

**Westside Mothers Records**  
7.5 linear feet (6 SB, 1 MB, 1 OS)  
1967-2005, bulk 1970s

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Dallas Pillen on September 10, 2013.

**Accession Number:** UR002384

**Creator:** Selma Goode and Westside Mothers

**Acquisition:** Material donated to the Reuther Library on January 10, 2013.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

**RESEARCHERS MUST SIGN A RESTRICTED USE STATEMENT.  
NO NAMES OR OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION FOUND IN  
THE RECORDS MAY BE USED.**

**Notes:** Citation style: “Westside Mothers Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

**Related Material:** 1 folder containing photographic negatives transferred to the Reuther’s Audiovisual Collection.

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.**

**Abstract**

Westside Mothers is a welfare rights organization located in Detroit, Michigan. It was founded by its coordinator, Selma Goode, in December 1965, and advocates for people who receive public assistance, such as food stamps, Medicaid, childcare, Supplemental Security Income, and disability. Westside Mothers works with various local, state, and national welfare rights organizations to aid welfare recipients in receiving sufficient benefits and in protecting their civil liberties. The organization holds meetings, organizes rallies, contacts legislators, and provides legal defense at court hearings in its efforts to protect the rights of welfare recipients in Detroit and Michigan.

The Westside Mothers Records collection contains material related to the Westside Mothers and affiliated welfare rights organizations, such as the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO) and the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). Material included in the collection consists mostly of paper records documenting the administrative functions of the Westside Mothers, MWRO, and NWRO, including meetings, rallies, conferences, special committees, and legal efforts. Also included are correspondence between Selma Goode and various welfare rights organizations, religious and community organizations, and government agencies. The collection also contains some photographic prints and ephemera.

**Important Subjects:**

Civil rights  
Detroit (Mich.)  
Public welfare  
Welfare recipients  
Welfare rights movement—United States  
Welfare rights organizations

**Important Names:**

Bragg, Ella  
Goode, Selma  
Michigan Welfare Rights Organization  
National Welfare Rights Organization

**Arrangement**

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

**Box 1**

- 1 NWRO National Convention, 1969
- 2 NWRO Conferences and Events, 1968-1971
- 3 NOW!, 1967-1969
- 4 NOW!, 1967-1969
- 5 NWRO The Welfare Fighter, 1970-1972
- 6 NWRO Newsletters and Announcements, 1967-1970
- 7 People United for Community Service, 1970
- 8 MWRO Meetings and Conferences, 1976-1979
- 9 MWRO Meetings and Conferences, 1978-1981
- 10 MWRO Constitutions
- 11 MWRO Government Correspondence, 1976-1982
- 12 MWRO Policies and Rulings, 1975-1982
- 13 Michigan - County Welfare Rights Organizations
- 14 MWRO Newsletters and Handouts
- 15 MWRO Mailing Lists and Membership Info
- 16 LME Job Club

**Box 2**

- 1 Westside Mothers History
- 2 Selma Goode Correspondence, c. 1970s
- 3 Selma Goode Correspondence, 1990s
- 4 Westside Mothers Correspondence
- 5 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1990s
- 6 Westside Mothers Agendas, 1991
- 7 Child Health Network, 1997-1998
- 8 Client Advisory Committee, 1990s
- 9 Job Start Project
- 10 Selma Goode Testimonies, 1995-1996
- 11 Mandatory Drug Testing Case
- 12 Westside Mothers Agendas, 1990s
- 13 Westside Mothers Agendas
- 14 Toys for Tots
- 15 Westside Mothers Newsletters and Clippings, 1990s
- 16 Miscellaneous Correspondence
- 17 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1979
- 18 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1978
- 19 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1977
- 20 Westside Mothers Old Constitutions
- 21 Correspondence, 1970s
- 22 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1970s
- 23 Detroit Metropolitan Welfare Reform Coalition
- 24 Wayne County Department of Social Services

- 25 Westside Mothers Proposals, 1977-1979
- 26 Westside Mothers Funding/Financial Reports, 1977-1978
- 27 Westside Mothers Public Relations, 1970s
- 28 Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), 1972-1974
- 29 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1977
- 30 Westside Mothers Agendas, 1976
- 31 Westside Mothers Agendas, 1975
- 32 Westside Mothers Agendas, 1974
- 33 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1972
- 34 Westside Mothers Proposals, 1973-1976
- 35 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1973
- 36 State and National Welfare Rights Organizations, 1970s
- 37 Westside Mothers Work Book
- 38 Westside Mothers Court Proceedings, 1980s

**Box 3**

- 1 Westside Mothers March on Lansing, 1981
- 2 Westside Mothers March on Lansing - Clippings, 1981
- 3 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1980-1984
- 4 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1980-1984
- 5 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1980s
- 6 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1980s
- 7 Westside Mothers Reports and Constitution, 1989
- 8 Michigan Department of Social Services, 1980s
- 9 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1980s
- 10 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1980s
- 11 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1980s
- 12 Fair Hearings in Practice
- 13 Katie Watkins Statement Before Subcommittee on Welfare Reform, 1977
- 14 Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, 1969
- 15 Michigan Welfare League, Late 1960s
- 16 Utility Complaints to Public Commission
- 17 Edison Case, 1966
- 18 Metropolitan Coalition of Women, 1972-1973
- 19 Consumer Protection Agency, 1975
- 20 Westside Mothers History
- 21 Detroit Metropolitan Welfare Coalition, 1972
- 22 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1967
- 23 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1960s
- 24 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1966
- 25 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1968
- 26 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1969
- 27 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1969

- 28 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1970
- 29 IFCO Reports, 1969-1970
- 30 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1970
- 31 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1971
- 32 Westside Mothers Agendas, 1971
- 33 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1971
- 34 Westside Mothers 501(c)(3) Application, 1971
- 35 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1975-1978
- 36 IFCO, 1971
- 37 Various Meetings, 1970-1973
- 38 Westside Mothers Notices and Agendas, 1974
- 39 Clippings, 1972-1973
- 40 Michigan Bell Correspondence, 1968
- 41 Department of Social Services, 1970s

**Box 4**

- 1 Citizens for Welfare Reform Steering Committee, 1971-1973
- 2 Clippings, 1967-1968
- 3 Clippings, 1976
- 4 Groups and Committees (SEMATA, Christian Service Committee), 1970s
- 5 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 1970s
- 6 Westside Mothers Leaflets, 1970s
- 7 Westside Mothers Leaflets and Membership Applications
- 8 H.R. 1 and Ribicoff Amendments, 1972
- 9 Westside Mothers Funding Reports and Proposals, 1979-1983
- 10 Westside Mothers Funding Reports and Proposals, 1980s
- 11 Westside Mothers Funding Reports and Proposals, 1980s
- 12 Westside Mothers Funding Reports and Proposals, 1990s
- 13 Clippings, 1969-1971
- 14 Legal Proceedings, 1970s
- 15 Legal Proceedings, 1980s
- 16 Legal Proceedings, 1990s-2000s
- 17 Work Expense Case, 1971
- 18 Detroit Social Welfare Project, 1970
- 19 NWRO Convention, 1973
- 20 MWRO Project Meetings and Reports, 1979
- 21 MWRO Meeting Notices, Agendas, Minutes, 1970s
- 22 MWRO Newsletters, 1970s
- 23 MWRO Policies and Proposals, 1970s
- 24 MWRO Members, 1969-1972
- 25 MWRO Common Application Case, 1980
- 26 MWRO Common Application Case, 1981
- 27 Legal Correspondence, 1978-1979

**Box 5**

- 1 HMO Meeting Minutes, 1978
- 2 Darlene Project Organizer's Report, 1979
- 3 Ella Bragg Correspondence, 1980
- 4 Citizen Program Advisory Committee MDSS Minutes, 1979
- 5 Client Advisory Task Force Meeting for the MRRS Minutes, 1979
- 6 Ella Project Organizer's Report, 1979
- 7 Michigan Welfare Reform Coalition, 1979-1980
- 8 MWRO Groups Newsletters, 1979
- 9 MWRO Mailing List, 1979
- 10 Nation Directory of State Contacts for MCAC
- 11 MWRO Joyce Lane Project Reports, 1979
- 12 MWRO Constitution & Membership Info, 1976
- 13 MWRO Correspondence, 1976-1982
- 14 MWRO Notices & Agendas, 1977-1979
- 15 MWRO Minutes, 1978-1979
- 16 MWRO Notices & Agendas, 1980-1982
- 17 MWRO Funding Reports & Proposals, 1970s
- 18 MWRO Funding Reports & Proposals, 1980s
- 19 Thumb Area Welfare Rights Organization Grant, 1979
- 20 HMO Commission Memorandums, 1978
- 21 HMO Board Members Forum, 1978
- 22 HMO Commission, 1978
- 23 HMO Commission Minutes, 1978
- 24 Medical Care Advisory Council (MCAC), 1979
- 25 Domestic Violence, 1979
- 26 Comprehensive Health Services of Detroit (CHSD), 1978
- 27 CHSD Financial Reports
- 28 CHSD Pharmacy Listings
- 29 CHSD Reports & Minutes, 1978
- 30 Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan (CHPC-SEM)
- 31 CHSD Memorandums
- 32 HMO Commission
- 33 Heating & Energy Assistance, 1979
- 34 Michigan Energy Coalition
- 35 Michigan Department of Labor Commission for the Blind
- 36 CHSD By-Laws and Regulations
- 37 Social Services Citizen Program Advisory Committee, 1978
- 38 Michigan League for Human Services Minutes, 1977-1978
- 39 Medical Assistance Council, 1973
- 40 Medical Advisory By-Laws
- 41 Medical Care Advisory Council Minutes & Agendas, 1979

- 42 State Title XX Minutes & Agendas
- 43 Michigan League for Human Services Minutes, 1979
- 44 Welfare Reform Coalition, 1978
- 45 Testimonial Before Senator Riegle - Ella Bragg
- 46 United Community Housing Coalition, 1978
- 47 United Community Housing Coalition Agendas & Minutes
- 48 Utility Task Force Board Members
- 49 Wayne County Title XX Minutes, 1978
- 50 Women's Commission, 1978-1979
- 51 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (ESPDT) Conference, 1978
- 52 MWRO Quarterly Report, 1979
- 53 October 1979 Quarterly Report Project
- 54 Project Financial Report
- 55 MWRO Funding Reports & Proposals, 1978-1980
- 56 Letters - Ella Bragg, 1980
- 57 MWRO Notices & Agendas, 1972
- 58 Newsletters, 1978-1979
- 59 MWRO Executive Board
- 60 MWRO Funding Reports & Proposals, 1978-1979
- 61 MWRO Funding Reports & Proposals, 1980
- 62 MWRO, 1968-1971
- 63 MWRO, 1983

**Box 6**

- 1 MWRO, 1968-1971
- 2 MWRO Project Agenda, 1980
- 3 Project & State Agenda, 1979
- 4 MWRO Minutes, 1979
- 5 MWRO Minutes & Agendas, 1980s
- 6 Darlene Org. Report, 1980
- 7 Linda Babcock Org., 1980
- 8 Ella Org. Report, 1980
- 9 Welfare Rights Chapters
- 10 Westside Mothers Correspondence, 2000s
- 11 Westside Mothers History, 2005
- 12 Westside Mothers National Voter Registration Act Case
- 13 Westside Mothers Notices & Agendas, 2000s
- 14 Westside Mothers Notices & Agendas, 2000s
- 15 Advocacy Cases, 1969, c. 1990, 1999, 2005

**Box 7**

- 1 Westside Mothers Event Photos
- 2 Westside Mothers Event Photos

**Box 8**

1 Oakland County Welfare Rights Bumper Sticker

1 Westside Mothers Banner

13 NWRO Buttons

14 Westside Mothers Buttons

4 NWRO Paper Signs

2 Westside Mothers Cloth Signs

**AV Material**

Photographic negatives from some events prints in Box 7