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# ANNUAL REPORT

**WOMEN'S**fund  
RHODE ISLAND



[www.wfri.org](http://www.wfri.org)

222 Chestnut Street  
Providence, RI 02903

2023-24 Women's Policy Institute Cohort

# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Hello all–

2023 was an exciting year for the Women's Fund of Rhode Island. After years of work, we helped to pass legislation giving better access to reproductive health services, helped protect funding for RI's fragile childcare infrastructure, and continued to address RI's housing crisis for our state's most vulnerable populations. Our *Women's Well-Being Index* moved to a new platform that allows easier updates from Census data, and it continues to share the hard truths of how well women compare with men in every city and town throughout RI in the categories of health and safety, economic security, education, and political empowerment. Our staff and board continue to grow, which increases the reach of our impact on gender equity in the state. Together, we completed a new strategic plan that includes plans for expanding programming to younger women. We are so excited about the year ahead!

It is my honor to have a part in making a better future for RI's women and girls. None of this is possible without our network of advocacy volunteers, the Women's Policy Institute fellows and alumni network, board members, funders, and donors. In short, none of this is possible without YOU. Thank you!

In Solidarity,

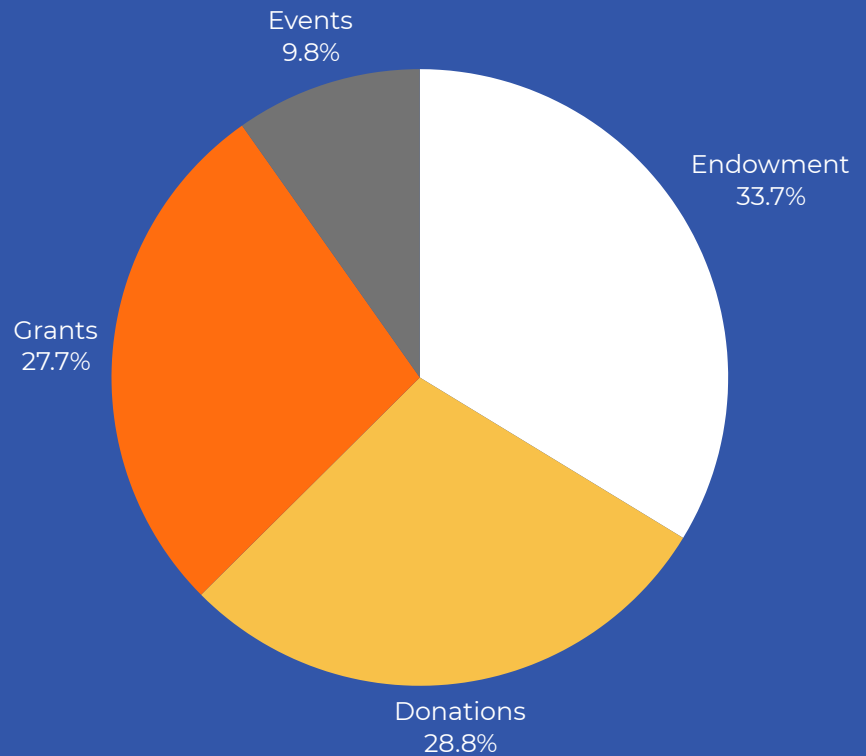
*Kelly Nevins*

Kelly Nevins, CEO

# 2023 Financial Report

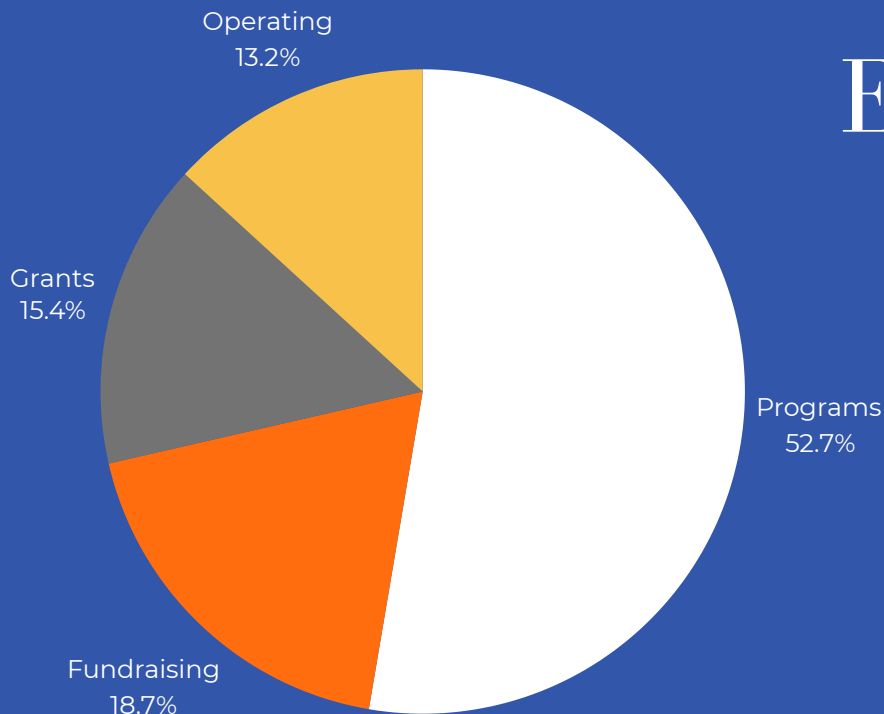
## Income

**Total:**  
**\$529,323**  
**(24% growth**  
**over 2022)**



## Expenses

**Total:**  
**\$487,736**  
**(4% growth**  
**over 2022)**



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



**500,000+** Rhode Islanders were impacted through grant making, legislation, and direct engagement.

**759** Individuals were trained in advocacy, gender-lens giving, equitable workplaces, and salary negotiation.

**14** Women graduated from the Women's Policy Institute.

**18** Women were welcomed into the new class.

## We granted

\$63,565 to seven (7) local nonprofits working on reproductive freedom, women's economic security, and civic engagement.

## We received

the Advocacy Achievement Award from the Paid Leave Coalition for our advocacy work that helped to pass the Temporary Caregiver's Insurance Act in 2013 and our continued work with expanding paid leave (pictured above: Kelly Nevins and Angela Lima receiving the award).

## We advocated

for 31 bills and passed 4, including the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act, codified Affordable Care Act provisions for no co-pay birth control or bans on pre-existing conditions, Pharmacists Prescribing Birth Control, and Funding for Pre-K classrooms.

## We produced

policy briefs on Health, Education, Economic Security, Housing, Political Empowerment, and Access to Abortion Care.



# SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH



**21,520 Individuals** viewed a *Providence Business News* article on women in the workforce, post-pandemic, which included WFRI's research and quoted Kelly Nevins.

**239 Individuals** downloaded the research that WFRI shares on the website.

WFRI's research, along with CEO Kelly Nevins, was quoted in numerous articles, podcasts, and television programs including *The Rhode Island Current*, *WPRI*, and the *Jim Vincent Show*.

"Having worked in a company in Providence that did not adhere to equal pay for women, I am a big supporter of Women's Fund of Rhode Island for its efforts to advocate on behalf of women who are at an economic disadvantage compared to men in the same professional role."

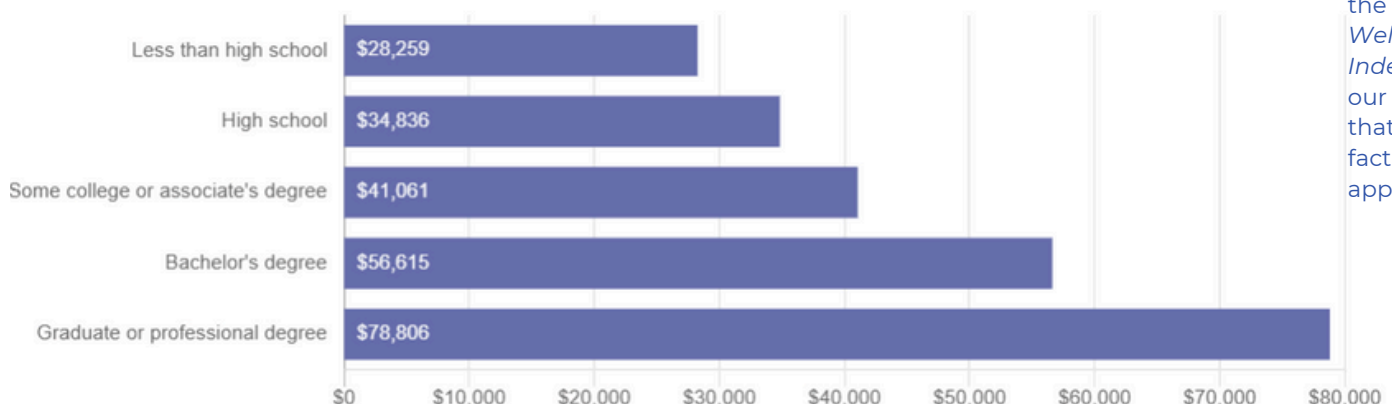
- **Ruth D**

"I currently work at a local credit union. Every day, I see the inequities that confront women in the financial part of their lives. Women's Fund of RI has made a positive impact on me and many others who spread the word on how important their mission is. The *Women's Well-Being Index* has shone a light on the discrepancies in pay and equality."

- **Diane C.**

## Median Earnings of Females by Educational Attainment

Median earnings for women increase with educational attainment.



On the left: a graphic from the *Women's Well Being Index*, one of our reports that inform our fact-based approach.

# Spotlight on Advocacy



**WFRI Advocated for 31 Bills and Helped to Pass the Following:**

## **1. Equality in Abortion Coverage Act**

**2. Codification of the Affordable Care Act Protections**, including banning co-pays for birth control and ensuring coverage for pre-existing conditions

**3. \$7M in the state budget to prevent the closure of Pre-K Classrooms**  
(impacting 1,438 children)

## **4. Pharmacists Prescribing Birth Control**

**218,811 RHODE ISLANDERS WILL BE IMPACTED BY THESE BILLS!**

“Like me, countless women in Rhode Island have benefitted from the policy and advocacy work of the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island. Their work was key in motivating me to run for Secretary of State in 2014.”

**- Nellie Gorbea, Former Secretary of State**

“As a physician, I am particularly interested in advocating for policies that ensure access to mental health and reproductive health services. The Women’s Fund of RI has had an important impact on my life. I am a graduate of the Women’s Policy Institute. This program taught me the communication and advocacy skills I needed to advocate for gender equity at the state house.”

**-Susan K, MD**

“The Women’s Fund’s work to strengthen the leadership pipeline of women into state and local government alone is worth the investment--it’s critically important to engage and equip the next generation of women leaders, and the whole Ocean State will benefit from more passionate, qualified women choosing careers in public service.”

**- Nancy C, Alliance for Nonprofit Impact**

# SPOTLIGHT ON GRANT MAKING

WFRI funded 7 local nonprofits with a total of **\$63,565** in grant money for their continued work in the areas of reproductive freedom, women's economic security, and civic engagement. 2023 was the 2nd year in our 2-year grant cycle.



## Exciting developments include:

1

**\$9,800** to the RI Black Business Association (RIBBA) which supported career coaching and financial planning. Indirectly, this grant assisted Dr. Joke Alesh, DMD & MPH, as she opened her Marigold Dental Studio in Providence. Dr. Alesh was a mentee in RIBBA's Leadership Equity Accelerated Pathway (LEAP), a free 5-month mentorship program with a mission to train and develop all youth of color through their academic and career goals.

2

**\$10,000** to the RI Working Families Party funded their advocacy work, especially regarding childcare. The introduction of Bill H-6122 marked a critical milestone in their legislative efforts. At the same time, the launch of [childcare4allri.org](https://childcare4allri.org) was a major step forward. This website serves as a hub for their childcare campaign, offering detailed information about their goals, strategies, and how the community can get involved. It features not just the legislation, but also a quick summary of the bill, and paths for organizations and individuals to get involved. The launch of the site also included a new public branding, a separate email list, and a separate petition—each will be put to work throughout 2024. Their online petition in particular will continue to be the first path folks take in joining the campaign, with over 100 names so far.

3

**\$7,500** to HousingWorks RI helped to fund an infographic that examines how women are impacted by rates of poverty, housing cost burdens, and living with a disability. Looking at how women (52% of RI's population) fare in Rhode Island to housing, HousingWorks RI aims to bring more awareness to this topic and educate policymakers on how they can continue to work towards a Rhode Island in which communities embrace a variety of housing choices so that residents, regardless of income, can live in healthy, quality homes in vibrant and thriving neighborhoods.

# Our 2023 Team

## Staff:

**Kelly Nevins**, Chief Executive Officer

**Angela Lima**, Policy & Advocacy Program Director

**Erin Wood**, Development Director

**Cat Scott**, Communications & Outreach Director

**Ashley Fateiger**, Communications and Outreach Manager

**Chelsea Scholl**, Special Projects Manager

**Natalie Chasten**, Intern

**Andrea Gruttadauria**, Intern

## Board Members:

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Elana Caparco

Susan Clark

Aimee Davidson

Jessica DeJesus

Juana De Los Santos

Faith Figura

Linda Finn

Kat Gabriele

Mike Gianfrancesco

Paula Hodges

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MaryKay Korievo

Jody Lisberger

Carie Ferreira McGrane

Ana Martins

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Jessica Purcell

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June Speakman

Lori Viner



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Equality in Abortion Coverage Act Advocates



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