WPA empowers women to redefine their lives in the face of injustice and incarceration. Together, we forge pathways toward freedom, safety, and independence.
Who We Are

As the nation's first organization for systems-involved women, WPA develops innovative programs, is at the forefront of groundbreaking advocacy efforts, and promotes forward thinking strategies that always ask, “what about women?”

Prison policies and interventions are primarily designed for men, but at WPA, we recognize that men and women take different paths to the criminal legal system and have different needs as they emerge from that system. WPA uniquely partners with women to address the intersectionality of factors that contribute to criminalization, such as race, age, gender, poverty, and access to resources. WPA’s participants are primarily women of color who face racism in their everyday lives, regardless of their carceral status.

WPA’s programs are gender-responsive and designed to address histories of trauma, mental health, socioeconomic barriers, and other complex factors that often lead to systems involvement for women and impede their success after release.
It costs nearly $550,000 to incarcerate one woman for one full year in New York City. With over 320 women in jail each year, that’s more than $176,000,000. For that amount, in one year, WPA can provide over 100 women with safer, more cost-efficient alternatives to incarceration (ATI) that includes comprehensive case management, safe and stable housing, and employment assistance supports.

WPA recognizes the true cost of incarceration and designs alternatives to support the evolving needs of women behind the fence and those returning home to their families and communities. We focus on sustainable solutions that ensure families stay connected, stabilized, and secure.

Source: NYC Comptroller December 2021
Run for WPA

WPA relies on generous partnerships with companies to support our programs. We offer customizable sponsorship packages for $25,000, $10,000, and $5,000.

Details: Join WPA on Sunday, April 24, 2022 and run the NYCRUNS Brooklyn Marathon (26.2 miles) or Half Marathon (13.1 miles).

The marathon starts in North Brooklyn and winds around the waterfront under the Williamsburg, Manhattan, and Brooklyn Bridges while delivering views of Manhattan. From there, the route heads up the grand concourses of Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue before passing through Grand Army Plaza and into historic brownstone Brooklyn before finishing in Prospect Park.

More about the race.
$25,000

➢ Ten entries to participate in the Brooklyn Marathon and Half Marathon on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Includes WPA welcome kit and team shirt with your company logo.

➢ Three Honorary Emerging Philanthropist positions on WPA’s associate board for young professionals. Members harness their collective power to raise funds and awareness to address the issues that systems-involved women face.

➢ Employee roundtable discussion with Caryn York, WPA’s new Executive Director. Areas of expertise include advocacy and organizing, economic and racial justice, and gender-specific justice.

$10,000

➢ Three entries to participate in the Brooklyn Marathon and Half Marathon on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Includes WPA welcome kit and team shirt with your company logo.

➢ Two Honorary Emerging Philanthropist positions on WPA’s associate board for young professionals. Members harness their collective power to raise funds and awareness to address the issues that systems-involved women face.

➢ Employee roundtable discussion with WPA staff on gender-specific justice.

$5,000

➢ One entry to participate in the Brooklyn Marathon and Half Marathon on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Includes WPA welcome kit and team shirt.

➢ One Honorary Emerging Philanthropist position on WPA’s associate board for young professionals. Members harness their collective power to raise funds and awareness to address the issues that systems-involved women face.
Brand Partners

Join WPA’s other high impact brand partners such as Catbird, Edie Parker, Hamilton the musical, Hill House Home, and TD Bank. Together, we can create better solutions for women and their families, while reducing and reimagining our society’s reliance on incarceration.

Your partnership will:

- Invest in women and their families
- Educate on timely and complex social issues
- Engage employees in philanthropy and board service

As a go-to expert, WPA is regularly featured in the media on platforms such as Vogue, CNN, and Marie Claire. Collectively, our stories have reached over 135 million readers across the United States. More coverage on WPA’s website.
“Incarceration drains valuable resources from our communities. That's why supporting community-based alternatives to incarceration is vitally important, and why I’ll be running the BK Half for WPA on April 24—Join me!”

Caryn York
Executive Director, WPA

To learn more, contact Erika Freund, Senior Managing Director of Development & External Affairs
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