

Pennsylvania Commission for Women Talking Points

Proposing to cut the PA Commission for Women, legislators are devaluing the critical needs of Pennsylvania women and children and destroying a strong and worthy advocate.

The resources and supports available to Pennsylvania women fall below the national average in many categories. Taking away the PA Commission for Women is one less resource for the women of this state.

For example, PA ranks 32nd out of 50 states on overall status of women's health. In family planning, PA ranks 26th in service availability, 34th in laws and policies, 27th in public funding.

In the last six years, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women has produced exceptional projects and programs for women, most of which the Commission implemented through corporate sponsorship and grants.

Despite a miniscule operating budget, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women is an example of government at its best, innovative projects with maximum impact at little expense to the taxpayer.

What is the Pennsylvania Commission for Women Doing *Right Now* for the Women of Pennsylvania?

Voices photo-exhibit- In the last six months 20,000 school aged children saw the Commission's award winning *Voices* role model photo-exhibit at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. The exhibit is now at the State Museum of Pennsylvania where it is expected to reach approximately 60,000 children over the next year.

Women's Wellness Guide kiosks- In the last four months approximately 11,000 individuals at the Camp Hill Prison waiting room accessed one of the Commission's Women's Wellness Guides, a bi-lingual, touch-activated, health care kiosk, which the commission created to reach underserved women without web access. The Commission placed 13 of these kiosks for free across the state.

The PA Governor's Conference for Women- In September of this year, the commission will host the Governor's Conference for Women where over 5,000 women will have access to current employment opportunities in Pennsylvania and workshops on career development and advancement including advice on resume development and networking tips. 40 colleges and universities will offer incoming freshman access to education through the PA Governors Conference for Women Scholarship.

Recent Awards:

2009 - Institute for Cultural Partnerships, Champions of Diversity Award, Voices Exhibit

2008 - National Association of Commissions for Women, Outstanding Achievement Award – Legendary Ladies

2007 – YWCA Racial Justice Award

2007 - National Association of Commissions for Women, Outstanding Achievement Award – Voices book

2006 – PA Breast Cancer Coalition Pink Ribbon Award

Additional, Ongoing Pennsylvania Commission for Women Projects

Role Models - *Voices, African American and Latina Women Share Their Stories of Success* –A hard cover, coffee table style book produced by PCW, copies of the award-

winning role model book were provided to every school library serving grades 6-9, and county libraries in the State. The book features 50 African American and Latina women who have reached the top of their fields.

Heritage - *Legendary Ladies*, heritage brochures and a website ([www.WomenMadeHistoryin Pa.com](http://www.WomenMadeHistoryinPa.com)) speak to the achievements and impact of the women of this Commonwealth throughout history, available at rest stops and tourism centers throughout the state.

Referral Service - Hotline for information and referral on women's issues from domestic violence and health care to funding for small businesses

Health Care

- Pink Fountain campaign turning state and community fountains pink across the State to raise awareness around breast cancer and educate that early detection saves lives
- Osteoporosis multi-media marketing campaign targeted to women in rural areas of the state, educating them about the dangers of this disease and the value of early detection

Advocacy - Legislation including preventing employment discrimination, the breast and cervical cancer early screening act, domestic violence prevention, breast feeding in public places, clean-air act, early childhood education and more