

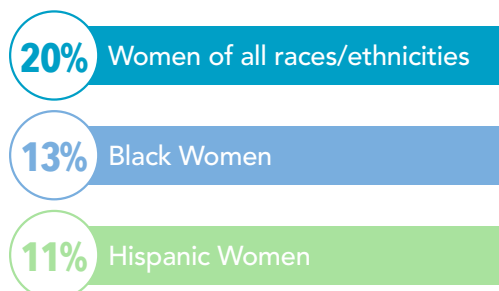
Lack of Access to Higher Education Increased Women's Economic Vulnerability During the Pandemic

In January 2021, Aurora and our partners published the data report: *Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19, and Rebuilding Connecticut*. Our research found that for the first time in Connecticut's history, women have outpaced men in unemployment claims and **75% of females applying for unemployment in the pandemic did not have a college degree**. Aurora's College Success grantmaking shows how we can protect women from the kind of economic impact we're seeing, through education and job training and put them on a path to economic security. For many women in Greater Hartford, reaching graduation requires academic and social supports that meet their distinct needs. Together, by developing, funding, and delivering strategic solutions for local women in college we can make substantial individual, family, and community impact.

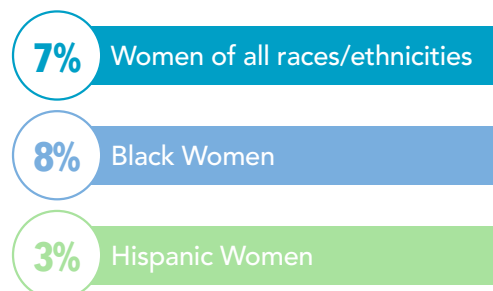
Education Gap Persists for Women of Color

Percentage of Women with Bachelor's Degrees

HARTFORD COUNTY

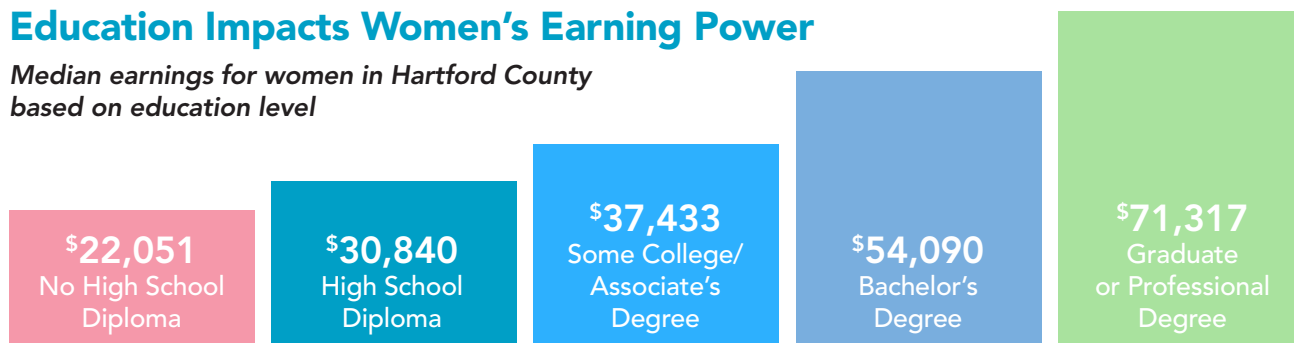


CITY OF HARTFORD



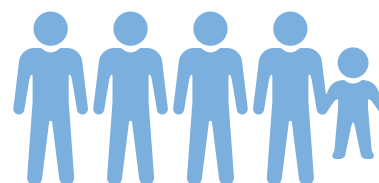
Education Impacts Women's Earning Power

Median earnings for women in Hartford County based on education level



Women Students Struggle to Support Families*

- **1 in 4 U.S. Undergraduates is a parent** and 70% are mothers, many of them single mothers
- Almost half of all Black women in college are raising children
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) does not include childcare costs when calculating student financial aid



*<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1536504219830675>

Aurora Funds Programs that Promote Women's College Success

- Since 2014, **1080** women have participated in an Aurora funded program
- **68%** of women served are women of color
- **63.5%** of women served are Pell Grant Eligible
- Over **\$556,000** in grant awards have been awarded for College Success Programs

Best Practices in College Success Programs for Women

- Identifying and addressing obstacles, such as food insecurity, high levels of stress, academic and occupational demands, lack of financial literacy and parenting responsibilities
- Increasing student exposure to new fields of study, career paths, and resources on and off campus
- Ensuring access to technology for remote learning
- Improving and promoting confidence, persistence, and self-advocacy
- Creating networks and supportive community environments with role models, mentors, and peers

Aurora Funded Programs and Partner Institutions:

Center for Academic Excellence LEAP Program, University of St. Joseph

Free to Succeed, Trinity College, Manchester Community College, Capital Community College, Community Partners in Action

Inspiring College Readiness and Increasing College Retention for Minority Women in the Greater Hartford Area, University of St. Joseph

Launch Your Leadership Journey, Women's Leadership Institute, Asnuntuck Community College and Tunxis Community College

Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD), Women's Advancement Initiative, The University of Hartford

Pathways Through College, Grace Academy

Prison Seminar Series, Trinity College and York Correctional Institution

Success to Graduation, The University of Saint Joseph

WelCorps Leaders Program, University of Hartford

Women Investing in Securing an Education, Goodwin College

Women in STEM (WiSTEM), Manchester Community College

Women in Transition, Charter Oak State College

YW Career Women, YWCA Greater Hartford and Capital Community College

Special thanks to the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for support of this research in honor of Lydia Garmany.

Women Share Their Stories of Participating in College Success Programs

"Without the program, I don't think working towards my degree would be possible"

– Daquanna, WIT program at Charter Oak State College

"By working with other women in LEAD, I have been shown the power of women working together to create a world where we are just as recognized as men in business and other careers"

– Megan, University of Hartford

"What an honor to be part of such an incredible and necessary program. The instructors represent the best of what education is all about. Their wisdom, foresight and dedication to drawing the best out of their students are gifts I will treasure always"

– Anonymous, WiSTEM program at Manchester Community College

For more information, please visit aurorafoundation.org/research to access the Women and Girls Data Platform and the Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding Connecticut report.