



When working with or on behalf of justice involved women, consider the following:



### Assess the Effectiveness of Your Existing Approaches

- **Utilize the Gender-Responsive Policy & Practice Assessment (GRPPA)** at [www.nicic.gov/grppa/](http://www.nicic.gov/grppa/) to assess your organization's current strengths and gaps in gender responsiveness.
- **Provide staff with training and educational opportunities** focused on working with justice involved women.
- **Learn from other facilities and systems** about what has been successful and unsuccessful when working with justice involved women.



### Learn More about Each Woman's Needs and Strengths and Develop a Personalized Plan

- **Conduct gender responsive risk and need assessment tools** to identify the factors that brought the woman into the justice system and the strengths that can mitigate negative outcomes.
- **Engage each woman** through a gender responsive case management process (e.g., [Gender Responsive Strategies for Women Offenders](#)).
- **Develop a case plan** that addresses each woman's specific needs and help her to mobilize her personal strengths and social supports.



### Find Opportunities to Integrate Gender-Responsive Approaches to Improve Public Safety Outcomes for Women

- **Acknowledge that gender matters** and understand and apply [gender responsive principles](#).
- **Bring together partners** (justice system professionals, mental health services, human and social services, advocacy groups, child welfare, and others) to address issues impacting justice involved women at every point in the system.
- **Provide access to legal assistance** for women who may lose, or are trying to maintain, custody of their children.
- **Provide opportunities for trauma, substance abuse and mental health treatment** to build resiliency and promote healing.
- **Identify community resources** that can enhance services provided within the corrections system and help support her and her family in the community.
- **Provide parenting classes** and family counseling.
- **Establish educational and vocational opportunities** to increase women's feelings of self-worth and build their economic self-sufficiency.
- **Encourage visits from children**, make visiting areas child-friendly and consider opportunities for justice involved women to play, read and bond with their children during visits and through interactions via telephone or video conferencing and other similar platforms.
- **Be cautious in the use of restraints** during labor and delivery. It can pose health risks for mother and child, and can interfere with healthcare during pregnancy, labor and delivery.