

GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM



GEO Reentry's gender-responsive programming is multi-dimensional and acknowledges the differences in a female's journey in the criminal justice system. Our approach addresses:

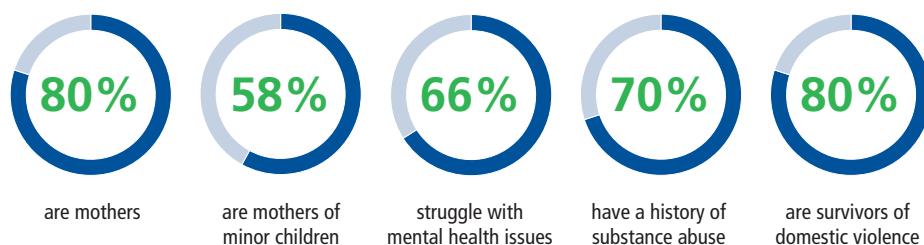
- Race, class, gender inequality, and economic standing
- Cultural factors leading to gender-based discrimination and sexism
- Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse
- Family relationships and positive family involvement
- Substance use and co-occurring disorders
- Physical and emotional safety in response to trauma
- Individual needs including housing, mental health services, employment, substance use treatment, and family reunification

Meeting the Unique Needs of Females

Women under correctional supervision or incarceration often face complex and compounding challenges during reentry. They are more likely to struggle with mental health issues, addiction, housing instability, employment barriers, and family reunification. Between 2020 and 2022, the number of incarcerated women rose by 18%, far outpacing the 5% increase for men.¹ Women's pathways to crime and addiction often stem from early trauma, with many experiencing childhood abuse, family dysfunction, and co-occurring physical and psychological health issues. It's critical to address these factors when designing reentry programs.

Addressing the Gap: GEO Reentry Services' Commitment to Women's Reentry

2,019,900 WOMEN ARE JAILED IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR



Sources: Community Supervision Resource Center (2024), Council on Criminal Justice (2024), Prison Policy Initiative (2022)

GEO Reentry recognizes that nearly 1.9 million women are released from prisons and jails each year—many of whom are mothers and survivors of trauma, addiction, and mental illness. While most reentry programs have historically been designed for men, GEO Reentry takes a gender-responsive and trauma-informed approach to address the distinct needs of women. By providing a safe, respectful environment, GEO Reentry empowers women to rebuild self-worth, develop coping strategies, and reconnect with their families—filling a critical gap left by traditional, male-centered interventions.

As part of the GEO Reentry program, each female participant is assessed using the Women's Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA) to identify individual needs and strengths for targeted treatment planning. When appropriate, the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) assessment may also be used.

¹Clark-Moorman, K. Formerly Incarcerated Women and Reentry: Updated Trends, Challenges, and Recommendations for Research and Policy. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 2024. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/310062.pdf>



Programs in Action

North Piedmont Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) Center

The center in Lexington, NC provides reentry programming and transitional services to approximately 136 female participants referred from county courts. The center is the only CRV in NC dedicated to women's treatment.

New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy (NMWRA)

The NMWRA in Albuquerque, NM functions as a modified therapeutic community to provide a highly-structured environment for female reentrants. The Woman and Children program enables eligible residents with substance use issues to live with their children at the facility. The program provides evidence-based treatment services that benefit both the mother and child.

Arapahoe County Residential Reentry Center (ACRC)

The ACRC in Denver, CO serves as a sentencing alternative for transitional and diversion clients. ACRC provides gender-responsive, evidence-based programming that targets the participant's underlying needs. The program helps to improve the relationships participants have with their children and their role as a mother. The center hosts events designed to strengthen family unity and encourage positive interaction, such as Back to School carnivals, holiday events, and games. In addition, the Achieving Recovery, Changing Habits to Empower and Succeed (ARCHES) program provides intensive mental health and substance use programming.

Online Support Service

GEOReentryConnect.com is the first comprehensive post-release website for justice-involved individuals nationwide. The site provides access to 25,000+ community-based resources, general reentry support, free resources, relevant articles, and employment, education, vocational, and mentorship tools, all at no cost.