Criminal justice system practitioners can achieve more successful outcomes with justice involved women when they become more gender informed.

Since 1985, the number of women in prison has increased at a faster rate than men. 

Women are entering the criminal justice system at an alarming rate. Most justice involved women are arrested for non-violent crimes.

Drug Crimes: 26%
Property Crimes: 20%
Violent Crimes: 3%

Of all arrests of women in 2013:

Women are entering the criminal justice system at an alarming rate. Women have become a more significant proportion of the incarcerated population.

Many justice involved women share similar life circumstances that are unique from men.

77-98% of incarcerated women have experienced trauma (including interpersonal violence and/or physical/sexual abuse).

60% of women in prison reported using drugs just prior to their offense (compared to 56% of men).

73% of women in prison reported a mental health problem.

Up to half of women who are incarcerated were homeless in the month before their incarceration.

64% of mothers in state prison lived with at least one of their children just prior to imprisonment.

Maternal incarceration significantly impacts children:

147,700 children had a mother in prison in 2007, up 131% from 1991.

Women’s unique risk and needs must be acknowledged and addressed in an integrated manner across all stages of the justice system.

Utilize a multi-faceted approach from intake to service planning to aftercare that is:

Relational
Strengths-based
Trauma-informed
Culturally Competent
Holistic

Provide pregnant women in correctional facilities with special privileges, such as:

- Limited or non-use of restraints
- Bottom bunk assignments and light work duty
- Additional snacks/milk to meet their nutritional needs
- Ongoing obstetric appointments, prenatal vitamins, social support and counseling, birth education, and transportation to and from the hospital

Take advantage of available resources

NRCJW provides resources and tools to support practitioners within courts, correctional facilities and community settings to achieve successful outcomes with justice involved women.

To learn more, visit www.cjinvolvedwomen.org.