



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:

To work in the world lovingly means that we are defining what we will be for,
rather than reacting to what we are against.
~ Christina Baldwin

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**Mentoring System
Involved Youth Highlights**

Supporting Mentoring Relationships through the Summer

Ah summer! The long, hot days. The cookouts and time with friends. And the free time. As mentors and mentees transition into their summer activities, an important aspect will be maintaining their relationships through any travel and vacations. With the relaxed schedules and fun activities, it may be easy for mentor pairs to miss interacting regularly with one another. Mentoring research reminds us that consistent and frequent contacts are critical to cultivating and maintaining strong relationships. And for mentor pairs developing a greater sense of efficacy and match quality.ⁱ

Ways to Promote Regular Summer Mentoring Interactions

For Mentoring Program

- Have mentors develop a schedule for summer match meetings that includes vacations and any required activities for the youth (e.g., summer school, work, etc.). As the summer progresses, get feedback from mentors on how a schedule helps ensure the match meets regularly.
- Provide matches with specific expectations as to how often they should meet face-to-face (e.g., meet at least two/three times each month). Provide guidance (i.e., policies and expectations) for matches in using alternate ways to communicate (e.g., Email, telephone). Be sure that teams select a method that reflects youth access to resources (e.g., computers, long-distance telephone calls, letters, etc.).
- Provide additional group activities for matches, such as trips to amusement parks, recreation facilities (e.g., gym, bowling alley), or cultural activities (e.g., museums, arts and craft programs, etc.).
- If a youth or mentor will be away for an extended period, be sure pairs develop and review the summer schedule with the mentor, youth, and family. Encourage mentors to increase their contact when face-to-face meetings don't happen weekly.

Schedule an end of summer celebration shortly before school begins. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the beginning of a new school year and recognize the summer activities or accomplishments. It also helps signal to mentor matches a return to their regular meeting schedule.

For Mentors

Summer is an excellent time to be creative with meeting locations and activities. If you find yourselves repeating activities for convenience or lack of ideas from mentees, encourage mentees to take ownership of selecting an activity for the meetings.

- Be persistent and diligent in meeting with your mentee in person. Youth will have many distractions (hanging with friends, few demands on their time). Try to schedule meetings when youth will be more available, such as early in the day or immediately after their program or workday ends.
- Encourage your mentee to identify several special activities for the two of you to do during meetings, along with planning a few spontaneous activities. Check your local newspaper or city youth departments for youth-oriented activities, many of which are open to any youth either free or at low cost. Activities can emphasize building on mentee skills and interests, or allow teams to explore their city. Brainstorm a list of activities together and select from the list as needed.
- Encourage your mentee to identify a personal goal or new activity he or she would like to do and develop a plan for how you can work toward this goal. Keep a record (written journal, photographs or video, or Web site) of his or her progress and accomplishments. Celebrate milestones reached during one of your meetings. As feasible, share information on the mentee's progress with family members and others (including case managers).

Do you have additional ideas? Please share your best practices and suggestions with the group via the MSY listserv by sending an email to msiy@mailman.edc.org.

¹ Herrera, C., Grossman, J. B., Kauh, T. J., Feldman, A. F., McMaken, J., and Jucovy, L. Z. (2007). *Making a Difference in Schools: The Big Brothers Big Sisters School-based Mentoring Impact Study*. Philadelphia, PA: Public/Private Ventures.



Useful Resources

Financing Housing Supports for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

To successfully transition out of the foster care system, youth need safe, stable, and affordable housing. Unfortunately, youth exiting foster care are often forced to face harsh economic realities—a high rate of unemployment, a scarce number of jobs, and a narrow pool of housing options—with limited support networks. This brief explores the range of partners and resources that program and community leaders can engage to support housing services for youth aging out of the foster care system. It presents five financing strategies, highlighting key funding sources, stakeholders, and considerations for implementation. This publication is available online at <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/FinancingHousingSupport.pdf>.

Financing Policies and Practices that Support Permanency for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Child welfare leaders and program developers must contend with significant financing challenges in promoting permanency for older youth in care, including financial disincentives and restrictions on federal funding streams. This brief aims to help these stakeholders finance policies and practices that support permanency for older youth in foster care. It presents approaches for supporting permanency for older youth in care and highlights six key financing strategies along with promising examples and considerations that state and local child welfare leaders can utilize to develop policies and practices that support permanency. This publication is available online at <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/FinancingPoliciesAndPractices.pdf>.

Caring for Our Youth: Resources to Help Prevent Teen Drug Abuse

Today's teens face a host of daily challenges. No one wants to think that a child they care about could be exposed to illicit drugs or alcohol, yet many of today's teens are starting to use drugs at a younger age. As prom, graduation and summer break quickly approach, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Health Information Network has developed a Web page with substance abuse prevention resources to help teens, parents, and service providers prevent and address teen drug and alcohol abuse. The Caring for Our Youth Web page includes links to information available for download or hard-copy mail order. These resources offer research and facts, signs and symptoms, tips for talking to teens, and several resources also address cultural relevance for Latinos and African Americans. These resources can be accessed at <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/campaigns/caringyouth/cfoy.aspx>.

New Web Site Offers Strategies and Tools for Communities to Help Youth

Twelve federal agencies have united to offer a new Web site, www.findyouthinfo.gov, designed to guide schools and community agencies in forming partnerships to assist youth. The site contains strategies and tools to build and sustain effective partnerships, create interactive tools to forge stronger partnerships, and develop youth programs that address risk and protective factors. It also features an interactive community resource inventory tool that conducts a community assessment; maps your communities' federal resources, census data, and where the people you would most likely serve in your community are located; and allows you to gather, store, and map those resources.

Report Says Youths in Juvenile Detention Facilities Not Getting Fair Shot at an Education

This report from the Dignity in Schools Campaign examines how schools' disciplinary procedures are creating a pipeline to prison and looks at the lack of a quality education for youths in juvenile detention, immigration detention, and prison. The report also looks at the educational characteristics of incarcerated youth and the educational barriers they face when transitioning from detention back to the community. A case study on a juvenile detention facility being sued for its treatment of juveniles is also featured. Access the report at http://www.aclu.org/images/asset_upload_file164_38663.pdf.

Conferences and Events

Date: July 15, 2009, 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Title: Webinar on Extending Foster Care to Age 21: Benefits, Costs, and Opportunities for States

Sponsor: National Governors Association for Best Practices and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Description: Research conducted by Chapin Hall and others shows that foster youth who are allowed to stay in care beyond age 18, when most states end guardianship, are more likely to go to college and derive other benefits. This webinar will feature panelists who will analyze short- and long-term financial implications of extending care to age 21 and will share research findings about what we know and don't know about programming designed to help foster youth make the transition to adulthood. They will also discuss specific state initiatives and innovative ways in which states are sharing and building upon what they learn about supporting the youth in their care, within this rapidly changing landscape.

Web site: <http://www.chapinhall.org/events/governing/extending-foster-care-age-21-benefits-costs-and-opportunities-states>

Date: July 27, 2009

Location: Portland, Oregon

Title: School Based Mentoring: Understanding the Evidence Seminar

Sponsor: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and PSU Summer Institute on Youth Mentoring

Description: This free one-day seminar will gather several premier researchers in the youth mentoring field for a dialog with practitioners: Understanding the Evidence: Examining the Impact Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Education's Student Mentoring Program. Dr. Lawrence Bernstein will present the methodology and findings from this evaluation, with an emphasis on key lessons learned about the implementation and evaluation of school-based mentoring programs; Dr. Carla Herrera will describe the Big Brothers Big Sisters School-Based Mentoring Impact Study; Dr. Michael Karcher will describe the Study of Mentoring in the Learning Environment; and a panel of experts will comment on the studies and will lead participants through breakout discussions on the implications of these findings for future mentoring programming and policy. Mentoring program staff and school personnel are encouraged to attend this exploration of new research and innovative program practices in the world of school-based mentoring.

Web site: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/142142/lpr8n>

Date: September 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m. (EST)

Title: Webinar on Community Mobilizing and Organizing: Motivating Your Community to Get Involved

Sponsor: Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

Description: The second part of a two-part Webinar series will focus on community mobilizing and organizing for coalitions. The webinar will help participants understand the process of coalition building within the community mobilizing and organizing framework. This topic benefits coalitions in the process of planning and implementation and also fits into the capacity-building element of SAMSHA's Strategic Prevention Framework.

Web site: http://www.coalitioninstitute.org/Coalition_Resources/WebinarSeriesHome.asp



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

Title: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships 2009–2010

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Description: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships (LFP) program forges relationships between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and local grant makers to fund promising, original projects that can significantly improve the health of vulnerable people in their communities.

Eligibility: Projects must be new, innovative, collaborative, and community-based. Significant program expansions—into new regions or to new populations—may also be considered. Please note that these funds may not be used to maintain existing projects. Projects must be nominated by a local grant maker committed to participating as one of the funding partners. Local funding partners must be willing to work with grantees to obtain sufficient dollar-for-dollar matching funds throughout the grant period. These funders may include independent and private foundations, family and community foundations, and corporate and other philanthropies. Matching funds must represent new funding specifically designated to support the proposed project. In-kind services may not be used to match RWJF funds.

Deadline: July 7, 2009 (Stage 1 brief proposal); November 10, 2009 (Stage 2 invited proposal)

For more information: http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/cfp_LFP2010.pdf

Title: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009—Strengthening Communities Fund—Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

Funder: Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families

Description: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), announces that applications will be accepted for new cooperative agreements to experienced organizations to provide nonprofit organizations serving as project partners, with capacity-building training, technical assistance, and competitive financial assistance. The focus of this program is to build the capacity of funded projects' nonprofit partners in order to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs, and gain greater access to state and federal benefits and tax credits. Lead organizations will assist nonprofit organizations working in distressed communities with capacity-building activities that support economic recovery. Specifically, lead organizations will assist grassroots organizations

working in distressed communities with capacity-building activities in five critical areas: (1) organizational development, (2) program development, (3) collaboration and community engagement, (4) leadership development, and (5) evaluation of effectiveness. Capacity-building activities are designed to increase an organization's sustainability and effectiveness, enhance its ability to provide social services, and create collaborations to better serve those in need.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include state governments, county governments, city or township governments, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, Indian/Native American tribal governments (federally recognized), Indian/Native American tribal governments (other than federally recognized tribal governments), nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status (other than institutions of higher education), nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status (other than institutions of higher education), private institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations (other than small businesses), small businesses, and special district governments.

Deadline: July 7, 2009

For more information: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2009-ACF-OCS-SI-0091.html>

Title: William T. Grant Scholars Program

Funder: William T. Grant Foundation

Description: The William T. Grant Scholars Program supports promising early-career researchers from diverse disciplines who have demonstrated success in conducting high-quality research and are seeking to further develop and broaden their expertise. The grant is to address issues that have compelling relevance for theory, policies, or practices, affecting the settings of youth aged 8 to 25 in the United States or a vulnerable subpopulation of those youth. Candidates are nominated by a supporting institution and must submit five-year research plans that demonstrate creativity, intellectual rigor, and a commitment to continued professional development. Every year, four to six William T. Grant Scholars are selected and each receives \$350,000 distributed over a five-year period.

Eligibility: Be employed at a nonprofit institution, either in the United States or abroad. In most instances, these organizations will have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, set up to receive and process grant awards. However, in rare cases, colleges or universities (such as Arizona State University) will not have 501(c)(3) tax exemption. If your institution fits into this category, we can instead accept an IRS determination letter that states that it is classified as a school under sections 509a1 and 170b1Aii of the IRS Code; and have received their terminal degree within seven years of submitting their application. In many scholarly disciplines this translates to a maximum of seven years following the award of the doctoral degree and includes time spent as a postdoctoral fellow. In medicine, the seven-year maximum is dated from the completion of the first residency. The award may not be used as a postdoctoral fellowship.

Deadline: July 8, 2009

For more information:

[http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding_opportunities/fellowships/william t grant scholars/william t grant scholars](http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding_opportunities/fellowships/william_t_grant_scholars/william_t_grant_scholars)

Title: Peaceful Pathways: Reducing Exposure to Violence

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships

Description: Through this special solicitation from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation partners with diversity-focused funders and other local grant makers to fund projects to reduce violence in specific communities, such as those defined by race, ethnicity, tribe, gender, sexual identity, or rural/frontier location.

Award: \$50,000–\$200,000

Eligibility: Projects must be new, community-based, and culturally appropriate, reflecting how language skills, significant cultural differences, education, income, and discrimination affect

health outcomes. Community members should be engaged in planning and leadership. Applicants must be nominated by a diversity-focused funder that is principally concerned with the population to be served. The additional funding partners may come from independent and private foundations, family and community foundations, and corporate and other philanthropies. All the local funding partners must be willing to work with grantees to obtain sufficient dollar-for-dollar matching funds throughout the grant period.

Deadline: September 1, 2009; January 5, 2010.

For more information: <http://www.rwif.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20781>

Title: The Kroger Co. Foundation Grants

Funder: The Kroger Co. Foundation

Description: Grants of up to \$50,000 each will support breast-cancer programs, elementary and secondary education, grassroots organizations, and hunger relief. Support is limited to organizations working in places where the company has operations.

Eligibility: Local United Way campaigns, local educational organizations, primarily K–12 schools, local hunger relief organizations, local breast cancer and women’s health initiatives, local organizations that support and promote the advancement of women and minorities, local grassroots community organizations, capital campaigns; start-up grants; and funding for special projects.

Deadline: Proposals may be submitted at any time through the operating divisions of the company.

For more information:

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

Title: Pacific Northwest Community Grants

Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Description: The initiative must correlate to pressing needs caused by the economic downturn; benefit vulnerable children, youth, and families from diverse communities throughout Washington state and the greater Portland area; be ready for implementation now; the stage of readiness for implementation will facilitate positive short-term impact (6 to 12 months) but also lead to more enduring longer-term results; leverage partnerships with public or other private funders.

Eligibility: Organizations that provide human services to economically disadvantaged communities in Washington State and the greater Portland area, including Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. They do not fund grants to individuals and only accept LOI from 501(c)(3), tribes, and other tax-exempt organizations.

Deadlines: There are no deadlines for submitting a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). Pacific Northwest Community Grants regularly accepts and reviews LOIs throughout the year.

For more information: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/grantseeker/Pages/funding-community-grants.aspx>

Title: Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, Inc. Grants

Funder: Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, Inc.

Description: These grants support the following program areas: civic affairs; culture; elementary, secondary, and higher education; health associations and hospitals; social services; and youths. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 each.

Eligibility: Organizations classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code may apply. The foundation primarily supports programs in California, Florida, and North Carolina.

Deadlines: No deadline

For more information: http://www.dunspaughdalton.com/app_process.html

Title: Goldman Sachs Foundation Grants

Funder: Goldman Sachs

Description: Funding priorities are determined by a periodic assessment of needs and opportunities in the field of education. Current priorities are: To develop the abilities of promising high-potential youth worldwide; to support high-quality education for young people in leadership, entrepreneurship, and business education; and to enhance academic performance and prospects for life achievement of students at the secondary school level.

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

Deadline: No deadline

For more information: <http://www2.goldmansachs.com/citizenship/philanthropy/grant-guidelines.html>

Title: Allstate Foundation Grants

Funder: Allstate Foundation

Description: The Allstate Foundation supports national and local programs that fit within three focus areas. Proposals for program support must address needs within one of the three focus areas to be considered for funding. Safe and vital communities programs should address catastrophe response, youth anti-violence, neighborhood revitalization, and teen safe driving. Economic empowerment programs should address financial and economic literacy, insurance education, empowerment for victims of domestic violence. Tolerance, inclusion, and diversity programs should address teaching tolerance to youth, ending hate crimes, alleviating discrimination.

Eligibility: The Allstate Foundation makes grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Deadline: No deadline

For more information: <http://www.allstate.com/foundation/funding-guidelines.aspx>
