Women Offenders in Community Corrections
Audio Teleconference Broadcast January 19, 2005

Supplemental Material

Working with Female Offenders

- Ask them who they are, about their lives, and what they need.
- Allow them to speak up and actively participate in the services they receive.
- Assist them with their family relationships and help them deal with family stress.
- Maintain a diverse staff who reflect the diversity of the women and girls served.
- Weave a multi-cultural perspective through programming.
- Teach them coping strategies to overcome domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and substance abuse.
- Understand that relationships are central to their lives: assist them in maintaining important connections without sacrificing themselves to their relationships.
- Connect them with a capable and non-exploitative person for an ongoing support relationship.
- Promote academic achievement and economic self-sufficiency for women and girls.
- Intentionally deal with gender and race bias within the agency and society—assist women and girls in overcoming these barriers.
- Provide education on physical and emotional health and sexuality.
- Acknowledge and promote their self strengths and abilities. Focus on competency development.
- Allow staff more time and opportunity for building trusting relationships with women and girls.
- Allow them the safety and comfort of gender-specific environments.
- Provide women and girls with positive role models who reflect their lives and who model survival, growth, and change.
- Assist them with childcare, transportation, and safe housing issues.