

Overview of the DCTAT Data¹ for Recovery Act (ARRA) Mentoring Grantees

This memo provides an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data¹ for these grantees as reported through December 30, 2010. The memo is divided into three sections: (1) an examination of program information for ARRA Mentoring grantees; (2) analyses of Recovery and core measures; and (3) an overview of the grantees' narrative responses to questions.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Juvenile Mentoring Grants Program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), supports state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies by funding a number of activities, including: fighting Internet crimes against children, improving the functioning of the criminal justice system, assisting victims of crime, and supporting youth mentoring. Under this solicitation, OJJDP provides awards to local organizations to develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs. These programs can reap considerable positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

1. Examination of Program Information

Across the last three reporting periods, 30 grantees received ARRA Mentoring funds. During the July–December 2010 reporting period, all 30 grantees completed reporting for their awards (Table 1). The number of subgrantees completing reporting increased from 99 to 100 during that period. During all the reporting periods, every subgrantee has finished reporting (Table 2).

Table 1. Status of Grantee Reporting by Period

Data Reporting Periods		Status			Total
		Not Started	In Progress	Complete	
Data Reporting Periods	January–June 2009	0	2	0	2
	July–December 2009	0	1	29	30
	January–June 2010	0	1	29	30
	July–December 2010	0	0	30	30
Total		0	4	88	92

Table 2. Status of Subgrantee Reporting by Period

Data Reporting Periods		Status			Total
		Not Started	In Progress	Complete	
Data Reporting Periods	January–June 2009	0	0	0	0
	July–December 2009	0	0	99	99
	January–June 2010	0	0	99	99
	July–December 2010	0	0	100	100
Total		0	0	298	298

¹ The data reported to OJJDP have undergone system-level validation and verification checks. In addition, OJJDP reviews the aggregate data findings and grantee-level data reports for obvious errors or inconsistencies. A formalized data validation and verification plan is being piloted and will be implemented in all programs during 2011.

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In examining the award amounts by state, Maryland received the most grant funds, followed by Pennsylvania and Georgia (Table 3).²

Table 3. Total Award Amount by State

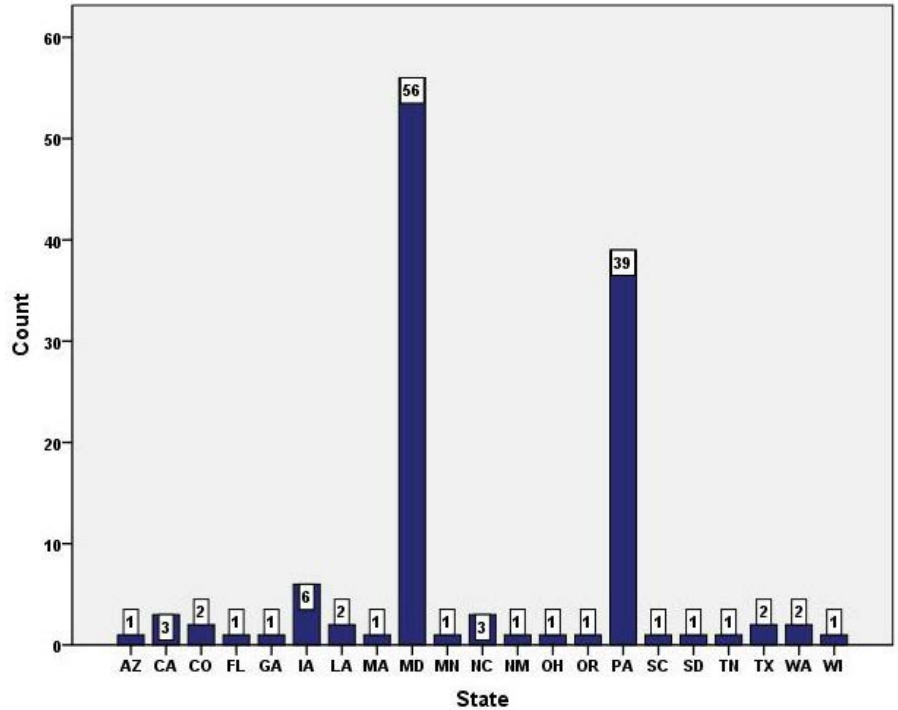
Grantee State	Award Amount
AZ	\$125,000
CA	\$1,494,523
CO	\$996,483
FL	\$219,633
GA	\$4,440,000
IA	\$1,013,427
LA	\$982,175
MA	\$499,830
MD	\$16,784,488
MN	\$500,000
NC	\$1,379,771
NM	\$499,998
OH	\$500,000
OR	\$500,000
PA	\$15,709,257
SC	\$486,169
SD	\$499,908
TN	\$500,000
TX	\$988,962
WA	\$1,000,000
WI	\$497,691

² Amounts represent the state to which the grant was awarded and do not necessarily indicate the state in which grant money is being used to conduct activities.

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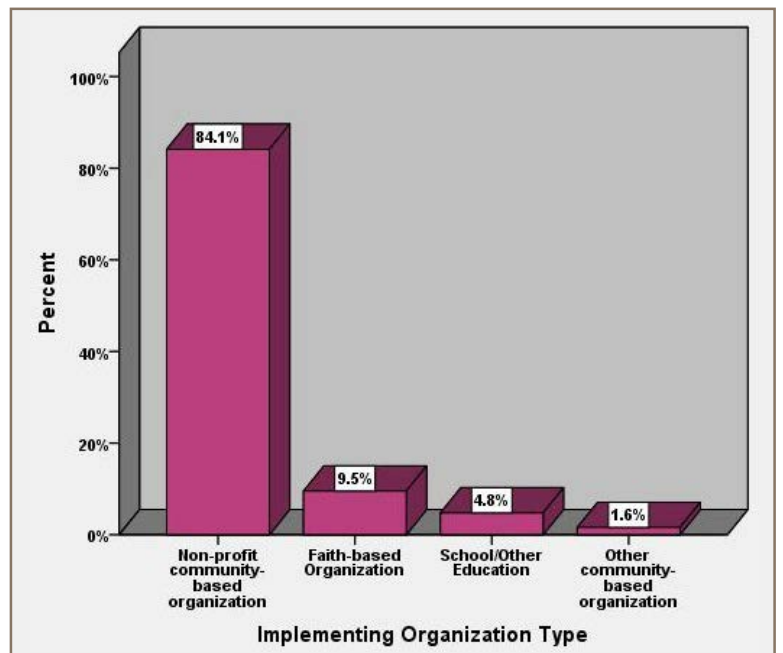
The most grants/subgrants awarded for Recovery Mentoring prevention programs during this period went to Maryland (n = 56), Pennsylvania (n = 39), and Iowa (n = 6). Figure 1, below, presents a state-by-state comparison.

Figure 1. Grants/Subgrants by State July–December 2010



Analysis of implementing agencies for this period revealed that the most programs were implemented by nonprofit, community-based organizations (84.1 percent). Faith-based organizations accounted for 9.5 percent of awards; schools and other education agencies 4.8 percent; and other community-based organizations 1.6 percent. Figure 2 illustrates the comparison.

Figure 2. Implementing Organization Type for July–December 2010 (N = 126)



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2. Analysis of Recovery and Core Measures³

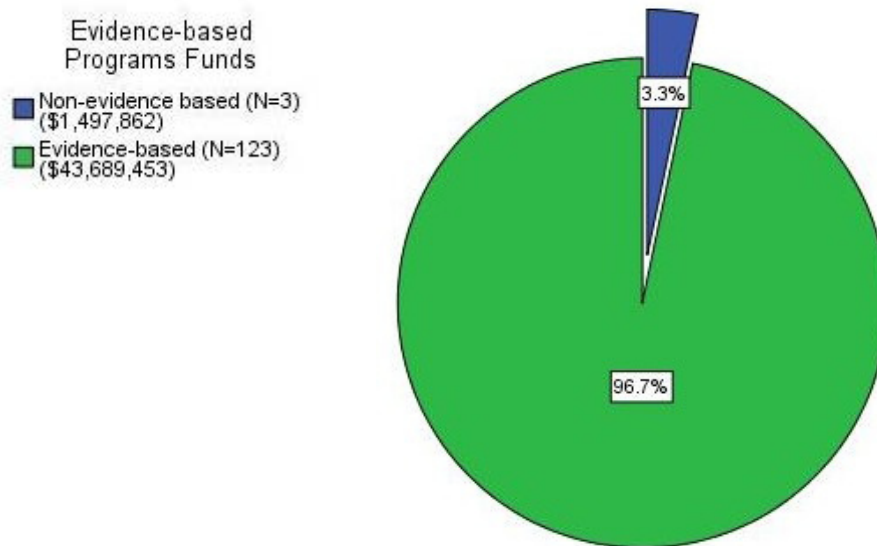
During the July-December 2010 reporting period, 77.84 percent of essential services were maintained without interruption with Recovery Mentoring funds. Furthermore, 5,063 new essential services were funded and 1,617 services were enhanced due to Recovery Mentoring funds (Table 4).

Table 4. Recovery Measures

Percent of essential services maintained without interruption with Recovery Mentoring funds	77.84%
No. of new essential services funded with Recovery Mentoring funds	5,063
No. of enhanced essential services funded with Recovery Mentoring funds	1,617

During the July–December 2010 reporting period, 96.7 percent of funds were allocated for implementing evidence-based programs and practices (Figure 3). Furthermore, over \$43 million (\$43,689,453) was allocated to implement evidence-based programs.

Figure 3. Percentage of Evidence-Based Programs/Practices for July–December 2010

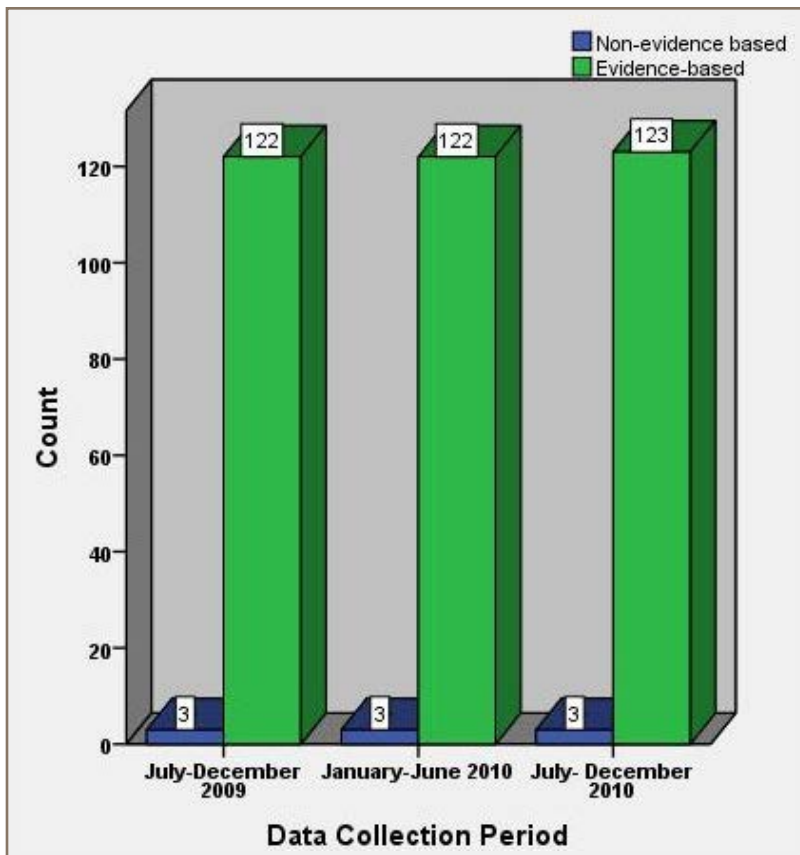


³ Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is not included in this portion of the report.

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The number of evidence-based programs implemented during this reporting period was 123, which represents 98 percent of the awards under this solicitation. The large number of evidence-based programs and practices is due to grantees' and subgrantees' implementation of Big Brothers and Big Sisters practices. Figure 4 illustrates the number of evidence-based programs or practices by reporting period.

Figure 4. Evidence-Based Programs/Practices by Reporting Period



This next section provides an aggregate of performance measure data. Of the 22,347 youth served by the programs funded by Recovery Act Mentoring awards, 21,410 (95.80 percent) were served using an evidence-based program or practice. In addition, 1,095 (39.38 percent) of eligible youth exited programs completing program requirements. Grantees self-define the requirements needed for a youth to complete the program. At times, the program cannot be completed in the 6-month reporting period. For example, in one program, youth must complete 9 months of mentoring to be considered successfully complete. If a youth exits the program for any reason before 9 months of mentoring, he or she is considered unsuccessful. As described, the lack of a shorter-term program completion definition decreases the overall program completion rate.

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Performance indicators on the program mentors were collected as well. During this reporting period, 9,808 new program mentors were recruited. Of the 10,065 mentors who received training, 8,848 (87.91 percent) successfully completed the training. Furthermore, 83 percent of mentors reported an increase in program knowledge. Of the 15,422 mentors in the program during the reporting period, 13,040 (85 percent) remained active mentors.

Collaboration with active partners also leads to the success of mentoring programs, and 89 percent of mentoring programs reported having active partners during this reporting period.

Table 5. Performance Indicators for July–December 2010

Performance Indicator	Number of Youth or Mentors		
No. of program youth served during reporting period	22,347		
No. of program youth served using an evidence-based program or model	21,410		
No. of program mentors recruited	9,808		
Performance Indicator	Completed	Total Number	Percent
No. and percent of program youth completing program requirements	1,095	2,780	1,095/2,780 39.38%
No. and percent of mentors successfully completing training during reporting period	8,848	10,065	8,848/10,065 87.91%
No. and percent of trained mentors with increased knowledge of the program area	8,964	10,837	8,964/10,837 82.72%
Performance Indicator	Active	Total Number	Percent
Mentor retention rate	13,040 active mentors	15,422 mentors	13,040/15,422 84.56%
Percent of mentoring programs with active partners	348 programs with active partners	387 mentoring programs	348/387 89.92%

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Recidivism levels among the youth served were low; about 1 percent committed a new offense while in the program (Table 6), and less than 6 percent committed a new offense 6 to 12 months after program completion (Table 7). More than half of the programs under this solicitation have active partners, indicating widespread community involvement and buy-in, which is essential to the success of mentoring programs. Further, the mentor retention rate for these programs is high—85 percent—which is also a likely contributor to the program’s overall success as defined by low offending and low reoffending rates.

Table 6. Performance Indicators for July–December 2010: Short-Term Recidivism

Performance Indicator		Number of Youth
No. of program youth tracked for new delinquent offenses during the reporting period (short-term)		15,221
	No. of program youth who had a new arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period	163
	No. of youth recommitted to a juvenile facility during the reporting period	7
	No. of youth sentenced to adult prison during the reporting period	5
	No. of youth with other sentence during the reporting period	0
Total		163/15,221 1.07%

Table 7. Performance Indicators for July–December 2010: Long-Term Recidivism

Performance Indicator		Number of Youth
No. of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago who were tracked for new delinquent offenses (long-term)		89
	No. of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago who had a new arrest or delinquent offense during the reporting period	5
	No. of youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to a juvenile facility during reporting period	0
	No. of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and were sentenced to adult prison during the reporting period	0
	No. of program youth who exited the program 6–12 months ago and received another sentence during the reporting period	0
Total		5/89 5.62%

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Table 8 shows the percentages of youth who exhibited improvement in selected target behaviors. Participating youth exhibited the most improvement in antisocial behavior (85 percent), gang-resistance involvement (84 percent), and social competence (84 percent). These results also point to the program’s overall success in implementing delinquency prevention strategies.

Table 8. Target Behaviors for July–December 2010

Target Behavior	Number of Youth Served with Intended Behavior Change	Number of Youth Served	Percent of Youth with Intended Behavior Change
School Competency	3,853	4,571	84.29%
School Attendance	2,269	4,506	50.36%
GPA	133	233	50.36%
GED	0	0	0%
Perception of Social Support	389	529	73.53%
Family Relationships	360	491	73.32%
Antisocial Behavior	398	468	85.04%
Substance Use	83	135	61.48%
Gang-Resistance Involvement	11	13	84.62%
Total	7,495	10,946	68.48%

3. Examination of Narrative Data

Program Goals Accomplished: July–December 2010

Recovery Mentoring grantees reported several important accomplishments during the July–December 2010 reporting period. In general, they reported succeeding in recruiting and matching mentors, increasing the number of service hours completed by program youth, developing partnerships with local organizations, serving more youth through expansion of programs and program locations, and maintaining and training program staff.

Multiple programs also mentioned the specific success of organizing events for youth, especially sporting and special speaker events. For example, Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Central Ohio recruited the help of Ohio State athletes to speak to program youth about the importance of academics and service. The athletes spoke about the challenges they had overcome, the role models that they had in their lives, and the service projects that they were involved in. Youth felt inspired by the athletes, as many had overcome challenges similar to those they were currently facing. Several grantees also discussed the successes of attending professional basketball games, often with ticket donations by teams such as the Boston Celtics and North Carolina Bobcats. Other grantees noted the success of youth speaker events. The Great Southwest Council-Boys Scouts of America organized a guest mentor night that included a discussion with a young mentor who was involved in a car surfing incident that led to the death of her best friend. The mentor discussed how peer pressure and poor decision making led to the tragedy. Program youth were able to ask her questions and learned about consequences of actions.

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Further analysis revealed the marketing successes of programs. The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc. program and a youth participating in it were highlighted on the NBC affiliate during a Thanksgiving Day special. In addition, the CBS affiliate developed a public service announcement for the program. Several other programs have developed Web sites, produced newspaper articles, and created Facebook groups and pages to recruit mentors and attract attention to their missions.

Grantees also recognize the need to collect accurate data that can be shared locally and nationally. To accomplish this, they have been developing and enhancing their data collection processes. Goodwill International Industries has developed and enhanced the GoodTrak data management system. This database allows local programs to monitor program performance and identify trends in order to accomplish program objectives. The system also facilitates communication, as both local and national representatives can view the information in it.

Problems/Barriers Encountered: July–December 2010

In addition to numerous accomplishments, grantees encountered some barriers that hindered achievement of some program goals. Common problems faced by multiple grantees included high turnover rates of staff and mentors (especially in rural areas where relocation for employment is common), relocation of program youth, lack of needed data from partners, and language barriers.

Many grantees mentioned that gaining and maintaining parental involvement was a major barrier that often hindered program objectives. Several grantees mentioned that parents seemed apprehensive about allowing their children to participate in mentoring services, making it difficult for programs to reach their target enrollment numbers. Grantees further explained that they experienced problems with parents signing the needed forms and returning phone calls. In some cases, a language barrier between parents and program staff exacerbated these problems.

Grantees also mentioned the difficulty in tracking and receiving needed data. Several said that school districts did not provide information about academic performance or school attendance in a timely fashion, making it difficult for programs to report this information. Other grantees mentioned difficulties tracking and following up with participants who have exited the program, leading to a lack of data on long-term outcomes.

Requested OJJDP Assistance: July–December 2010

Several grantees expressed a need for help from OJJDP in terms of changing the parameters of the grant for the program or assistance in data collection. Grantee Poudre R-1 requested information about how to change the program budget to acquire needed equipment. Goodwill Industries International requested information about applying for a no-cost extension.

Other grantees had specific requests related to program quality and data collection. El Centro for the Study of Primary and Secondary Education requested contact information with someone who could assist with recruitment in rural areas. The Fighting Back Partnership requested information about instruments used to measure social competence and other target behaviors. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ohio requested information about how other mentoring programs are tracking long-term outcomes.