

New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents (NYCIP)

a project of Osborne Association

NYCIP raises awareness, promotes policies and practices, and builds partnerships to ensure that children's rights are upheld, relationships supported, and their potential nurtured during their parent's involvement in the criminal legal system.

Launched by Osborne Association in 2006, NYCIP is a partnership of over 50 organizations and government agencies, people with lived experience, and the faith-based community who collaborate to turn the *Children of Incarcerated Parents' Bill of Rights* into a reality.



1. I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest.
2. I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me.
3. I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.
4. I have the right to be well cared for in my parent's absence.
5. I have the right to speak with, see, and touch my parent.
6. I have the right to support as I face my parent's incarceration.
7. I have the right not to be judged, blamed, or labeled because my parent is incarcerated.
8. I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parent.

* Developed by the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership in 2009. www.cicpp.org



Visit SUSU to connect with resources



An estimated 1 in 14 children in the U.S. have experienced parental incarceration.

That's over 5 million children nationwide.

1-IN-9 BLACK CHILDREN	1-IN-28 HISPANIC CHILDREN	1-IN-57 WHITE CHILDREN
EXPERIENCE PARENTAL INCARCERATION ON ANY GIVEN DAY DUE TO RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM.		

CHILDREN NEED TO BE SEEN AND SUPPORTED

- Separation due to incarceration is a complex loss due to ambiguity and stigma.
- Parental incarceration is an Adverse Childhood Experience.
- Children are more likely to experience homelessness, negative health and behavioral outcomes, and academic challenges.
- Tailored support, strong adult relationships, and peer support promote children's well-being.
- Most children want and benefit from a relationship with their incarcerated parent.

OUR APPROACH

Center the experiences and solutions of those with lived experience.

Apply a child-centered, trauma-informed, and racial equity lens.

Collaborate with systems to shift practice. Seek legislative solutions as needed.

Use language that recognizes our shared humanity and reduces stigma.

Say “**incarcerated parents**” or “**people involved in the criminal legal system.**”

PRINCIPLES

- Children should be considered from the moment of a parent’s arrest through reentry.
- Children should have access to their parents through visits, video, calls, mail and packages.
- Children thrive despite challenges when their unique needs are met.
- Children should be free of stigma related to their parents’ incarceration.
- We aim to dismantle policies and practices that perpetuate systemic racism.
- We speak about breaking cycles of intergenerational racism, trauma, and poverty, rather than breaking cycles of intergenerational incarceration, which places blame on families.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2010

First-ever statewide Summit on Children of Incarcerated Parents.

2011

Released [A Call to Action: Safeguarding New York’s Children of Incarcerated Parents](#).

2014

Ashley’s Law requires NYS DOCCS to post visiting rules for all facilities on their website.

NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives highlights Family Responsibility Statements as a best practice.

2015

Launched [See Us, Support Us \(SUSU\)](#) to raise awareness about children of incarcerated parents.

2017

Daily visiting hours at maximum-security NYS prisons are maintained.

2018

Created resources for ACS on how to include incarcerated parents in case planning and support children’s relationships with their parents.

2019

NYC law directs NYPD to adopt a policy to safeguard children of arrested parents and train personnel.

2020

Law directs the NYS Department of Corrections to place parents in facilities closer to their minor children. 3,500 parents were transferred as of 2023.

2023

Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents/Guardians becomes a Law Enforcement Accreditation Standard in NY.

To learn more or to get involved, email the New York Initiative at NYInitiative@osborneny.org and sign up for the **See Us, Support Us Network** newsletter.



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/NYCIP



@SeeUsSupportUs