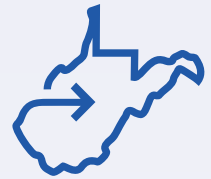


# WORKFORCE BARRIERS:

## GETTING READY FOR WORK.



**WEST VIRGINIA'S GREATEST ASSET IS ITS PEOPLE, YET MANY OF THOSE LOOKING TO ENTER OR RE-ENTER THE WORKFORCE FACE CHALLENGES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE WORK CLOTHING. LIMITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN UNIFORMS, SIZES OR WORK ATTIRE SHOULD NOT KEEP WORKERS FROM JOBS.**

### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Unless West Virginia can help more people move from the sidelines into the paid workforce, our economy will not thrive. Only about half of West Virginia women participate in the workforce. By reducing barriers to the workforce, we have an opportunity to boost the state's economy and improve economic mobility for individuals and families.

*\*For streamlined clothing drives, consider soliciting only 3-5 types of in-demand items at each clothing drive. Ask local charities receiving the donations what's needed most in that community at that time.*



*\*Citations available upon request.*

### 2020 NEXT STEPS

Charities across the state report an overwhelming need to stock appropriate work clothes. Hosting targeted "Ready for Work" clothing drives can collect specifically needed items for local charities. Based on statewide survey results, in-demand items\* include:

- ➔ Black pants
- ➔ White button-down shirts
- ➔ Solid color scrubs
- ➔ Non-slip shoes
- ➔ Closed-toe professional shoes
- ➔ Plus-sized clothing
- ➔ Professional maternity clothes
- ➔ Suits

### GET INVOLVED.

Learn more about Ready for Work clothing drives and how to host your own at [wvforward.wvu.edu](http://wvforward.wvu.edu). Together, we can help West Virginia women share their talents in the workplace.

[wvforward.wvu.edu](http://wvforward.wvu.edu)

[@WVForward](https://twitter.com/WVForward)

