

Affordability

Objective

The event is affordable and inclusive of women regardless of their economic circumstances.

How Tos

- The registration fee is sliding scale and/or scholarships are available.
- A participant can volunteer labor in exchange for a reduction in one or more of the fees involved (like meal or registration cost).
- Outreach and publicity materials discuss affordability options for registration fees, accommodations and transportation.
- Carpooling and ride-sharing arrangements are easy to make, encouraged and facilitated.
- Child care is made available, and affordable arrangements are built into the costs.
- Large events that utilize hotels also provide alternative lower-cost options like free or low-cost home stays, hotel roommate matching, college or university campus housing, etc.
- If hotels are used, contract specifies that the hotel will accept cash for payment and any deposit (i.e., guests do not need a credit card).
- Food costs can be kept lower by cooking together or soliciting food donations from restaurants, delis or grocery stores, where this makes sense. Potlucks are not always less expensive for those who have few time or money resources, so be sensitive to this.
- If a nonprofit group, particularly one representing low-income communities, host a tour/site visit, providing a speaker, or provide time for that local speaker to serve as a resource to the event. Make sure a suitable honorarium is provided if she or he has not asked for a fee for services. As you consider plenary speakers, workshop topics, resource people, facilitators, chaplains, etc., be sure to include the voices, experiences and perspectives of women living in poverty and working class women, not as token “poor women” but as part of the valued perspectives that illuminate important dimensions of the human family.

Fast Facts

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that before the most recent recession in 2007, we had a greater concentration of income at the uppermost echelons of U.S. society than at any time since 1928. (Income and wealth inequality is even more pronounced when taking racial-ethnic and gender identity into account.) While the national economy finally looks like it is recovering, we are producing more goods and services with fewer workers (net loss of 3 million jobs), and they are earning less. The median income in the U.S. has fallen since 2007.