



## Greetings from the Family-Based Justice Center



Happy Women's History Month!

While we celebrate women's accomplishments, it's also important to acknowledge the challenges that women face. One is that women's state-prison incarceration has [grown at twice the pace](#) of men's in recent decades, and incarcerated women are likelier than incarcerated men to be in local jails. Maintaining contact with children and other family members during incarceration is difficult and costly. Jail phone calls are often at least [three times as expensive](#) as calls from prison, and other forms of communication are more restricted—some jails don't allow letters, [limiting mail to postcards](#). Increasingly, both prisons and jails are [doing away with mail altogether](#) and contracting with private companies that scan and then destroy postal mail, delivering [scanned copies](#) to recipients. These barriers to communication are especially troubling given that [80 percent of women in jails are mothers](#), and [most of them are primary caretakers](#) of their children. Incarcerated mothers are [five times more likely](#) than fathers to have their children placed in foster care and are more likely to have their parental rights terminated due to incarceration.

Parental incarceration can have lasting effects on children into adulthood. Child-development experts consider a child's household member becoming incarcerated an "[adverse childhood experience](#)," which is associated with challenges throughout childhood development, negative effects on health, and adverse impacts on employment and educational outcomes. Children are thus particularly susceptible to the multiple [effects of burdens](#) placed on incarcerated women.

Through the FY2023 [Family-Based Alternative Justice Program](#) solicitation, eligible applicants include community-based organizations, local courts, and federally recognized tribal governments (see the solicitation for all eligible applicants) as they implement new, or enhance existing, alternative programs that provide culturally competent, community-based supports to strengthen emotional, physical, and social well-being for children and families. OJJDP will support potential models that divert justice-involved parents/primary caregivers from the prison

system, promote unification of families, and prevent children from entering the foster care or juvenile justice systems. The deadline for submission is **May 15, 2023**.

OJJDP will host a Family-Based Alternative Justice Program solicitation webinar on April 10, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT; please click [here](#) to register.

The Family-Based Justice Center will also host a webinar on April 13, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to noon EDT; please click [here](#) to register.

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### In the News:

The Prison Policy Initiative released their 2023 report on women's incarceration. Read about women's incarceration trends [here](#).

The Marshall Project explores the realities of women who are pregnant, pre-and-post incarceration. Read the full story [here](#).

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### OJJDP Updates:



#### RESOURCES:

Read about OJJDP's [priorities](#).

[Visit](#) OJJDP's webpage on racial/ethnic disparities.

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