

March 10th, 2021

2021 Summit Report

Women + Girls Research Alliance



Introduction

The Women + Girls Research Alliance partnered with Ally Financial and Bank of America to present a research summit in March 2021, focused on education, employment, health, the impact of COVID-19, and dialogue centered around the economic mobility of women and girls in our community. The Summit, a biennial event that brings together researchers, students, and community partners to focus on national, state and local issues affecting women and children, took place Wednesday, March 10 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

“The summit’s theme, *Recovery and Discovery: Women and Girls in a Dual Pandemic*, hopes to examine what policies and practices are successes, as well as what we can collectively learn from the challenges this unique moment in history has presented to us. Moreover, it is our hope that participants will leave the summit with definitive ideas on how to build a strong

future for women and girls and help guide the Alliance’s research agenda for the next two years.” said Dr. Michelle Meggs, who was named Executive Director of the Alliance in Feb. 2020.



Panelists and Topics (All are Linked to Our Website)

- [Reporting on the Status of Women and Girls in NC](#)
- [COVID-19 and the Spanish-Speaking Diaspora](#)
- [Educational Equity: Technology as a Social Determinant of Health](#)
- [Economic Equity: Closing the Gender Pay Gap](#)
- [The State of Our Girls](#)
- [A Pandemic Within a Pandemic: Intimate Partner Violence](#)
- [A Gendered Lens on Affordable Housing and Homelessness](#)

Results of the 2021 Summit

- **The Main Focus:**

- Attendees were mostly concerned with **partnership and raising awareness for women and girls** in these issues to serve in their communities. There was also an emphasis on **funding/partnering with organizations** that are already doing this work.
- We sent a **survey** to attendees after the Summit to help us narrow our focus on partnership. The 37 responses combined with insights from the summit confirmed that our focus should be **Women Missing from the Workplace**.



Covid19 has driven millions of women from the workforce. Forbes reports that the female workforce rate has dropped 57%, the lowest since 1988. Many women do not have the option of working from home and those who do are taking on triple duty as working mom, educator, and elder care provider. This has been labeled a “**shcession**” because women have been forced to take a step back from the workforce because of the pandemic. This impacts their overall household income and the ability to make choices for themselves and their families.

How can I participate in this research?

Please engage in conversations with us on our digital platforms around what we need to do to #endtheshecession.

Secondary Concerns Raised by Attendees:

- Technology and Funding: To support women and girls, it's desperately needed, with an emphasis on funding.
- Spanish-Speaking Community: We also need to think about the caretakers and Hispanic students (specifically) with their language barriers and the pathway to college.
- Communities Without Representation: There is also no representation for college students or human trafficking as it pertains to homelessness in CLT.

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- Supporting Women Through Trauma: incarcerated women, pathways, marginalized coping skills, structural inequality, disbursement of resources and materials.
 - Networking/Collaboration: How do we network for girl-serving organizations, and collaborate?
 - Male Involvement: How do we encourage male involvement? There is a need for men's input.

Research Focus for 2021-2023

- To *identify and partner with* community organizations and researchers focused on solutions for **Women Missing from the Workplace**. We are looking into funding and partnership with organizations that focus on issues related to women in the workplace such as: the wage gap, cost of child care, lack of benefits and sick leave, access to transportation, etc.

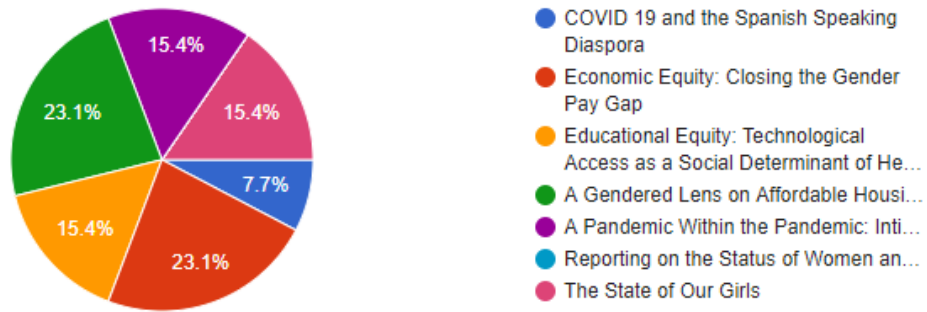


Data Collection from the Post-Conference Surveys

Most Informative Panels:

Please select the panel that you felt was most informative.

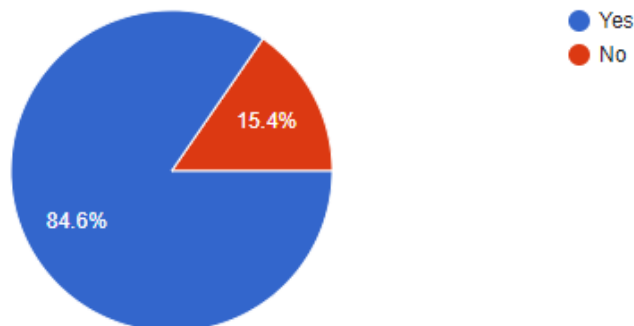
13 responses



Interest in Partnership with W+GRA:

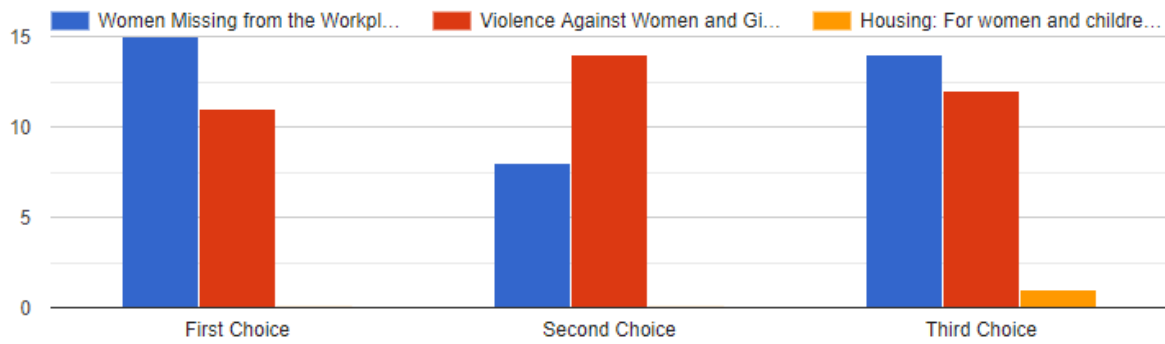
Are you interested in partnering with the Women + Girls Research Alliance to achieve outcomes from this Summit?

13 responses



Focus Survey

Your feedback has indicated that focusing on partnerships and raising awareness for women and girls is what is most important to our community stakeholders. To that end, we are asking you to take 60 seconds to rank the following issues as priority areas from highest to lowest where you think the W+GRA should focus their resources so we can have the most impact.



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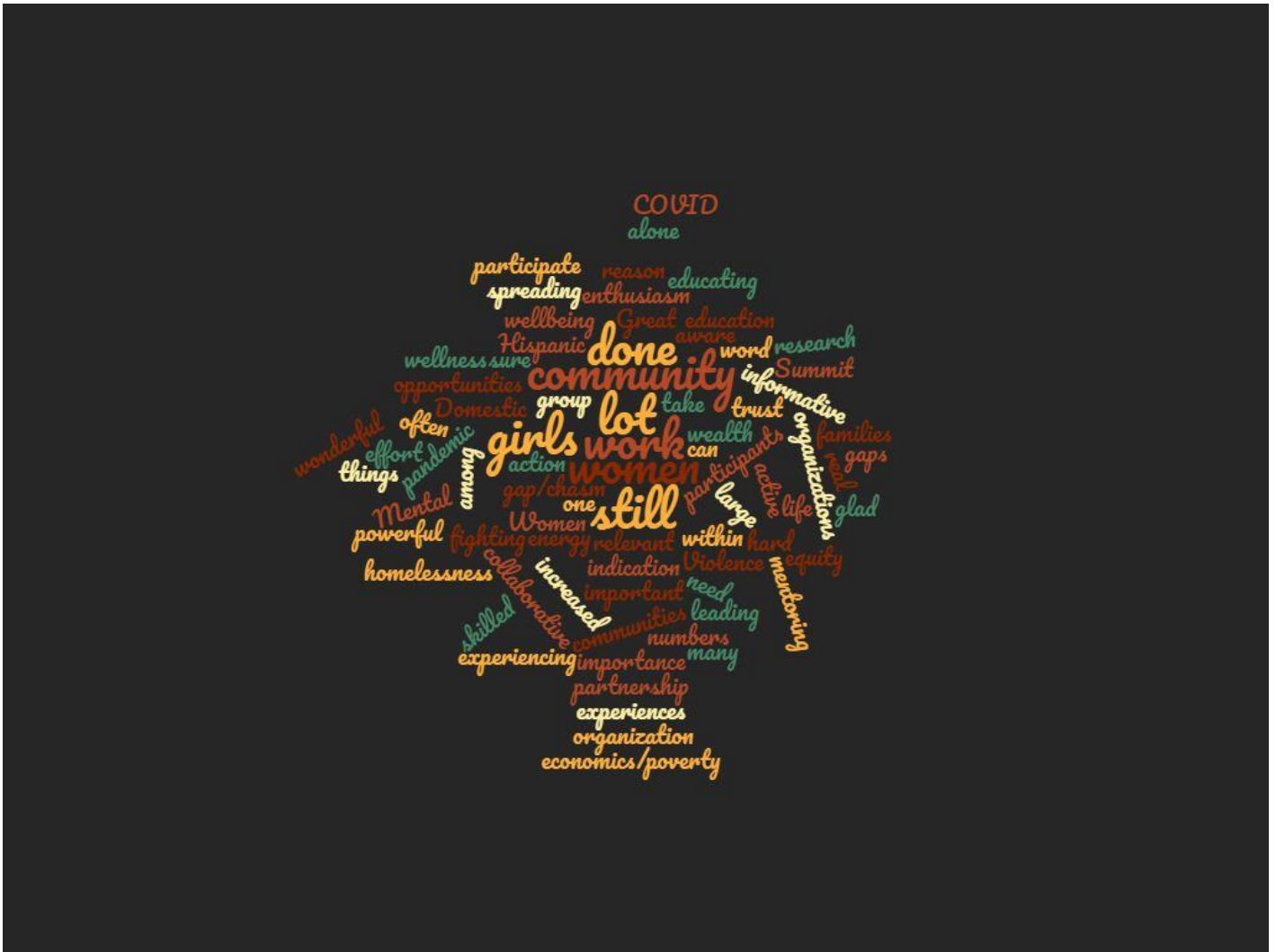
Women Missing from the Workplace: Forbes reports that the female workforce rate has dropped 57%, the lowest since 1988. This impacts their overall household income and the ability to make choices for themselves and their families.

Violence Against Women and Girls: Women and children may have less contact with family and friends who may help to provide support and safety from abusers. As the pandemic continues, women and girls remain in precarious and violent situations.

Housing: For women and children the problem of unaffordable housing has links to economics, access to education, health and well-being. While Charlotte's 2040 plan looks to address this issue, affordable housing remains a significant issue for many residents, especially for women and girls.

First Choice

Attendee's Biggest Takeaways (WordCloud):



Additional Concerns to Address (WordCloud):

