

OREGON CENTER FOR INCARCERATED MOTHERS & THEIR CHILDREN

THE WHY

Having a parent in prison impacts a child's mental health, social behavior, and educational outcomes. There are no established safety nets to catch this often invisible, but rapidly growing population of children in our state. More critical still, incarcerated mothers disproportionately face irrevocably losing their parental rights due to timelines established by the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) and mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines for non-violent drug and property crimes. Due to their imprisonment, children are losing their parent forever.

THE APPROACH

Provide targeted supports that increase protective factors within families and create self-efficacy in mothers so that they can be successful parents upon re-entry. The Center promotes individual and system level change to reduce the collateral consequences of parental incarceration on children, families, and the community.

THE GOAL

To interrupt destructive cycles within families impacted by maternal incarceration and reduce the trauma experienced by their children by building protective factors and strengthening natural supports.



THE NEED

\$800k in 2019-21 biennium to fully fund current program services and offerings.

WHY FOCUS ON MOTHERS?

84%

of incarcerated mothers had at least one child living with them before incarceration.



2.5 times

The likelihood of children of incarcerated mothers to also become incarcerated in their lifetime than if their father is incarcerated.



Over half of incarcerated mothers do not see their children during their prison sentence.



IMPACT

- In 2015-17 biennium, the Center has helped at least 10 children maintain placement with family instead of being placed in foster care. At an average rate of \$30,000 per child in foster care, this saved the state \$300,000 in foster care expenses.
- Since its inception in the early 2000's, the Intensive Family Reunification program component of FPP has demonstrated a recidivism rate of just over 3%, compared to the state's average rate of over 30%. FPP is having a positive impact on the state women's prison population and the associated costs of incarceration have been reduced as a result.
- Research conducted in 2014 found that participants of FPP are more likely to be parenting post-incarceration and those children are performing well on academic indicators like school attendance and reading at grade level.

THE SERVICES

The Center's structure allows for expanded programming such that all women in minimum security are now eligible for some level of service.

Tier I - Family Preservation Project

- Serves the whole family: incarcerated mothers, their children and families/caregivers
- Targeted toward families with a child with identified emotional or educational needs and significant barriers to visitation
- Therapeutic visitations; parenting support and education; intensive transition planning; caregiver support; biopsychosocial assessments and interventions
- Children must live within 2 hours of CCCF
- Evenly spaced upon ACRs score spectrum
- In program for up to 24 months
- Addresses credit and rental histories prior to release
- Twice weekly psycho-education and support groups

Tier II - Family Resource Center

- Reducing barriers to contact (ex. DOC and OYA contact)
- Juvenile and Family Law support
- Weekly psycho-educational classes and support groups
- Supports over 100 incarcerated mothers from throughout the state of Oregon each month
- Help to resolve and navigate civil legal needs while in prison
- Ensures healthy mother-child relationships are maintained during incarceration

Tier III - Speaker Series

- Topics include: parenting, legal, re-entry, wellness, education
- Provided pro-bono by community partners
- Serves an average of 67 women per month from 32 counties
- Initial point of entry for women potentially eligible for other Center supports

Other Services:

- Alumni Association
- Between the Lines
- Community Outreach and Education

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

- SB 241 (2017), Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents (BORCHIP), was passed unanimously by the legislature, making Oregon the first state to recognize the rights of this vulnerable population.
- Member of the Governor's Re-Entry Council's implementation team, working to create policy and system-level change around BORCHIP.

STRONG STEWARDSHIP OF PROGRAM BY YWCA

What did they do with the state investment?

- Through YWCA fundraising efforts, 237 children of incarcerated mothers at CCCF have participated in educational and enrichment opportunities.
- Developed meaningful partnerships with local universities, lawyers, other service providers, and private funders. Including:
 - *Lewis and Clark Graduate School of Counseling*
 - *PSU School of Social Work*
 - *Willamette School of Law*
 - *Oregon State Bar*
 - *Oregon Tradeswomen*
 - *The Collins Foundation*
 - *Spirit Mountain Community Foundation*
 - *The Clark Foundation*
 - *Oregon Community Foundation*
 - *Reser Family Foundation*
 - *Faith Communities*
 - *Oregon Commission on Women*
 - *Nike Community Impact Fund*
 - *Youth, Rights & Justice*
 - *Camp Westwind*
 - *Brian Lindstrom Films*
 - *Oregon Humanities*
 - *Herbert A. Templeton Foundation*
 - *PGE Foundation*
 - *Robert and Marcia Randall Charitable Trust*
 - *WomenFirst*
 - *Community Corrections*
 - *Juan Young Trust*
 - *Larson Legacy*
 - *Gary M. Anderson Childrens Foundation*
 - *Over 100 individual volunteers*

FUNDING HISTORY

- HB 5006 (2017) allocated \$400,000 to the YWCA of Greater Portland for the administration of the program for the 2017-2019 biennium.
- The YWCA leveraged the investment by matching it almost dollar for dollar.