

Village Voice
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Best Way for Women to find Non-Stereotyped Jobs

Non-Traditional Employment for Women

243 West 20th Street, 212-627-6252, new-nyc.org

In 1978, a mere 2 percent of jobs in the construction field were held by women, despite a 6.9 percent guideline issued by the government. That’s why the nonprofit organization Non-Traditional Employment for Women (NEW) was launched back then; it has since provided a regular free six-week training program (prepping 420 woman last year alone) as well as placement services afterwards. Though there’s still only 3 to 4 percent of the jobs in construction held by women now, NEW’s program has helped women find jobs at Con Edison, Time Warner, and the MTA. The organization considers its biggest success story to be the women themselves, many of whom are single parents and/or faced domestic violence and homelessness. According to NEW president Liz Fitzgerald, the group’s goal is to ultimately go out of business. “Someday, every eighth-grade girl will consider this type of work,” she explains. “[She’s] seen a woman construction worker or [has] a friend whose mom does this, and thinks that this could be a career for herself, too.”

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