



The Technical Assistance and Training Program for Mentoring System Involved Youth welcomes you to our monthly E-Newsletter.

We hope the information will be useful to you and we encourage you to share this newsletter with other staff and agencies who are also mentoring system involved youth.

If you find a particular Web site, research article, or helpful fact, we encourage you to send them to us and we will disseminate to the listserv.

Quote of the Month:

*Treat people as if they are what they ought to be, and you help them to become what they are capable of being. -Goethe*



### **Strategies for Gaining Consent from Mentors and Parents and Guardians**

Gaining consent to participate in evaluation activities is not always as easy as we would hope. Where asked by evaluations they do not know, some people are reluctant to give approval for those evaluators to collect their information. At the same time, it is a given that publicly funded programs require a strong evaluation to demonstrate the effectiveness of the program. So, while we know that evaluation is an important component of quality mentoring programs, we may need to share this information with those involved in our mentoring programs. Below, we provide some strategies for communicating the importance of evaluation activities and gaining consent from youth and adults to participate in those activities.

Participating mentors and youth will receive an immediate benefit through their mentoring relationship. The required evaluation activities will help others benefit by sharing the knowledge gained from those currently participating in our program. It only takes a **few** minutes of your effort to multiply the effect of their contribution. When calling potential participants, use your **most up-beat voice**. "We are especially excited to offer you the opportunity to participate in the evaluation of our mentoring program."

1. "The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funded four mentoring programs in four locations across the United States, each with slightly different approaches to mentoring system involved youth. The funding requires that the programs be evaluated. The required evaluation activities will help us to identify the ways different youth are helped and the best ways to provide that help."
2. "Our mentoring program is focused on helping specific groups of youth. Some youth may have had some bad breaks and were removed from their families. Others may be youth involved in the juvenile justice system. It is important that we find out which mentoring methods and characteristics provide the best outcomes."

3. "There are many 'mentoring models' that work better for different groups of youth or mentors than others. We received this grant to demonstrate that our model of mentoring is an effective way to improve how well youth perform in school, limit their movement within the foster care system, and/or reduce the frequency of delinquent behavior."
4. "All individuals' answers are confidential. They will only be used to help the evaluators understand if our mentoring approach is effective."

If you have other suggestions for motivating evaluation participation. Email to [Kirk@pire.org](mailto:Kirk@pire.org).



### **Childhood Psychiatric Disorders and Young Adult Crime: A Prospective, Population-Based Study**

This recent article in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* surveyed children at intake aged 9, 11, and 13 and screened them annually for psychiatric disorders. It was found that childhood psychiatric profiles predicted all levels of criminality, and that children with specific patterns of psychopathology with and without conduct disorder were at risk of later criminality. Thus, effective identification and treatment of children with such patterns may reduce later crime. To download the full report, please visit <http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/164/11/1668>.

### **Challenges in Adolescent Health Care – Workshop Report**

This report summarizes the presentations and discussions that took place at two public workshops to study adolescent health care services in the United States and highlight critical health care needs, promising service models, and components of care that may strengthen and improve adolescents' health care. Topics include an overview of adolescent health issues, needs of the most vulnerable adolescents, what makes the system work, and issues to address. The report can be accessed online at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12031#orgs](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12031#orgs). It can also be downloaded in PDF format at [http://orsted.nap.edu/cart/deliver.cgi?record\\_id=12031](http://orsted.nap.edu/cart/deliver.cgi?record_id=12031).

### **Odyssey Project: A Descriptive and Prospective Study of Children and Youth in Residential Group Care and Therapeutic Foster Care**

The Odyssey Project was a multiple-site study of children and youth in residential group care and therapeutic foster care. The study was conducted by the Child Welfare League of America in cooperation with and with support of 22 of its members, the Odyssey Project Consortium. A fundamental aim of the Odyssey Project was to describe more accurately the children in residential group care and therapeutic foster care programs and to determine what differences exist in services and outcomes for youth placed in each setting. To view the report, please visit <http://www.cwla.org/programs/research/odysseyfinalreport.pdf>.



**Date:** January 17–18, 2008

**Location:** Baltimore, Maryland

**Title:** 2008 Maryland Mentoring Conference: Inspiring Youth-Unlocking Potential

**Sponsor:** Maryland Mentoring Partnership

**Description:** The 2008 Maryland Mentoring Conference will bring together mentoring experts, advocates, program providers, educators, mentors, and youth to exchange information on best practices, resources, training, and innovative activities. This conference hopes to promote an increased awareness of mentoring as a positive youth development strategy, learn about the

diversity and effectiveness of mentoring models, exchange ideas and participate in a stimulating forum, and inspire participant to action that will lead to quality programs and enduring mentoring relationships.  
**Web site:** [http://www.marylandmentors.org/08\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.marylandmentors.org/08_Conference.pdf)

**Date:** January 30, 2008

**Location:** Richmond, Virginia

**Title:** 2008 Statewide Mentoring Conference: Be a Part of the Solution

**Sponsor:** Virginia Mentoring Partnership

**Description:** Workshops will cover a range of topics, such as volunteer recruitment, program evaluation, orientation to mentoring, and will be designed to meet the needs of both veteran mentoring professionals and those who are new to the field. Check back soon for more information on the workshops and conference schedule.

**Web site:** [http://www.mentoring.org/virginia/about\\_us/2008\\_mentoring\\_conference.php](http://www.mentoring.org/virginia/about_us/2008_mentoring_conference.php)

**Date:** January 31–February 1, 2008

**Location:** San Francisco, California

**Title:** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mentoring Conference: Mentoring Youth: Defining the Difference it Makes.

**Sponsor:** Friends for Youth Mentoring Institute

**Description:** Researchers are beginning to turn their focus to mentoring relationships, rather than just on the positive effects funders want to see. Recent studies have examined the details of why mentoring works, when it does not, and how it works best. This conference features the latest on what practitioners need to know about current research and tested best practices to strengthen their mentoring programs.

**Web site:** <http://www.homestead.com/prosites-ffy/MI-Conference.html>



These are just a few grant opportunities that may be applicable to you or partner organizations.

**Title:** 2008 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Awards

**Funder:** James Irvine Foundation

**Description:** The awards recognize individual leaders and leadership groups who are advancing innovative and effective solutions to some of the challenging issues facing California, and who are making a demonstrable difference to California's future. Nominees may be working within any sector — nonprofit, public, or private—and within any field, such as education, health, housing, economic development, or the environment.

**Award:** \$125,000

**Eligibility:** California residents. Nominated leaders may be an individual or a leadership group, working in any sector (nonprofit, public, or private), and working within any field (such as education, health, housing, economic development, or the environment).

**Deadline:** January 18, 2008

**For more information:** <http://irvine.org/leadershipAwards>

**Title:** Grassroots Grants

**Funder:** Meyer Memorial Trust

**Description:** The Grassroots Grants program is designed to level the playing field for smaller organizations (often without development departments) so they can compete for grants from the Trust. The program allows the Trust to assist a significant number of worthy organizations through support of smaller projects that are of special importance to applicants and their communities.

**Award:** \$1000-\$25,000

**Deadline:** Rolling

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for this grant, the organizations must be tax-exempt as determined by the Internal Revenue Service, request support for work in Oregon and/or in Clark County, Washington,

provide equal opportunity in leadership, staffing, and service regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, political affiliation, or religious belief, and be current on all reports owed to the Trust on previous grants.

**For more information:** [http://www.mmt.org/grants\\_programs/sg](http://www.mmt.org/grants_programs/sg)

**Title:** Service Grants Program

**Funder:** Taproot Foundation

**Description:** The Taproot Foundation makes grants of high-quality, professional consulting services, called Service Grants. Through Service Grants, the Taproot Foundation is working to provide high-potential nonprofit organizations with the tools and services necessary to maximize the effect of their critical work in the community. Each Service Grant is executed by a team of professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to help the community. They guarantee their professionals will deliver high-quality services, customized to meet specific objectives.

**Award:** In-Kind Service

**Eligibility:** A nonprofit charitable organization classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity by the Internal Revenue Service or that operates under the fiscal sponsorship of a 501(c)(3). The Foundation does not support nonprofits with other than 501(c)(3) status, for-profit corporations, or individuals. Organizations must be headquartered and provide direct benefits primarily or entirely to residents of our service areas: New York City, San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, Boston, or Seattle.

**Deadline:** Rolling

**For more information:** <http://www.taprootfoundation.org/npo>

**Title:** Global Grants for Young Men at Risk

**Funder:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Ashoka's Changemakers

**Description:** The Young Men at Risk: Transforming the Power of a Generation project is intended to identify innovative approaches to helping young men fulfill their potential and become healthy, successful adults, in part by reducing health disparities and improving the health of disadvantaged populations. Twelve finalists and three winners will be selected; the winners will receive \$5,000 awards. Select groups in the United States also will be invited to submit applications for up to \$1 million in grants to support the most promising innovations.

**Award:** \$5,000

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to all organizations (charitable organizations, private companies, or public entities) in all countries. The organizations must reflect the theme of the competition: Young Men at Risk..

**Deadline:** January 23, 2008

**For more information:** <http://www.changemakers.net/en-us/competition/men>