

THE VALENTINE FOUNDATION OUTLINED 14 FACTORS THAT SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN A GENDER-SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR GIRLS:

1. Ask girls who they are, what their lives are like, and what they need.
2. Allow girls to speak up and actively participate in the services they receive.
3. Assist girls with their family relationships and help them deal with family issues.
4. Assist girls in becoming grounded in some form of spirituality.
5. Allow staff more time and opportunity for building trusting relationships with girls.
6. Allow girls the safety and comfort of same-gender environments.
7. Provide girls with mentors who reflect girls' lives and who model survival, growth, and change.
8. Assist girls with child care, transportation, and safe housing issues.
9. Maintain a diverse staff who reflect the girls served.
10. Weave a multicultural perspective through programming.
11. Teach girls strategies to overcome domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and substance abuse.
12. Understand that relationships are central to girls' lives; help girls maintain important connections without sacrificing themselves to their relationships.
13. Connect girls with at least one capable and nonexploitive adult for an ongoing supportive relationship.
14. Promote academic achievement and economic self-sufficiency for girls.