



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 that 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:

We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.

~ Nelson Mandela

In This Issue:

- Announcements from the Technical Assistance Team
- Useful Resources
- Conferences and Events
- Grant Opportunities



Thank you all for participating in our recent Sustainability Webinar. This was a great discussion and we identified you currently are, or can begin to, strategically approach sustaining your MSIY programs. As we discussed in the call, our sustainability efforts ultimately focus us on achieving and maintaining positive outcomes for the youth engaged in your MSIY programs.

As you delve deeper into sustainability planning, there are a few key items we'd like to encourage you to think about. Your attention to, and ability to share how you address these issues will assist program staff, mentors, partners and others in supporting effective program practices, and therefore, with achieving and sustaining project outcomes.

Agenda for Sustainability

Successfully sustaining your programs involves addressing the key issues that affect the ability of your programs to deliver on program outcomes. These include:

- change oriented leadership
- developing partnerships and collaborations
- building program capacity
- developing effective communications & marketing
- program evaluation
- developing financial resources to support program activities

We encourage you to think about your priorities in addressing each of these areas of sustainability. We'll have an opportunity to speak further during our monthly calls.

Research and Sustainability

Effective sustainability efforts build on best practices. According to the research, there are a number of key practices that help achieve the best youth outcomes in mentoring programs.

These best practices include:

- Train staff in issues related to mentoring, the foster care and/or juvenile justice system, and cultural competence (as necessary).
- Develop partnerships and/or working relationships with relevant stakeholders.
- Establish a marketing campaign to recruit mentors and/or youth.
- Create a program evaluation plan.
- Design and implement eligibility screening for mentors.
- Provide an orientation to the program for potential mentors and youth.
- Develop and implement a training curriculum for mentors.
- Develop and implement a training curriculum for youth.
- Design a system for creating matches and introducing mentors and youth to each other.
- Communicate regularly with families/guardians and case managers, inviting them to be a part of the process.
- Retain matches through ongoing communication with and support of youth and mentors.
- Identify core activities to sustain and carry out targeted strategies to ensure their continuation.

As evidenced in our many conversations, you have already incorporated many of these mentoring best practices and sustainability practices into your programs. We encourage you to reflect on how your project matures in conducting these practices over the long term.



Strengthening Mentoring Opportunities for At-Risk Youth

This policy brief explores the research on youth mentoring and the issues the field must address moving forward. The goal is to start a dialogue among mentoring researchers and practitioners on what the mentoring movement needs in order to keep growing as a key youth development strategy. The authors have provided some recommendations, but the real intent is to spark conversation among people in the field, with the hope that these conversations and the sharing of ideas will, ultimately, result in policy reforms and improvements in programs that strengthen youth mentoring around the country. The document can be downloaded in PDF format here: http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring/pdf/mentoring_policy_brief.pdf.

Impact Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Education's Student Mentoring Program

The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance within the Institute of Education Sciences has released the report *Impact Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Education's Student Mentoring Program*. This study provides rigorous information on the impact of the Student Mentoring Program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The evaluation is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in which students in the fourth through eighth grades were randomly assigned to either receive or not receive school-based mentoring from one of the U.S. Department of Education's mentoring grantees. Students were compared on 17 measures across four domains: school engagement, academic achievement, delinquent

behavior, and prosocial behavior. The evaluation found that for the full sample of students, the program did not lead to statistically significant impacts on any of the measures; however, it estimated impacts across five subgroups for each of the outcome measures, four of which were found to be statistically significant (i.e., increased self-reported scholastic efficacy and school bonding for girls, increased self-reported future orientation for boys, decreased truancy for students under age 12, and decreased self-reported prosocial behavior for boys). To read more about the results, please visit: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20094047/>.

Youth PROMISE Act Introduced in U.S. House and Senate

On February 13, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced the *Youth Prison Reduction Through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act*, known as the Youth PROMISE Act, in both the House and Senate (H.R.1064 and S.435). The bill was reintroduced in the House by Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Mike Castle (R-DE) with 69 cosponsors. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senators Robert Casey (D-PA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME). The bills are identical and will fund comprehensive, community-centered, and evidence-based prevention and intervention programs to combat gangs and youth violence. On February 20, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Act. To read the bill, go to: http://nijj.org/media/resources/public/resource_1040.pdf.

Report Discusses Violence Among African-American Youth

The Code of the Street and African-American Adolescent Violence presents research exploring Yale University Professor Elijah Anderson's "code of the street" theory, which states that economic disadvantage, separation from mainstream society, and racial discrimination encountered by some African-American adolescents may lead to antisocial attitudes and to violent behavior. In this report, researchers discuss developmental relationships between neighborhood and family characteristics, reported experiences with racial discrimination, expressed street code values, and self-reported violent behavior in young people. Visit <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223509.pdf> for more information.



Date: April 2, 2009, 2-3:30pm EST

Title: Quality Youth Development Practice Webinar

Sponsor: National Learning Priorities

Description: The National Learning Priorities is offering a Webinar focused on the 4-H PRKC core competency of Organizational Systems/Scholarship. The keynote speaker is Dr. Joyce A. Walker, Professor and Assistant Center Director of the Youth Work Institute at the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development. Joyce will share her perspective on the Theory of Developmental Intentionality and its application for quality Youth Development practice. Dr. Lynne Borden, Extension Specialist, Professor at University of Arizona, will serve as host for a noted panel of Youth Development Practitioners and Scholars including Nicole Yohalem, Program Director at the Forum for Youth Investment; Stacey Daraio, Deputy Director at the Community Networks for Youth Development in San Francisco; and Dr. Kathrin Walker, Research Associate at the Center for Youth Development University of Minnesota Extension.

Web site: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/youthdevelopment/>

Date: May 6–8, 2009

Location: Daytona Beach, Florida

Title: The 16th Annual National Foster Care Conference, Footsteps to the Future

Sponsor: Daniel Memorial Institute

Description: Daniel Memorial Institute's National Foster Care Conference will offer numerous seminars, general sessions, workshops, and exhibits, plus networking opportunities for those seriously interested in improving their program and/or parenting skills. This year's Foster Care Conference will address a wide variety of problems facing foster care specialists, foster parents and various social service professionals who desire to enhance their skills in order to create the best foster home environment. Each general session and workshop will present innovative ideas on how those working with youth can deal with these ever-changing situations.

Web site: <http://www.danielkids.org/Sites/web/content.cfm?id=275>

Date: May 28–29, 2009

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Title: Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference: Keeping Attention Focused on Volunteer-Based Tutoring and Mentoring Programs

Sponsor: Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC)

Description: The conference serves three purposes: to connect leaders and supporters of volunteer-based tutoring, mentoring, and education-to-career programs with each other; to build visibility so that more volunteers and donors will choose to support tutor/mentor programs in the Chicago region; and to help T/MC maintain its Chicago Area Programs List of area tutor/mentor programs.

Web site: <http://tutormentorconference.org>

Date: June 15–17, 2009

Location: Arlington, Virginia

Title: The NIJ Conference 2009

Sponsor: National Institute of Justice

Description: For more than a decade, this conference has brought together criminal justice scholars, policymakers, and practitioners at the local, state, and federal levels to share the most recent findings from research and technology. It puts a heavy emphasis on the benefits to researchers and practitioners who work together to create effective evidence-based policies and practices.

Web site: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm



These grant opportunities may be applicable to you or partner organizations.

Title: OJJDP FY 09 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative

Funder: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Description: The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding under the OJJDP FY 09 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative. In an effort to reduce juvenile delinquency, violence, gang participation, school failure, and dropout rates, OJJDP is issuing this solicitation to support local organizations that develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs leading to measurable, positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

Award: Up to \$500,000 for four years

Eligibility: OJJDP invites applications from public agencies and private organizations. Joint applications from two or more eligible applicants are welcome; however, one applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as co-applicants.

Deadline: 8:00 p.m. EST on April 20, 2009

For more information:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&opId=45872>

Title: iMentor e-mentoring tools grant

Funder: iMentor

Description: Through OJJDP, iMentor has received funding to provide technical support to youth mentoring organizations through iMentor Interactive. The purpose of the grant is to help improve graduation rates through mentoring by providing technical assistance to small and medium-sized nonprofit organizations serving high school students.

Award: Grant recipients will receive up to \$6,000 in funding for iMi user fees (approximately 200 mentor/mentee users) for one (1) year, with the potential for grants to be renewed for up to three (3) years.

Eligibility: Organizations must have an annual operating budget of less than \$2,000,000, must serve high school-aged students, and programming must include academic and/or career support (at least as a component).

Deadline: April 30, 2009

For more information: http://www.imentor.org/imentor_interactive, or contact Lauren Andrews (lauren@imentor.org)

Title: Entertainment Software Group Youth Grants

Funder: Entertainment Software Association (ESA) Foundation

Description: The ESA Foundation, the trade association for the computer and video game industry, has announced the availability of grant funding for programs that advance the quality of life, health, and welfare of youth. Grants will support programs across the United States that benefit youth age seven to 18. Programs should provide services in the areas of skills and personal development, general health and welfare, risk behavior prevention, education, or multimedia arts/technology.

Award: Unspecified

Eligibility: Tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations with 501 (c) 3 status

Deadline: April 15, 2009

For more information: www.theesa.com/foundation or contact Jenny Lai at esafinfo@theesa.com

Title: Community Development

Funder: Kroger Company Foundation

Description: Grants of each will support breast-cancer programs, education, grass-roots organizations, hunger relief, and other community programs. Additional information is available on the foundation's Web site.

Award: up to \$50,000

Eligibility: Organizations classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Deadline: Rolling

For more information:

http://www.thekrogerco.com/corpnews/corpnewsinfo_charitablegiving_foundation.htm, or

contact Janet Ausdenmoore, KCF 1014 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202; (513) 762-4999, ext. 3; fax (513) 762-1295.