

BUSINESS



Andy Baldwin via New York Times

Candace Valenzuela, a Dallas-area congressional candidate, takes a video call from her bathroom office with her toddler, Cinto, on her lap. As families adjust to this new reality, it's often mom's Zoom meeting that has to wait.

Gender dynamics come into play as work, home collide

Pandemic airs women's struggle to balance careers, kids

By Jennifer Medina and Lisa Lerer

NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — As soon as she began planning to work from home, Saba Lurie knew she'd need to make major adjustments in how she operates her private psychotherapy practice, from counseling patients through a screen to managing her staff remotely.

She also quickly realized that, because her husband earns a higher salary, the bulk of the domestic work would fall on her.

The aggravations added up quickly: Her bathroom became an emergency office.

"It's the one place I can close the door and lock it," she said.

Her husband, unaccustomed to balancing his workday schedule with hers, forgot to tell her about some of his conference calls, leaving Lurie scrambling to figure out how to tend to their two daughters, ages 4 and 1.

Her practice, which she spent years building, has been pushed aside.

"The responsibility to deal is on me," Lurie said. And many of her clients have told her the same thing. "What I am hearing is that we as women are going to be the ones to set boundaries or establish a plan."

Lurie and her clients are part of a generation of professional women who had arranged their domestic lives, however precariously, to enable full-time careers and parenthood. They're facing the coronavirus crisis in the midst of high-intensity parenting years, and a crucial moment for growing and establishing their work.

Now, able to set up shop remotely, but with schools closed and child care gone, the pandemic is forcing them to confront the bruising reality of gender dynamics as the country is trapped at home.

Even before the crisis, women spent about four hours a day on unpaid work, like laundry, grocery shopping and cleaning, compared with about 2.5 hours for men, data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show. That labor has expanded exponentially in recent weeks, as Americans home-school their children and help older family members and friends more vulnerable to the virus.

'Personal is political'

In interviews with more than a dozen women who work as lawyers, writers, architects, teachers, nurses and nonprofit administrators, many said they were grateful to have some child care help prequarantine, and that they could work from home.

They've been slightly stunned to learn they're expected to organize and manage every domestic need for their family, while maintaining a full-time professional career as part of a dual career couple.

It was feminism of earlier

generations, after all, that declared "the personal is political." So the fact the crisis hit after stinging political defeats for female presidential hopefuls adds to the uncomfortable reckoning for many Democratic women — even if they had decided themselves that the most viable way to defeat President Donald Trump was to support a male candidate.

When Elizabeth Warren dropped out of the presidential race, Gretchen Newsom sat in her car and burst into tears. Six weeks later, Warren backed her onetime political rival Joe Biden, and Newsom is working, parenting and teaching as a single mother. And, as the political director for the San Diego, Calif., chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, she's struggling around the clock to answer fearful questions from union members.

"It is kind of a slap in the face, we're doing all of this and yet we have so little representation," she said.

While the political disappointment may be most acute among liberal women,

"The way we've been able to MacGyver a career as a woman is completely under attack by a global pandemic."

Candace Valenzuela, a Dallas-area Democratic congressional candidate

the bargain is bipartisan.

Indeed, it's the kind of "lean in" feminism embraced by people like Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter — whose 2017 book "Women Who Work" essentially told women to get enough help to do it all — that's facing perhaps one of the most jarring shifts. It's also an economic struggle, long clear in the lives of women who earn lower wages, that feminist political leaders have criticized for years.

"It's like our economy is this house of cards for women and it is just toppling down," says Cecile Richards, a founder of SuperMajority, a new political organization aimed at energizing female voters. "All of the structural problems that we've all known intellectually you can now see in pretty much every woman's daily life."

Now, those who are able to work from home have created new offices in cars, spare closets and, like Lurie, bathrooms. Millions of others, like nurses and home health aides, find themselves on the front lines of battling the virus, facing serious health risks. And with women making up nearly two-thirds of minimum-wage jobs, a majority in the service industry, many have lost their income entirely.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than one-third of working women,

compared with just 15.7 percent of working men, are employed in two industries that have been significantly affected by the virus: the health care and social assistance industry and the leisure and hospitality industry. In both fields, women are paid less than their male peers, research by the Economic Policy Institute shows.

Woes of wage gap

"I hope we rethink a lot of structures after this," said Candace Valenzuela, a Democratic congressional candidate from the suburbs of Dallas. "My hope is that coming out of this crisis we rethink compensation for both women and for people who traditionally get minimum-wage work."

Until March, Valenzuela spent hours calling donors from her campaign headquarters. Now, she's at home caring for her sons, ages 4 and 1. Her mother-in-law, who lives with the family and often helps with the children, has fallen ill, and though it is uncertain if the coronavirus is the culprit, she's quarantined in a different part of the house.

With space at a premium, Valenzuela cleared her curling iron off the counter, brought in a yoga ball and turned her bathroom into a makeshift office for the foreseeable future.

Valenzuela considers herself lucky because her children are young enough that she's avoiding home-school. And her husband already had taken on much of the household duties since she began her campaign last year.

Still, she said: "The way we've been able to MacGyver a career as a woman is completely under attack by a global pandemic."

The crisis has become a moment for some to reconsider how much progress has taken place on a societal level.

Lurie, the therapist, recalled the day she voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016, holding her year-old daughter. Since then, she said, "it has just been having to recalibrate, recalibrate and recalibrate. What I promised my daughters isn't something I can deliver and that's such a painful thing."

Dori Howard, who helps run a women's co-working space in Los Angeles, said she viewed the pandemic as sending feminism back to the "1950s with women stuck at home."

Many friends and colleagues, she said, have put professional projects on hold because their husbands have the higher income. Indeed, research shows that women with children often face a significant drop in earnings after having a child, but there's no similar drop for men.

"Of course their husbands make more money than they do — because of the wage gap," Howard said. "It's a cycle of despair."

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BIDS & PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

2019 HIGH SCHOOL BAND TOWER REPLACEMENTS, HUCKABEE PROJECT NO. 1818-01-01; PROPOSAL NO. 19-11-5447R-RFP CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Facilities and Construction Office, 11430 Perry Road, Building B, Houston, Texas 77064. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Monday, May 18, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Purchasing Office, Windfern Administrative Annex, 12510 Windfern Road, Houston, Texas 77064. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Proposers" section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released Tuesday, May 12, 2020, and will be available from Huckabee at www.huckabee-inc.com/construction/ upon request. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

BIDS & PROPOSALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CONSTRUCTION MANAGER-AT-RISK FBISD Lakeview Elementary School

Fort Bend Independent School District

Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc. as Construction Manager-at-Risk for Fort Bend ISD, in accordance with Texas Government Code 2269, will receive bids or proposals for the project from all qualified subcontractors for the FBISD Lakeview Elementary School project.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference and walk-thru on May 18th, 2020 at 9:00AM. It will be held at the project site, 314 Lakeview Drive, Sugar Land TX, 77498. **All attendees are required to bring and wear personal face mask protection and we will follow social distancing protocol.** All questions need to be sent to Jeff Ledlow jledlow@satpon.com.

Bids or proposals are due Tuesday June 2nd, 2020 at 2pm. Bids or proposals should be emailed to houstonbids@satpon.com, faxed to 713-996-1400, or mailed/delivered to Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc., 11750 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079. Late bids will **not** be accepted.

There will be no public opening. After receipt of bids or proposals, Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc. will conduct its evaluation of the subcontractor bids or proposals in relation to the project requirements and will select the bid(s) or proposal(s) that offers the best value to Fort Bend ISD.

Fort Bend ISD, the Owner, reserves the right to waive any informality and/or to reject any, or all bids, or proposals.

Contact Jeff Ledlow for additional information on this project. Please forward all questions to Jeff with S&P, deadline for submitting questions is ten (10) days prior to bid day

Drawings and specifications are available at www.satpon.com and in the Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc. office located at 11750 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079.

Drawings and Specifications may also be reviewed at:

Associated General Contractors
McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge, www.construction.com
Virtual Builders Exchange, 3910 Kirby, #131, Houston, TX 77098, (832) 613-0201

SEALED BID AUCTION OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE
4911 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77004

0.1550-acre (6,750 sq. ft.) of land in the Obedience Smith Survey, Abstract No. 696, Harris County, Texas, being a portion of Lots 9, 11 and 12 and all of Lot 8, Block 6 in Outlot 109 of MacGregor & Demeritt's Southmore Addition, Harris County, Texas.

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), is accepting sealed bids for the sale of the surplus real property described above. Bids will be accepted at the METRO Procurement Division Plan room, 2nd Floor, 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002. The deadline for submitting bids is 3:00 PM on Monday, June 1, 2020. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Bid packages containing the title commitment and copies of exception documents, and forms of purchase agreement and deed, may be obtained by visiting METRO's website at www.ridemetro.org/Pages/RealEstate.aspx.

METRO has established a floor bid price of \$237,300.00 for the surplus property and will consider only those bids that equal or exceed the floor bid price. METRO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to: (i) waive any informalities or minor defects in bids; (ii) reject any or all bids for any reason or for no reason; and/or (iii) cancel the solicitation for bids at any time prior to the bid submittal deadline, without penalty. METRO may accept the highest and most advantageous bid, as determined by METRO in its sole discretion. METRO reserves the right to accept the next highest and advantageous bid if the previously selected bid fails to close in accordance with the terms of the bid package documents.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check drawn on a national bank located in Houston, Texas, payable solely to Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas, in the amount of \$7,500, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract upon final approval by METRO. The bid deposit must be included in the same envelope as the bid, and bids submitted without the bid deposit will not be considered. Except for the three (3) highest bidders, all bid deposits will be returned within five (5) days after the bid deadline. The successful bidder will be required to provide earnest money under the purchase agreement in the bid package in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid amount, to which the bid deposit may be applied.

Contact Gabriel Matos at 713-652-8006 for information.

LEGAL NOTICE

By and through its Broker of Record, Limestone Commercial, BakerRipley, a non-profit human services organization, announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) #20-09 Head Start and Early Head Start Southwest Leases in search of a long-term lease for its community services programs in Harris County, Texas.

Specific Market Location: Adjacent to or South of Westpark Tollway, Adjacent to or West of 288 Freeway, Adjacent to or North or East of Sam Houston Tollway, and outside of the 6-10 Loop.

Location 1: Basic requirements include 20,000 sq. ft., with accessible outdoor area, adequate parking, and brokerage commissions to be included on all transactions will be paid by the selected Landlord upon lease execution.

Location 2: Basic requirements include 18,000 sq. ft., with accessible outdoor area, adequate parking, and brokerage commissions to be included on all transactions will be paid by selected Landlord upon lease execution.

Joint Location may be acceptable totaling approximately 40,000-60,000 sq. ft. with abovementioned basic requirements.

The RFP will be posted on the BakerRipley website at <https://www.bakerripley.org/about/vendors>, on **May 19, 2020**.

Interested parties can submit a proposal to joan@limestonecommercial.com.

The initial deadline for submitting a proposal is **June 19, 2020**.

BAKERRIPLY ENCOURAGES SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO APPLY.

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

IDEA Public Schools- LAKE HOUSTON

IDEA Public Schools will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for the IDEA Lake Houston campus from qualified offerors. Proposals due June 9th at 2:00 pm by email to tina.mckone@corgan.com. No proposals for this project shall be accepted after this deadline.

Project address is 5627 S Lake Houston Parkway, Houston, TX, 77049.

Project includes construction of a new 2-story school building that consists of steel framed with metal stud commercial construction with approximately 77,502 sq ft on a new occupied campus. The project will include sitework, paving, landscape, and interior finishes. Estimated construction is \$15,000,000.

Plans and Specifications will be available beginning May 17, 2020 from the office of Corgan. Contact tina.mckone@corgan.com to request an electronic submission of the bid documents.

Pre-proposal conference will be held via a Microsoft Teams video conference call on Tuesday, May 26th at 10:00am local time. You can type in the following URL into your web browser for access: <https://bit.ly/2KioVj>. Reference division 00 10 00 for more information.

IDEA Public Schools reserves the right to reject any and/or all submittals, to award contracts as may appear advantageous to IDEA Public Schools and to waive all formalities in the procurement process.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

IFB No. 4020000141: H1 & H3 LRV Passenger Seat Inserts. Solicitation will be available on or about 5/11/2020.

NOTE: IFB No. 4020000145 was Replaced with IFB No. 4020000146

Purchase and Delivery of Type 31 AGM 12V Batteries for METRO's Transit Vehicles. Solicitation will be available on or about 5/11/2020.

IFB No. 4020000064: Purchase and Delivery of Air Conditioners for METRO's Rail Vehicles. Solicitation will be available on or about 5/11/2020.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetraapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

Request for Qualifications

RFQ 20-02

Planning, Engineering and Survey Services

Related to a "Rule 76" Determination by the Texas Railroad Commission

The Harris County Housing Authority ("HCHA") is soliciting proposals from qualified Planning/Engineering/Surveying Consultants (Consultant(s)) to provide Planning, Engineering and Survey Services related to a "Rule 76" Determination by the Texas Railroad Commission regarding a 90+/- acre parcel of land located on Lake Houston, in Houston, Texas, owned by the Harris County Housing Authority. Proposals Due: May 27, 2020, at 2:00 PM. Proposal Submission — Sealed submissions shall be submitted to: Harris County Housing Authority, 1933 Hussion Street, Building #3, Houston, TX 77003. Attn: Affordable Housing Department. RFQ 20-02 will be posted on and can be downloaded from HCHA's website www.hchataxas.org.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

IFB No. 4020000147: Purchase and Delivery of 2F Transmissions for METRO's Transit Vehicles. Solicitation will be available on or about 5/18/2020.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetraapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

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