

# Female Responsive Services - Value Statements



Created by Rebecca Maniglia, NIC Technical Resource Provider,  
for **Meeting the Needs of Juvenile Female Offenders**, 3/2003

## ***Female responsive services are inclusive.***

- While female responsive services emerge from a desire to recognize the needs of girls, they recognize that girls experience gender differently.
- Along with gender, a girl's race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and individual life experience shape her understanding of herself and the world.
- Girls are affected by sexism, racism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. Female responsive services seek to address all these issues simultaneously.

## ***Female responsive services are relational.***

- Relationships are important to many girls.
- For many girls becoming healthy will require an assessment and potential reshaping of these relationships. Juvenile justice professionals play a key role in helping girls do this work.
- Female responsive services seek to support healthy relationships.

## ***Female responsive services are restorative.***

- Girls in the juvenile justice system have caused harm to victims, to their families and to their communities. Female responsive services will assist girls to be accountable for their offending behaviors and will assist girls to make amends to the people they have harmed.
- Female responsive services recognize the trauma histories of girls and will intentionally assist girls to address the root causes of their behavior in order to begin the healing process and to interrupt the cycle of offending and future victimization.
- Female responsive services seek to restore the relationships harmed by girls' offending behavior and their own victimization histories.

## ***Female responsive services pay attention to societal influences.***

- Girls are influenced by what society tells them they should be and how they should behave as girls.
- Female responsive services seek to understand this influence and offer alternatives.

## ***Female responsive services are multi-leveled.***

- Female responsive services recognize that the lives of girls in the juvenile justice system mirror the experiences of all girls in our society. What happens on a local, national and international level economically, socially and politically impacts girls everywhere.
- Female responsive services seek to educate girls and juvenile justice professionals about these connections.
- Female responsive services seeks to promote advocacy for girls and juvenile justice professionals on these global connections while also encouraging them to work at various levels to create change in the entire continuum of services for girls in juvenile justice.