprofits, government, and community members with information for the advancement of women and girls in Connecticut.

An online, interactive tool, the WGDP provides access to publicly available data specific to regional, city, and statewide levels that is aggregated for gender and race. The data compares trends across regions and the state and aids in better understanding of local needs.

**Women and Girls Data Platform**

Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls

Data is featured by demographics, health and safety, education, economic security, and civic engagement. Among the information that can be gleaned from the data contained in the platform:

- Fairfield County has higher percentages of uninsured women compared to all other counties in Connecticut.
- In Connecticut, 2 in 3 women have at least some college education. In the cities of Norwalk and Stamford, as well as in Fairfield and Tolland counties, there are more women with Bachelor's degrees than those with a high school diploma. In comparison, 1 in 4 women in Bridgeport, and 1 in 5 women in Hartford, New Britain, and Waterbury do not have a high school diploma.
- 47.8% of female-headed households in Connecticut age 65 and younger are below the ALICE threshold. 52.2% of female-headed households age 65 and older are below ALICE. The [ALICE Threshold](#) represents the minimum income level necessary based on the Household Survival Budget (estimate of the total cost of household essentials – housing, child care, food, transportation, technology, and health care, plus taxes and a 10 percent contingency). It is calculated for each county by the United Way.
- Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties have similar numbers of female State Representatives at the State Capitol (37, 36, 37 respectively), but it means that New Haven has 51% female representation compared to only 24% and 28% in Fairfield and Hartford counties.

Women and girls' funds from Foundations across the state recognize the power and impact of data to decision-making at all levels. The Platform is funded collaboratively by the [Aurora Women and Girls Foundation](#), [Fairfield County's Community Foundation's Fund for Women & Girls](#), [Main St. Community Foundation Women & Girls' Fund](#), and [Community Foundation of Middlesex County Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for Women & Girls](#).



The **Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls** (CCWG), a statewide network for organizations serving women and girls is a primary audience for the portal. The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) is the organizer of the CCWG and a collaborator on the WGDP.

The [Connecticut Data Collaborative](#) developed and built the Platform for the Collective and funders with the goal of creating a valuable and regularly updated tool.

"Reliable information on the needs of women and girls is vital to address community needs through effective programming, advocacy, and resource allocation," said **Kate Farrar, Executive Director of CWEALF**. "As the state's leading champion for women and girls, our organization and other women and girls' serving organizations can't effectively advocate without this essential data to make the case."

"According to the international Women's Funding Network, no similar data sharing platform exists nationwide, and Connecticut is a model for the country to share data to increase equity," said **Jennifer Steadman, Executive Director, Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls**. "Efforts to address the impact of poverty on women and girls, particularly women and girls of color, must be guided by data that assesses the impact of gender and race on the economic and educational attainment of women and girls in our state. Aurora produced the first comprehensive report on the status of women and girls in Greater Hartford in 2014 and we are pleased to continue that effort and expand its scope to put women and girls at the center of a statewide conversation about opportunity and equity."

"The Women and Girls Data Platform enables a broad audience access to public data about the status of women and girls in the State," said **Michelle Riordan-Nold, Executive Director, CT Data Collaborative**. "It is a vital tool for community-based non-profits to assess the needs in their communities."

The data platform will be launched at tomorrow's United State of Women Galvanize Connecticut event at Goodwin College.

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**Media Interviews:** CWEALF, Aurora Foundation, and Connecticut Data Collaborative staff are available for interviews by phone or in-person. To schedule, please contact Meg Dubois, CWEALF Development & Communications Coordinator at [mdubois@cwealf.org](mailto:mdubois@cwealf.org) or 860-610-6046 or Bernard Kavalier at [bernard@express-strategies.com](mailto:bernard@express-strategies.com) or 860-729-3021.

*The **Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls** is a collaborative of organizations committed to the advancement of women and girls, including those who are cisgender, transgender, and non-binary, in the state of Connecticut. The Collective is a network that brings participating organizations together to highlight and amplify their work while drawing on the collective power of collaboration and working together.*

*<https://www.cwealf.org/advancement-leadership/ct-collective-for-women-and-girls/>*

*The **Aurora Women and Girls Foundation** has a deep history of making investments which improve outcomes for women and girls in greater Hartford. Since 2000, Aurora has provided nearly \$890,000 in grants to women and girl serving organizations with a more recent focus on college completion. Aurora also conducts research and convenes the community to promote understanding of gender issues and fosters collaboration for effective solutions. To learn more about the work of the Aurora Foundation, go to [www.aurorafoundation.org](http://www.aurorafoundation.org).*

*Striving for informed decision-making across Connecticut, the **Connecticut Data Collaborative (CTData)** works to empower an ecosystem of data users by democratizing access to public data and building data literacy. Among its programs and initiatives, the Connecticut Data Collaborative manages the CTData Academy, which aims to increase data literacy, build data capacity and enable nonprofits, state and local government, community groups, and organizations across the state to effectively use their own data, open data, and data from other sources, for the purpose of understanding, measuring, advocating, and impacting lives. [www.ctdata.org](http://www.ctdata.org)*