

WOMEN'S fund  
RHODE ISLAND

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island is to invest in women and girls through research, advocacy, grant-making and strategic partnerships designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change.



## 2019 was a growth year for the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island.

You helped us relaunch our Women’s Policy Institute, which will now run annually to keep the pipeline of women advocates strong in Rhode Island. Advocacy wise, it was a turbulent and exciting year. With your support, our legislative sponsors, partners in the Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, and countless volunteers, we were able to codify the protections of Roe vs. Wade in Rhode Island. Our research report on Women of Color in Rhode Island highlighted the inequities that our sisters of color face every day in our community. You are the reason we exist. We’re so grateful for your support, WPI fellows, volunteers, and staff. Without you, none of this would be possible. Together, what will we be able to accomplish in 2020? I can’t wait to see where we go next!

Sincerely,

*Kelly Nevins*

Kelly Nevins  
*Executive Director*

# 2 POLICIES PASSED INTO LAW

## IMPACTING 497,626

Our work lays the foundation for a more equitable Rhode Island and has made our state a national leader in public policies that are good for women and families.

Reproductive Privacy Act



Repeal of the Tampon Tax  
**\$751,956**  
 ANNUAL SAVINGS FOR WOMEN



**1,201**

Trained in DEI issues (public speaking)

IMPACTING 2,402



**811**

Attendees at all events to date

IMPACTING 2,433



**154**

Trained in Salary Negotiation

IMPACTING 462



**9,500**

Social media placements

IMPACTING 20,000



**7**

Appearances on radio, tv, podcasts

IMPACTING 48,440



**55**

Trained to run for political office

10 RUNNING FOR OFFICE



**774**

Grantmaking outcomes via grantees

IMPACTING 3,870



**1,200**

Print media placements

IMPACTING 392,400

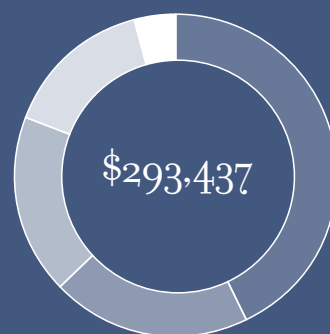
## 2019 FINANCIALS

### 2019 INCOME



- Endowment: 44%
- Events: 20%
- Donations: 19%
- Grants: 16%
- Research: 4%

### 2019 EXPENSES



- Programs: 43%
- Fundraising: 20%
- Grant Allocations: 18%
- Operations: 15%
- Research: 4%

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Danielle Ward

# Grants

Women's Fund of Rhode Island's (WFRI) grant program recognizes that many of society's problems have a greater impact on women and girls. There is an undeniable correlation between poverty, low self-esteem, poor health and inadequate healthcare, job access and wages, domestic violence, sexual assault and being female.

Our participatory grantmaking funds projects and initiatives that use a "gender lens" to focus on the unique needs of women and girls and provide gender-specific solutions to problems facing women and girls in Rhode Island, with particular interest in projects that lead to system change.

## \$50,000 IN GRANTS WERE MADE TO:

### BUILDING FUTURES

"Women in the Trades" leadership program to grow the percentage of women in the building and construction trade, promote stories of women succeeding in the trades and identifying/addressing structural barriers to women's success in the trades.

### RIOT RI (FORMERLY GIRLS ROCK)

"Changing Our Tune Project" to decrease the incidence of gender-based violence within the music and creative community and provide resources to survivors and community members. The project will train owners and staff of local music venues, as well as bookers/promoters, musicians, artists and audience members in sexual harassment and violence prevention. Includes creating resources to support the work.

### RI BLACK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

"Emerging Professionals Program" designed to create a leadership pipeline of women of color (the most underrepresented and socioeconomically disadvantaged group in RI). This is the first program proposed to specifically offer a solution to the "double jeopardy" hypothesis which renders Black women "invisible" when being considered for hiring or promotion.

### SISTA FIRE

Addressing the maternal health crisis that black women, women of color and their children face within RI. Funds will allow Sista Fire to provide leadership development training with a focus on maternal health and related systemic inequities, and engage members in participatory resource to deepen the understanding of women of color's experience in pregnancy and birth. Funding will also help to create "Perinatal Safe Spots" in RI.

### PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Funding would provide support for the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom to protect and advance access to reproductive health care through advocacy and legislative action. In addition to a focus on protecting and expanding access to reproductive health, the goal is to build an inclusive, intersectional reproductive justice movement that recognizes how race, gender, poverty, and citizenship status impact society's marginalized communities. Expected 2019/2020 focus will be on passing the Doula Insurance Reimbursement bill, allowing state insurance plans to cover abortion costs, no cost sharing for contraception, disallowing insurance gender rating and protecting the new Reproductive Privacy Act, with the opposition expected to try and pass bills that would chip away at the protections.



"My favorite part about being in the peer advocacy program was the space created for me to feel comfortable and talk about things. I feel more prepared to get into a relationship and help my friends when they are going through things."

**Eve, Sojourner House Abuse & Harassment Education Program for Students  
2018 Grantee**



"I applaud the work of Women's Fund of Rhode Island, which inspired me to seek elected office years ago. While there is much more work to be done, I am encouraged to see women and girls becoming more active in politics and advocating for important issues such as gender equality."

**Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea**





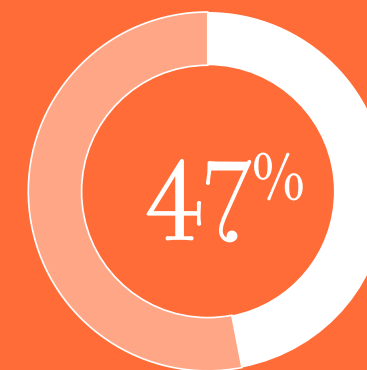
## Impact Story: RIOT RI

**WFRI grantee RIOT RI (formerly Girls Rock) is committed to demystifying the music industry for girls, trans, and non-binary youth.**

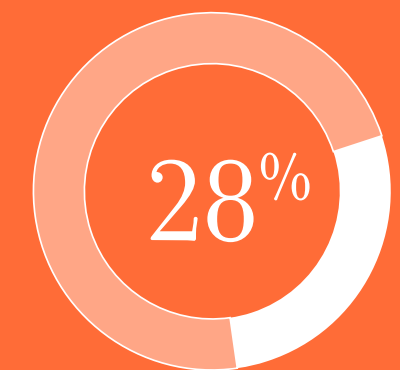
We help young people to feel comfortable entering a music scene which, in the past, may have seemed daunting and unwelcoming. But in the past few years, that music scene has not been a safe place to send our young women, trans, and non-binary youth. Based on our survey findings, 47% of showgoers have experienced gender-based assault in Providence music venues in their lifetime, and 28% reported having experienced assault at a venue in the past 6 months. We could not in good conscience continue to send our youth into that environment without first ensuring that the spaces where we are sending them are on their way to being safer.

One of our students began in our program at the age of 11. Now, 7 years later, she is 18, an incredibly accomplished drummer, studying music, and living and working in the Providence music scene. She teaches drums at RIOT RI, and plays in many of the venues we are working with on this project. We can't promise a completely safe scene for her, but we can make these spaces just a little bit safer for our youth to grow into. We want her to know exactly who to talk to if she feels threatened, and feel assured that if she faces any trouble she will be taken seriously, no matter what venue she goes to.

By doing this work, we will empower venues to do right by those reporting harassment, we will empower bystanders to step in when help is needed, and we will empower community members to make their own choices on where they see shows, knowing which venues have made a commitment to reduce violence in the community. By doing right by our community, we do right by the young people newly entering that community.



of showgoers have experienced gender-based assault in Providence music venues in their lifetime



of showgoers have experienced gender-based assault in Providence music venues within the past six months



## Advocacy

Our successes in 2019 were relaunching the Women’s Policy Institute, the passing of the Reproductive Privacy Act and repeal of the “Tampon Tax”. WFRI is pleased to be an active member of the following Coalitions: RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, RI Economic Justice Coalition, National Work & Family Coalition, and Closing the Women’s Wealth Gap Coalition. WFRI’s Executive Director serves on the Providence Mayor’s Equal Pay Task Force, Representative Cicilline’s Women’s Advisory Board and Congressman Langevin’s Diversity & Equality Advisory Board. We are also proud members of the Women’s Funding Network and the Grantmakers Council of Rhode Island.

“We are pleased with the tremendous accomplishments we have made over the last year. As we continue to work together to inspire a more equitable Rhode Island, I thank our donors, staff and volunteers for their steadfast commitment to helping to make our state a national leader in public policies that support women and families.”

Beverly Wiley, Board President, Women’s Fund RI



“I had seven carpenters show up last night and I spoke my first testimonial. I was very nervous but thanks to your class I knew what I was doing. The chairman told me I spoke very well and maybe one day I would be sitting up there. Thank you again Women’s Policy Institute. It has taught me so much and equipped me with the tools I need for what I am trying to accomplish.”

Anita Bruno, WPI Class of 2019-20



# Reasons people cited for using our research

SHARING WITH SOUTH COUNTY HUDDLE  
AS WE SET OUR 2020 PRIORITIES  
Advocating at the State House  
WOMEN'S POLICY INSTITUTE PROJECT  
Emergent learning  
Informing work at Sophia Academy JUST CURIOUS  
2020 VOTING INFO  
Article for UpriseRI JUST CURIOUS  
Writing an article on the advancement of RI women lawyers  
JUST CURIOUS Personal interest Class project  
Legislative priorities LITERATURE REVIEW  
Voter registration information FOR URI MPA PROGRAM  
To generate conversation in our Women at Work series on LaborVisionTV Personal/self education SPEECH WRITING  
Inform policy discussions  
Teaching Sociology

“In the beginning, you might be scared (to start your business). With support from colleagues and organizations like CWE, anything is possible.”

Owner of Habbykids Home Childcare, 2018 Grantee



Blackstone Valley Prep students participate in WFRI funded Summer Leadership Program



“I researched, spoke publicly, testified in committee, lobbied and encouraged youth to turn out. I learned that those who oppose this movement believe that I don't have the right as a young person to have a say in my health care. Reality check: I do.”

Audry O'Donnell, Planned Parenthood Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality  
2019 Grantee



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(401) 262-5657 • [www.wfri.org](http://www.wfri.org)