

NEWS



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Making the Local Case:

New Toolkit on the Status of Women at the County-Level

Ann Arbor, MI – The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) and the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation have joined efforts in a new project to assess and track the status of women at the county-level. The new toolkit, which was released today, consists of a community research tool and a manual for decision-makers and advocates about writing a county-level report on the status of women.

Modeled on IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* project, the toolkit takes this idea one step further by providing user-friendly, clear directions on how to create a county-level report on the status of women. The compact pamphlet consists of 28 questions and tips on collecting the information. It is designed to be used by the general public.

Barbara Gault, Director of Research at IWPR explained, "County-level analyses are becoming increasingly common, due in part to greater availability of local data in some areas. New county-level reports on the status of women will inform local policy by identifying areas of need and providing a context for local policy agendas."

"The *Status of Women in the States* reports have been incredibly useful for policymakers and advocates in Michigan by providing detailed data on women's status at the state level. This tool will be a great resource for women's organizations in all of the states to take the framework of the *Status of Women in the States* project and apply it at a local level," said Margaret Talburtt, Executive Director of the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation.

Check the toolkit out at <http://www.iwpr.org/States2004>.

The James A. & Faith Knight Foundation primarily serves Michigan's Jackson and Washtenaw counties, and is dedicated to improving communities by providing grant support to qualified nonprofit organizations including, but not limited to, those that address the needs of women and girls; animals and the natural world; and internal capacity. The foundation is based in Ann Arbor, MI.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research is a public policy research organization dedicated to informing and stimulating the debate on issues of critical importance to women and their families. IWPR focuses on issues of poverty and welfare, employment and earnings, work and family issues, health and safety, and women's civic and political participation. The Institute works with policymakers, scholars, and public interest groups around the country. IWPR, an independent, non-partisan research organization, also works in affiliation with the graduate programs in public policy and women's studies at The George Washington University. IWPR is a non-profit, tax exempt organization, primarily supported by foundations.

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