

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION STEPS CHECKLIST

The following are program suggestions for working with at-risk and system-involved Latina youth. The suggestions should be modified for appropriateness to your program site. For the blank box, add action items that are tailored to your program.

1. Provide services that are respectful and reflective of shared and individual Latino cultural heritage

- Speak to families in preferred language
- Learn about family cultural values and discuss these in interactions
- Incorporate services that are specifically focused on teaching cultural heritage
- Factor in each family's strengths and characteristics, rather than applying the same approach to all
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2. Provide services that value *respeto* and teach respectful practices

- Train staff to uphold key cultural values with Latino families, such as *familismo*, *personalismo*, *respeto*, and *espiritualismo*
- Support staff and families in validating the opinions of Latina youth
- Ask Latina youth how they want to be respected and validated
- Hold individual check-ins with Latina youth and remind them that they are part of the process and in control
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3. Provide services that utilize a relational approach

- Provide services with a relational-cultural lens that upholds Latino values, such as *simpatía y empatía*
- Use relational strategies such as listening, empathic responding, and being authentic
- Focus on the Latina youth's strengths
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4. Provide case management services for the entire family

- Help access essential resources and provide one-on-one counseling, as part of case management services with the entire family
- Support open discussions on family matters between Latina youth and their caregivers
- Support families in times of crisis and develop a referral resource manual to connect caregivers with local resources
- Develop or use referrals for "intensive case management" services when needed, such as wraparound services, linkages, home visits, and parent workshops
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5. Support cross-generational services to instill values

- Hold collaborative discussion groups between caregivers and Latina youth on acculturation and transmitting cultural values (e.g., discussing technology use and practices)
- Be there, be an example, and be intentional (e.g., planning cross-generational projects)
- Establish cross-generational programming (e.g., youth serving elders)
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6. Develop caregiver-specific services

- Use a trauma-informed framework, train staff in this framework
- Provide school-based parental involvement programs that include parent-teacher partnerships
- Create a space for caregivers to come together in the school such as “platicas de padres”
- Provide intensive case management and build supportive rapport with caregivers
- Develop program recruitment strategies and marketing that is relational, clear and avoids when possible the words “juvenile justice”
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7. Build culturally responsive school practices

- Providing opportunities to support familiarity, ask students about their day and welcome students
- Advocate for school staff to use Spanish or translation services, when necessary
- Support access to cultural capital by promoting communication between caregivers and school staff
- Encourage school staff to support Latina youth with curriculum and teaching that incorporates relatable aspects of students’ daily lives
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8. Support effective systems advocacy

- Partner with stakeholders and advocate for equitable resource distribution (resources equal to those in other neighborhoods), high quality teachers, supportive school culture, active parent involvement, and intervention/prevention programs for Latinos
- Advocate for more bilingual social workers and counselors in the schools
- Collaborate with other agencies serving Latina youth
- Partner with stakeholders to inform key government allies of “crisis” in providing funding and training for juvenile justice prevention programs that are gender-specific and trauma-informed
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9. Promote the dismantling of systemic racism and bias

- Develop interventions aimed at reducing implicit racial bias
- Use anti-discriminatory strategies - learn about individuals and see the potential for success in each Latina
- Develop and host consciousness-raising workshops on undoing racism
- Hold collaborative discussion groups between caregivers and Latina youth on how racism is experienced to bridge differing views
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