

# Field-Specific Breakout Sessions

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Each breakout session group addressed several topics that guided its focus from field- or system-specific issues to the broader context of working comprehensively and collaboratively across many systems, fields, and disciplines. In the initial breakout session, the field-specific groups—child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, education, and general health—addressed the issues confronting their respective fields; what approaches are working to address the needs of girls; gaps that exist; and the top three recommendations for improving services to girls based on identified issues, gaps, and promising practices. The following is a summary of the field-specific breakout session groups' reports.

## Identified Issues

### *Child Welfare*

This group identified and categorized issues confronting the child welfare field that encumber its ability to respond in a gender-competent manner into four areas.

- The work in behalf of girls and young women is guided by outdated philosophies and perceptions.
- The adherence to restrictive federal and governmental policies.
- There is a lack of funding supporting a comprehensive continuum of services and programs.
- There is a need for improved training for direct service providers.

The needs of girls and young women have changed, however, the philosophical and perceptual context of the child welfare field for girls and young women has been slow to advance and respond. Gender expectations based on compliance, as well as a need for better understanding of the impact and prevalence of sexual abuse and harassment and domestic violence—both experienced and witnessed—are prevailing issues.

As a result, intolerance and blaming of girls and young women continues. The intolerance identified is not solely related to outdated philosophical and perceptual contexts, but is also associated with the lack of funding for supports and services. This is compounded by federal and local policies that mandate outcomes-based programs and services. Subsequently, services are designed to address the system's needs rather than needs of girls and young women. A continuum of services and resources that prevent, intervene, and provide aftercare is either absent or inadequately developed.

### ***Juvenile Justice***

Multiple issues exist that limit the juvenile justice system's ability to effectively respond to the needs of girls and young women. The prevailing issues can be classified into distinct categories:

- a need for increased education and training of decisionmakers in the juvenile justice system;
- a lack of funding and resources for gender-responsive services;
- the “adulthood” of the juvenile justice system and the shifting of funds from front-end services to back end (for example, the corrections system);
- the need for research that identifies promising practices; and
- development of alternatives to detention.

With a significant increase in recent years of girls being introduced to and entering the juvenile system, it is imperative that the juvenile justice system develop and implement gender-competent and responsive policies that support prevention and intervention. The education and training of juvenile justice decisionmakers is necessary to ensure that girls' and young women's unique strengths and issues are strongly considered.

### ***Behavioral Health***

Identified issues in behavioral health extend through multiple levels of service provision, program development, services and program administration, and research. They include, but are not limited to:

- inadequate funding;
- a need for increased gender-competent and responsive prevention and effective intervention;
- the effect of managed care on service and treatment provisions;
- the absence of a comprehensive, strengths-based approach that acknowledges the importance of relationships to the well-being of girls and young women; and
- a need for increased data and research that supports promising practices and informs the field about girls' unique characteristics and treatment needs.

The absence of gender-competent prevention and effective intervention services and programs coincides with the proliferation of managed care and ongoing budget constraints. In this environment, the creation, evaluation, and replication of promising practices has been limited. Research and data exist that identify the unique strengths and needs of girls and validate the development of girl-specific programs and treatment. Transforming the research into policy supported by evidence-based practice remains a challenging task. Efforts to educate the field and the public are vital and must be increased to ensure improved quality of prevention, intervention, and after-care provisions.

### ***Education***

Several areas affect the educational process for girls, including:

- the prevalence of social discrimination,
- the absence of increased opportunities for prosocial activities,
- outdated societal expectations, and
- the absence of culturally and gender-competent programs within schools.

The group highlighted the need for prosocial activities as an area of necessary concentration. Research has demonstrated that girls involved in prosocial and physical activities, such as sports, demonstrate a positive self-image and other positive attributes. Laws and regulatory resources that advance the legal and ethical rights of girls would initiate and support the movement toward the end of social discrimination and outdated societal expectations. The result of such progress would likely promote enhanced development of culturally and gender-competent and responsive programs for girls and young women.

## ***General Health***

General health issues extend through multiple levels of management and program and service provision. The issues include:

- the need for comprehensive sexuality education;
- the need for increased education and general knowledge of risk and health problems that apply specifically to girls;
- the lack of funding for structured programs and activities that promote good health, positive self-image, and self-worth; and
- the need for targeted health education for girls at a younger age.

Similar to child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, and education, general health is also confronted with ongoing funding limitations due to budget cuts. In addition, the shift in federal sexuality education funding priorities from comprehensive to abstinence-only education presents a new and complex challenge. The shift further limits access to necessary funds that could be used to develop programs that educate, promote good health, and provide services for girls of all ages and their communities.

## **What Works!**

### ***Child Welfare***

The group identified a comprehensive approach that provides unconditional support and works with communities and existing resources as effective practice. It identified several programs as promising models, such as Project MAS in San Antonio, Texas; OCHA: Poder in Portland, Oregon; and PACE Center for Girls in Jacksonville, Florida. Guidelines for implementing gender-specific services for girls simplify the replication process. The group also identified gender-competent Rites of Passage programs that have a comprehensive sexuality education component as promising.

### ***Juvenile Justice***

The juvenile justice group identified effective methods that promote improved work in behalf of girls and young women. Public awareness should be increased regarding girls' issues, especially in the juvenile justice system. Implicit in the process of increasing public awareness is partnering with key government officials, private organizations, community stakeholders, and

businesses. Communities that focus on prevention and maintain public programs, like community centers and Girl Scouts, support girls' and young women's optimal development. Legislative parity initiatives, legal advocacy, and tribal liaisons are initiatives that work. Informed and prepared decisionmakers and workforce development through training and education will improve service provision, program development, and outcomes for girls and young women. The group identified PACE Center for Girls in Jacksonville, Florida; Female Intervention Team in Baltimore, Maryland; and Angela's House in Atlanta, Georgia, as programs that work.

### ***Behavioral Health***

Services and resources that promote the well-being and positive development of girls and young women are vital. Programs and practices with these focus areas include separating genders in academic settings to enhance girls' success and confidence in math and science, replicating aspects of Girl Scouts programs to serve all girls, increasing media literacy, providing comprehensive services and supports that are strengths based, and creating a safe place for spiritual growth and exploration. Additional important components indicated by participants included family involvement, early education, participation in positive activities, and opportunities to develop meaningful relationships, such as mentoring programs.

### ***Education***

Partnerships between schools, parents, and supporting community organizations are indicated as the most effective approach to promote the optimal well-being of girls and young women. These partnerships must be culturally and gender competent, and support comprehensive and collaborative efforts. Appropriate role models from various professions and backgrounds, combined with educating girls and young women about their life choices and opportunities, are essential to facilitating their optimal development.

### ***General Health***

An early, full-service approach to health education and services has been effective in enhancing positive outcomes for girls and young women and should be replicated. A "one-stop" school- and community-based service facility in which social workers, nutritionists, nurses, health educators, and other health professionals work in interdisciplinary teams effectively facilitates access and service provision for girls and their communities.

## **The Gaps**

### ***Child Welfare***

Historically, early childhood programs do not focus on gender difference. Subsequently, age gaps exist in programming which limit the opportunities available for young girls. There are also not enough gender-competent programs to address these needs. Comprehensive education and access to reproductive health education is limited. Housing options for young women and young parents have become increasingly difficult and scarce. Gender-competent training across the various disciplines in child welfare is limited and not formalized.

### ***Juvenile Justice***

Underidentification of risk factors associated with girls and young women qualifies as a significant issue that has negative ramifications for assessment, prevention, intervention, and sentencing. As a result, the lack of gender-competent and responsive programs for girls and young women is prevalent throughout the juvenile justice system. A significant majority of programs purport to be gender neutral, but are male centered or a derivative of a male model program. The problems associated with girls and young woman continue to be identified and defined through an outdated philosophy and context. Accurate identification and appropriate assessment of risk factors will better inform society of the issues confronted by girls and young women, and support the development of more effective programs and practices. An additional need exists for the development of strategic partnerships with law enforcement and other key points of access to the juvenile justice system.

### ***Education***

The lack of safety in schools is a primary issue, often hindering girls' abilities to learn and mature in education systems. There continues to be a dearth of available research and data in various educational areas related to females, which hinders an informed development of solutions. The education system needs to develop partnerships with multiple disciplines to support a comprehensive approach and increase the effectiveness of schools as a community resource and potential full-service facility.

### ***General Health***

The lack of community safety and services in communities that promote good health and positive well-being are gaps related to girls' general health. An initiative that targets collaboration of services, volunteers, and proactive policy that appropriates funds for safety, services, and health education is warranted.

# Recommendations

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## **Improving Services, Filling Gaps, and Doing What Works**

The following compiles the recommendations made by each of the field-specific groups. These recommendations are based on the groups' identification of issues, gaps, and promising practices.

### *Child Welfare*

- Synthesize and apply existing data and research from other systems, such as juvenile justice, housing and homelessness, behavioral health, and drug and alcohol abuse, to establish a process for demonstrating the impact of effective and promising programs for girls and apply it to child welfare.
- Develop standards and practice guidelines to promote and ensure gender-responsive, best practice programs and services for girls.
- Develop curricula on effective practices for serving girls and young women that are designed to train and educate a range of stakeholders and disciplines, such as foster parents, birthparents, caseworkers, public and private child welfare agencies, higher education professionals, and legislators.

### *Juvenile Justice*

- Educate and train decisionmakers, judges, law enforcement officers, court officials, practitioners, and attorneys across youth-serving systems and jurisdictions.
- Develop the capacity to inform the public through multiple mediums—direct mail, polling, and public service announcements, and so on—to make the issues confronting girls and young women a public concern.

- Promote the creation and proliferation of gender- and culturally responsive services for girls across a balanced continuum of evidence-based services in the system.

### ***Behavioral Health***

- Develop girl-centered programs and promote girls' engagement and involvement in these meaningful relationships. Positive relationships and belonging have been identified as significant factors in the healthy development of girls.
- Increase the knowledge base of promising programs and services, issues, and gaps through research, evaluation, and quality data.
- Promote a strengths-based comprehensive approach to assessing and working with girls and young women.

### ***Education***

- Cultivate collaborative partnerships with child-serving systems and organizations on local, state, and federal levels. Identify and use community strengths, resources, and supports.
- Engage and involve girls, young women, and parents. Promote the significance of role models and mentors in the lives of girls and young women.
- Develop and implement culturally competent programs and services through standards of practice, curricula, and guidelines that ensure consistent implementation and practice.

### ***General Health***

- Educate families and communities about positive and preventive health care for girls and young women. Conduct outreach that engages and involves a broad base of stakeholders and communities.
- Develop partnerships and collaboration among all community agencies with a focus on enhancing existing programming.
- Develop and increase prevention and early intervention strategies and efforts and promote the creation of positive youth environments and youth resiliency.

# Specialty-Specific Breakout Sessions

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During the second day of the NGI symposium, participants joined groups based on their specialty areas: program, practice, policy, advocacy, or research. They reviewed recommendations from the field-specific breakout sessions, and participants discussed ways to address the aggregate recommendations in each specialty area, identifying emerging themes and implications. Participants discussed how child-serving systems, organizations, communities, and consumers could work in comprehensive and collaborative ways to better serve girls and young women. A variety of themes emerged during the discussions that crossed specialty groups. The following summarizes the recommendations and issues brought forth.

## **Collaboration**

Collaboration is a key component of any successful initiative. A multitude of opportunities exist for collaboration and partnerships that enhance the well-being of girls and young women. Collaboration can occur on a local, systemic, or national level. Stakeholders need to explore collaboration within their own organizations as well as external opportunities with natural partners and atypical partners, such as sororities or female-focused, -owned, or -operated businesses that represent the diversity of the community.

Developing such partnerships should keep a long-term relationship in mind rather than a short, limited project approach; however, this does not mean time-limited and objective-focused initiatives should not be pursued. For these to be successful, however, they need to have long-term goals and effects. Practitioners, advocates, researchers, providers, consumers, commu-

nities, and the like need to work internally and across disciplines and areas of concentration to bring about positive changes for girls and young women. Including both consumers (such as girls, parents, and caregivers) and the community (such as businesses and faith-based organizations) is critical to success.

It is imperative that silo approaches become a thing of the past. Representatives across disciplines, including child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, general health, and education, should begin working together to provide a continuum of culturally and gender-competent services. It is rare for an young woman at risk and at promise involved in one system to not have experience in at least one other. For example, Acoca and Dedel found as many as 90% of girls in juvenile detention report experiencing some type of maltreatment. To reduce the incidence of delinquency among this population of victims, child welfare and juvenile justice systems need to coordinate services, treatment planning, and program development.

In addition, partnerships may be formed to accomplish a variety of work that may include advocacy, research, knowledge dissemination, and funding proposal development. Working collaboratively will eliminate work duplication, save resources, and strengthen message and service delivery. The importance of collaboration was a theme that resonated positively throughout symposium discussions.

## **Consumer and Family Focus**

Consumer involvement is necessary when creating individual treatment plans, interventions, and service delivery; however, consumer involvement should not stop there.

Girls, young women, and their families need to be engaged early so they may provide input to initiatives affecting their lives. There are multiple areas where their input is vital, such as identification of needs (services, programs, and policies), development of programs and initiatives (action plans, advocacy agendas, and funding proposals), and implementation (conference presentations, congressional briefings, program start-up, and evaluation). The focus should be on girls, their families, and caregivers, and the strengths and needs they bring to the table. Female-specific issues and perspectives should be included in conferences, agendas, and reports. Acknowledging and respecting diversity, including family composition, culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and spiritual beliefs, should be of paramount consideration.

## Access to Services

For a variety of reasons, girls have not had access to necessary services. The reasons include, but are not limited to lack of funding, inadequate attention, little acknowledgment of the need for gender-responsive and competent services for girls, and lack of knowledge of girls' needs and issues. Often, when services do exist, young women, caregivers, and communities are unaware of their options. Educating communities and stakeholders about available services is vital and needs improvement.

During tight economic times, programs and services are reduced or eliminated. It becomes increasingly important, therefore, to provide programs and services based on solid research and positive outcomes incorporating relationship-focused components, which are critical to effective interventions with girls. Research and information about effective practices should be compiled and disseminated to the field. Once gaps in services are identified, additional funding should be sought to provide a continuum of gender-responsive, evidenced-based services spanning the full continuum of program and service options.

## Evidence-Based Research and Data Collection

Clearly, there is much work to do in research development in behalf of girls and young women. Currently, many female-focused studies exist across a broad range of subject areas including substance abuse, juvenile justice, trauma, and education. A central repository for this material and links between research findings and implications across these areas, however, does not exist. A focused effort needs to be directed to collect and assess current research on these multiple issues of concern. Such a compilation and repository would enhance opportunities for replication of promising or proven effective efforts.

Creating a clearinghouse would pool the existing knowledge, serve as a means to identify areas in need of further investigation, and provide a way to research collaboratively across fields. A girl-centered research agenda needs to be created through a cross-discipline planning committee. Recommendations for program evaluations, longitudinal studies, female development research, and the like need to be explored.

In addition to research improvements, it is necessary to collect more data about girls and young women, particularly those at risk and at promise. Data collection would help clarify various populations' strengths and needs and assist in identifying program and service needs. By successfully researching programs and identifying those with positive outcomes, the field can imple-

ment best practices and replicate effective, model programs. The financial benefits of gender-responsive youth development, prevention, and early intervention programs should be documented and provide further support of these approaches.

## Policy and Advocacy

Although those working with girls or in behalf of girls and young women are aware of the population's unique strengths and needs, the general public is not. An effectively disseminated public campaign designed to foster understanding of the strengths and needs of girls and young women could generate a knowledge base of the critical issues of this population. As knowledge and research are obtained, it should be disseminated through various media outlets, such as direct mail campaigns and public service announcements. Shaping public opinion is an important step to building a bridge between politics and the needs of the population represented. Girls can become an important voice to change public will, and consequently change the priorities of government agencies and policy. When public interest increases, political responses will follow.

Advocacy must be done in a politically neutral way. Advocates and practitioners need to find common ground with elected officials and members of the administration to ensure issues concerning girls and young women are on the agenda. Collaborations between practitioners and community leaders will help the message resonate more clearly with decisionmakers.

Participants of diverse groups in advocacy are vital and facilitate a comprehensive initiative. Partnerships need to cross national and local perspectives, as well as include large, small, and grassroots organizations. This approach provides a unique pathway to local policy and lawmakers that will likely enhance credibility.

Creating "buy-in" at the local level is often easier than at the national level. Local politics provide the driving force for change and action. If a community is mobilized effectively, it can accomplish reform. States and local jurisdictions, however, are at different levels of readiness and may require an assessment of advocacy preparedness and support to develop and implement a plan.

The federal level, where there are frequently targeted funding streams for specific programs, presents its own unique challenges. Federal funding must be increased for gender-responsive programs for girls and young women that recognize the necessity of youth development, prevention, and early intervention programs and services. Current policies need to be examined and

challenged to be certain gender-responsive approaches are in place. As legislation is enacted and reauthorized, legislators should carefully construct and include statutory language that ensures appropriate services and programs are provided to girls.

## Funding

Funding continues to present challenges to everyone working in child- and family-serving systems and organizations. Given current budgetary issues confronting many states and localities, as well as conflicting priorities at the federal level, maintaining current funding levels and securing additional funding for gender-responsive programming will continue to present a significant challenge. Nevertheless, funding plays a crucial role in developing a continuum of services.

Organizations should collaborate when developing plans, programming, and proposals for funding. Business as usual must become a thing of the past, as partnerships with atypical alliances such as private foundations and corporations that market to females are formed.

## Program and Practice

Often, programming follows funding. If a significant amount of funding is currently available for mentoring programs, for example, the development of new mentor programs is usually a result. This approach, however, is not necessarily effective in meeting the needs of children, youth, and families. Instead, designers should develop programs based on the needs of a particular population, and then they should seek funding to support those services.

Research findings should be translated to meaningful practice implications. Practitioners can then use research and data results to identify the unique needs of the population they serve. Although services must be sufficiently universal to use across a variety of female-serving systems, “cookie cutter” programs should be avoided, however, the ability to tailor services and treatment plans to the individual strengths and needs of a girl and her family is important. Once identified, these needs should be addressed rather than ignored.

Community and system collaboration can identify available resources and gaps in service. Programming and services should be available across a continuum—prevention, early intervention, treatment, and reentry—and focus on every stage of a girl’s development. Although it is necessary to provide treatment and services for specific problems such as substance abuse, it also is critical to ground our work and relationships with girls and young women in an approach focused on their strengths and potential.

Finally, it is essential to collect and distribute information to practitioners about best practices regarding gender-responsive services for girls and young women. We must develop best practices in areas where they currently do not exist. Monitoring program outcomes will help determine program effectiveness and secure ongoing funding and sustainability.

# Next Steps

Based on participants' combined feedback and recommendations, the following describes possible next steps. Although CWLA intends to take an active role in prioritizing and initiating a number of these steps, NGI is a collaborative partnership that will engage the multiple systems and disciplines that impact girls and young women. The expectation is that various stakeholders, including girls, young women, and their families, will work together to accomplish the identified goals and steps. This list is neither exhaustive nor a pledge of work to be completed. Rather, it serves as a foundation upon which NGI will evolve. It presents ideas in a general format with the expectation that details of the individual projects will be further developed.

## **National Network**

A national network of stakeholders working with or in behalf of girls and young women should be developed to provide participants an opportunity to interact with others in the field. The network will provide an avenue to inform the field of promising programs, effective practice, and current research. It will also serve as a mechanism to share knowledge, questions, and experience with others from various fields.

## **Advisory Board**

An advisory board consisting of experts from multiple systems, fields, and specialties should be convened to review, prioritize, and develop proposed action steps resulting from the symposium. The advisory board will help guide the direction of NGI and provide input for the identification and prioritization of ongoing issues.

## **National Conference**

The 2005 Crittenton Roundtable is currently being planned and will focus on addressing the needs of girls and young women in the United States. The conference, to be held January 5–7, 2005, in Scottsdale, Arizona, will convene prominent professionals across multiple youth-serving systems to promote gender-competent policies and programs for females. The conference will provide multiple opportunities for practitioners, policymakers, lawmakers, advocates, experts, youth, families, and community members to learn about the unique needs and strengths of girls as well as effective approaches to working with this population.

## **Clearinghouse**

An NGI clearinghouse about girls and young women in the United States would provide a valuable resource to the field. A website format will allow easy access to federal and state resources, and information about best practice and promising programs. Information about the current status of girls and young women in the United States, particularly those at risk and at promise, also could be included.

## **Girls Study Group**

Developing a research-based group of experts from various child- and family-serving fields would provide an opportunity to examine existing research, identify gaps, and define new areas for research focusing on girls and young women. The study group could make recommendations to the field for further research needs and program development.

## **Advocacy Agenda**

An advocacy agenda, both national and local, needs to be developed to raise the level of dialogue and commitment regarding the strengths and needs of girls and young women at risk and at promise. The agenda should include ways to educate the general public and policymakers about the unique developmental strengths and needs of girls and justify the necessity of gender-responsive services for girls. In addition, a review of state and federal legislation will help identify model legislation and provide an opportunity for recommendations for improvement.

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## **Position Statement**

NGI will develop a position statement on policies, research, training, programs, and practices that support the optimal development of girls and young women. The National Advisory Board and National Network will inform the development and relevancy of the statement.

## **Training and Technical Assistance**

It is necessary to increase training and education for communities, practitioners, policymakers, and elected officials. Developing and enhancing training curricula and networks would provide a valuable resource to the field for gender-competent and responsive training regarding girls and young women. Information and technical assistance about the development of a gender-responsive continuum of services and programs would help state and local communities and jurisdictions provide the best possible programming.



# Resources

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## ***4Girls Health***

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200 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 713 E  
Washington, DC 20201  
Phone: 202/401-9546  
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E-mail: [jin@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:jin@osophs.dhhs.gov)  
Website: [www.4Girls.gov](http://www.4Girls.gov)

4Girls.gov, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health website, gives girls reliable, useful information about various health issues they may want to learn about as they become young women and offers valuable tips on handling relationships with family and friends. Only positive, supportive, noncommercial messages are used.

## ***“Achieving Gender Equity in Education: A Scenario Planning Resource for Advocate, Policymakers and Practitioners”***

[http://www.schottfoundation.org/publications/gender\\_equity\\_11\\_03.pdf](http://www.schottfoundation.org/publications/gender_equity_11_03.pdf)

## ***American Association of University Women***

1111 16th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 800/326-AAUW  
E-mail: [info@aauw.org](mailto:info@aauw.org)  
Website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

“Promoting education and equity for women and girls.” For more than 100 years, AAUW has taken strong positions on issues affecting women and families.

### ***American Bar Association***

Juvenile Justice Center  
Girls in the Juvenile Justice System  
740 15th St., NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202/662-1506  
Fax: 202/662-1507  
Website: [www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/girls.html](http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/girls.html)

### ***Caroline and Sigmund Schott Foundation***

678 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 301  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617/876-7700  
Fax: 617/876-7702  
Website: [www.schottfoundation.org](http://www.schottfoundation.org)

### ***Female Intervention Team***

Marian Daniel  
Program Manager—Gender Services  
Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice  
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The Female Intervention Team is a girl-specific probation unit in Baltimore, Maryland. Staff volunteered to be a part of this unit, which focuses on the unique needs of girls on probation.

### ***Girl Power!***

Website: [www.girlpower.gov](http://www.girlpower.gov)

Girl Power! is a national public education campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help encourage and motivate girls ages 9–13 to make the most of their lives. At age 8 or 9, girls typically have very strong attitudes about their health, so Girl Power! seeks to

reinforce and sustain positive values among girls by targeting health messages to their unique needs, interests, and challenges.

### ***Girl Scouts of the USA***

Diane Bayless

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Washington, DC 20008

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E-mail: [dbayless@gscnc.org](mailto:dbayless@gscnc.org)

Website: [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls where girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, Girl Scouts cultivate their full individual potential, developing leadership, values, social conscience, and conviction about their own self-worth.

### ***Girls Incorporated***

120 Wall St.

New York, NY 10005-3902

Phone: 800/374-4475

Website: [www.girlsinc.org](http://www.girlsinc.org)

Girls Incorporated is a national nonprofit youth organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. For over 55 years, Girls Incorporated has provided vital educational programs to millions of American girls, particularly those in high-risk, underserved areas. Today, innovative programs help girls confront subtle societal messages about their value and potential, and prepare them to lead successful, independent, and fulfilling lives.

### ***Girls' Justice Initiative***

Website: [www.girlsjusticeinitiative.org](http://www.girlsjusticeinitiative.org)

The Girls' Justice Initiative is a national collaboration of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting equity and justice for girls involved in the juvenile justice and related systems. Through research, public education, and advocacy, the Girls' Justice Initiative identifies areas for reform, develops policy recommendations, and promotes gender-responsive policies and practices so that fewer girls enter the justice system, and those in the system receive just treatment that is responsive to their needs and that nurtures their strengths.

***GIRLS LINK of Cook County: Cook County Guidelines for Effective Female Responsive Programming for Girls***

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***“How to Implement Oregon’s Guidelines for Effective Gender-Responsive Programming for Girls”***

E-mail: [rspatton@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rspatton@ix.netcom.com)  
 Website: [www.ocjc.state.or.us/JCP/GenderSpecific.pdf](http://www.ocjc.state.or.us/JCP/GenderSpecific.pdf)

*How to Implement Oregon’s Guidelines for Effective Gender-Responsive Programming for Girls* (2002), written by Pam Patton and Marcia Morgan, is a resource for organizations and agencies working with girls ages 10–19. The guidebook serves as a catalyst to encourage professionals to look critically at how services to girls are provided. The guidelines for effective gender-responsive programming for girls are based on promising models, current research, and literature in the field on gender-specific services. All the guidelines are interconnected and build on one another to create an environment that enhances and maximizes program effectiveness for girls.

***In Our Daughters’ Hands, Inc.***

Leslie Acoca  
 President  
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In Our Daughter’s Hands, Inc., and the Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia are collaborating to develop and disseminate gender-specific physical health screening for girls in detention and other parts of the juvenile justice system nationwide. It is hoped that the screening ultimately will lead to improved health care for girls in the juvenile justice system and, after the screening is fully tested, in the child welfare system as well.

***Meda Chesney-Lind***

Website: [www.chesneylind.com](http://www.chesneylind.com)

Meda Chesney-Lind, PhD, is a professor of women's studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Nationally recognized for her work on women and crime, her books include *Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice*; *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime*; and *Female Gangs in America*. Chesney-Lind is an outspoken advocate for girls and women, particularly those who find their way into the criminal justice system.

***National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University***

633 Third Ave., 19th Floor

New York, NY 10017-6706

Phone: 212/841-5200

Website: [www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org)

***National Institute on Drug Abuse***

Website: [www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)

The National Institute on Drug Abuse website provides information to researchers, parents, teachers, and other individuals dealing with drug abuse issues related to prevention and treatment of drug abuse and drug addiction. Many resources are related to adolescents.

***National Women's Law Center***

Jocelyn Samuels

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National Women's Law Center

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Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202/588-5180

E-mail: [jsamuels@nwlc.org](mailto:jsamuels@nwlc.org)

Website: [www.nwlc.org](http://www.nwlc.org)

The website contains extensive information on girls' and women's rights in the areas of education, employment, health and reproductive rights, and family and economic security programs. National Women's Law Center's mission is to protect and advance the progress of women and girls at work, in school, and in every other aspect of life.

### ***Outproud***

Website: [www.outproud.org](http://www.outproud.org)

This site is a clearinghouse providing a vast range of online resources, supportive organizations, brochures, and information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning individuals.

### ***PACE Center for Girls***

One West Adams St., Suite 301

Jacksonville, FL 32202

Phone: 904/359-3814

Website: [www.pacecenter.org](http://www.pacecenter.org)

PACE Center for Girls Inc. focuses on quality, gender-responsive, school-based programs for at risk girls that produce life-changing opportunities. PACE has 19 direct care locations in Florida that have consistently exceeded outcome goals and achieved the highest quality assurance ratings. For more than 15 years, PACE has advocated for the systemic changes needed within juvenile justice to more effectively assist girls. PACE offers training and technical assistance that helps providers produce gender responsive programs or systems designed to assist girls at risk or involved in the juvenile justice system.

### ***Studio2b.org***

Website: [www.studio2b.org](http://www.studio2b.org)

Studio2B.org is a website designed specifically for teen girls.

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