



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
Strong Women. Stronger Community.

*"Do we settle for the world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?"*  
— Michelle Obama

## Supporting Single Mothers During COVID-19



When local colleges moved to online learning earlier this spring, we immediately reached out to the single mothers in our [\*\*MOMs: From Education to Employment® program\*\*](#) at SUNY Erie, Jamestown Community College, and Niagara County Community College.

Every day, single parents juggle school, work, and child-rearing, a difficult equation made even more daunting in this time of crisis. But we knew that the MOMs program, now more than ever, could serve as an essential support for these mothers.

So we picked up the phone to offer our expanded support to the MOMs Achievement Coaches as they called, emailed, and texted the moms attending these colleges. And here's what they told us:

At Jamestown Community College, a student just two months shy of graduating was concerned she would need to drop out due to the pandemic. She was falling behind in her schoolwork as she tried to navigate the new

pressures of having no child care available during the crisis.

At SUNY Erie, there was a plan to loan laptops to students who did not have computers at home. The catch? Students would need to come to campus to pick up the laptops, a significant barrier for a single mom with transportation limitations juggling school and child care.

**Thanks to the MOMs Program, achievement coaches were able to help these mothers overcome barriers and continue their education.**

At JCC, the MOMs Program worked with the single mother and her professor to get her back on track with her coursework. She will graduate as planned this month!

And at ECC, the MOMs Program was able to coordinate a special laptop drop-off at the mother's home so she didn't have to worry about transportation to campus. She is now continuing her classes and staying in school.



For every challenge, our passionate team has worked hard to find solutions and creative new ways to support these single parents during unprecedented times.

We will continue our outreach and advocacy on behalf of these women in the months ahead to make sure they continue their education, a critical first step towards securing a family-sustaining job.

**Thank you, as always, for your support of this critical work.**

**Support the  
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**WNY Women's Foundation  
Advocacy at Work:**

## ***Paid Sick Leave***



52% of essential workers are women. We advocate for them so they can focus on their critical work and families. That means bringing dozens of people together for hundreds of conversations, with a goal of coordinating a response to ensure women are supported during this crisis and everyday.

What have we been up to lately? Among other things: coalition work to secure paid sick leave for everyone across New York State!

Prior to our push at the state level, paid sick leave was a benefit rarely available to many essential workers, the majority of whom are women. According to the [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#), 40% of workers nationally—that's over 51 million people!—do not have access to paid sick leave, a percentage that is even higher for women of color.

This was a gigantic failure of policy that forced women to choose between going to work sick or risk losing their job to stay home and recover.

Thanks to our advocacy work, everyone statewide will now be guaranteed paid sick leave starting this autumn and New York joins 12 other states and the District of Columbia in offering universal paid sick leave.

Visit our website for more details on recent advocacy work and wins at [wnywomensfoundation.org/advocacy](http://wnywomensfoundation.org/advocacy).

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# TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF WHILE YOU CONQUER YOUR WORLD



## PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS WEBINARS

### Join us online: Pathways to Progress Webinar Series

Self-care is especially important during difficult times like these. So make yourself a cup of coffee and log on to one of our upcoming [Pathways to Progress Webinars!](#)

#### Managing Anxiety in Challenging Times

Friday, May 29, 9-10am

Free!

How can we manage the heightened anxiety of a pandemic? Jenna Witkowski of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center will share her insights and practical tips for how to manage on a daily basis and feel more resilient during times of crisis.

Register for Managing  
Anxiety

The mission of the WNY Women's Foundation is to create a culture of possibility so each woman and girl can live, grow, and lead to her fullest potential.

## GIVE. EMPOWER. REPEAT.

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