



Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

SECOND CHANCE ACT JUVENILE MENTORING

PERFORMANCE REPORT

January-June 2018

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

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INTRODUCTION

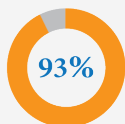
The Second Chance Act (SCA) (P.L. 110-199)¹ authorizes grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide services to support adults and juveniles successful transition from incarceration or detention back into the community (employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, mentoring, victims' assistance). SCA Juvenile Mentoring program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), combines mentoring with other transitional services for medium-to-high risk offenders who are young fathers and mothers, and Latino/a youth confined² and admitted to an out-of-home placement facility prior to their twenty-fifth birthday.³ OJJDP's program supports the target population's successful return to their families and communities from detention, out-of-home placement, or incarceration. For young fathers and mothers, mentoring and reentry services reduce recidivism by teaching effective parenting skills and promoting positive parent/child engagement. For Latino/a youth, reentry services include one-to-one, group, or peer mentoring; case management; civic and family engagement; and life skills training.

OJJDP requires grantees to report on performance measures to demonstrate whether the SCA Juvenile Mentoring program achieved its goals and to improve program and policy decisions. This report presents the SCA Juvenile Mentoring program activities occurring between January and June 2018 and highlights grantee results achieved with OJJDP funding.

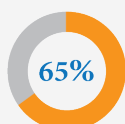
Highlights

377
NUMBER OF
YOUTH SERVED

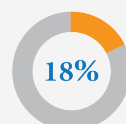
Demonstrating
Positive Behavior
Change



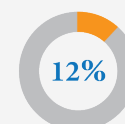
Matched
with a
Mentor



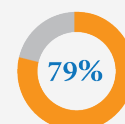
Youth
Reoffending
(short-term)



Youth
Reoffending
(long-term)



Grantees Implementing
Evidence-based
Programs



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between January and June 2018, OJJDP's SCA Juvenile Mentoring program funded 38 grantees, all representing non-profit community-based organizations. Nineteen grantees were operational (or provided mentoring and supportive services during the activity period) and received awards close to \$7 million in OJJDP funding (figure 1).⁴

¹ U.S. Government Publishing Office. Public Law 110-199-Apr. 9, 2008. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ199/pdf/PLAW-110publ199.pdf>

² Confined is defined as: "held in a secure facility, such as a juvenile detention center, juvenile correctional facility, staff-secure facility, jail, or prison of a local or state juvenile or adult correctional agency."

³ Award recipients may continue to implement a reentry plan for individuals beyond their twenty-fifth birthday. OJJDP does not set a timeline for terminating these services. Services can continue if deemed therapeutically necessary or on a case-by-case basis with approval from OJJDP.

⁴ Funding amounts represent the total funding for the life of the awards and does not represent actual grantee spending during the activity period. Operational grantees expended grant funds toward program activities. Grantees who are not operational did not provide services and are excluded from the analysis of the program information and performance measures.

Figure 1. Award Details



EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based programs. Evidence-based programs include models shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. For young fathers and young mothers, evidence-based mentoring practices include matching mentors and mentees based on interests/skills and providing structured activities. For Latino/a youth, grantees integrate evidence-based and/or culturally specific mentoring principles into their mentoring services to respond to the unique needs of Latino/a youth. During the January–June 2018 activity period, 79 percent of SCA Juvenile Mentoring program grantees used federal funds to implement an evidence-based program or practice ($n = 15$).

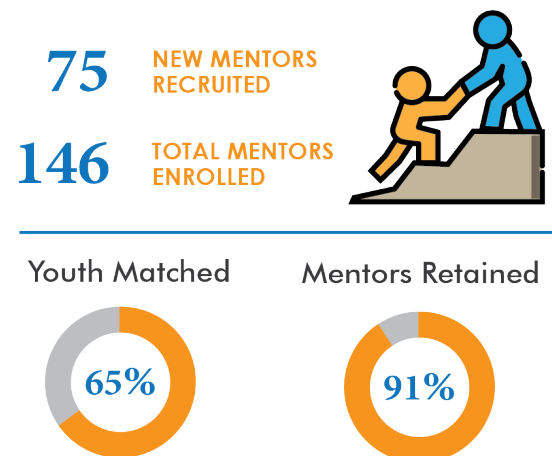
YOUTH SERVED

During the January–June 2018 activity period, a total of 377 youth were served⁶ by SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees. Fifty-two percent ($n = 195$) of recipients were receiving services for the first time and 93 percent of program youth were served using an evidence-based program or practice.

YOUTH MATCHED WITH A MENTOR

Grantees recruited 75 new mentors during the January–June 2018 activity period, an increase of 14 percent from the July–December 2017 activity period, for a total of 146 mentors enrolled (figure 2). The recruitment efforts resulted in 65 percent of enrolled youth successfully matched with a mentor during the activity period. Additionally, grantees achieved high mentor retention, reporting 91 percent of mentors remaining active with the program at the end of the activity period.

Figure 2. Mentor Recruitment and Youth Matched



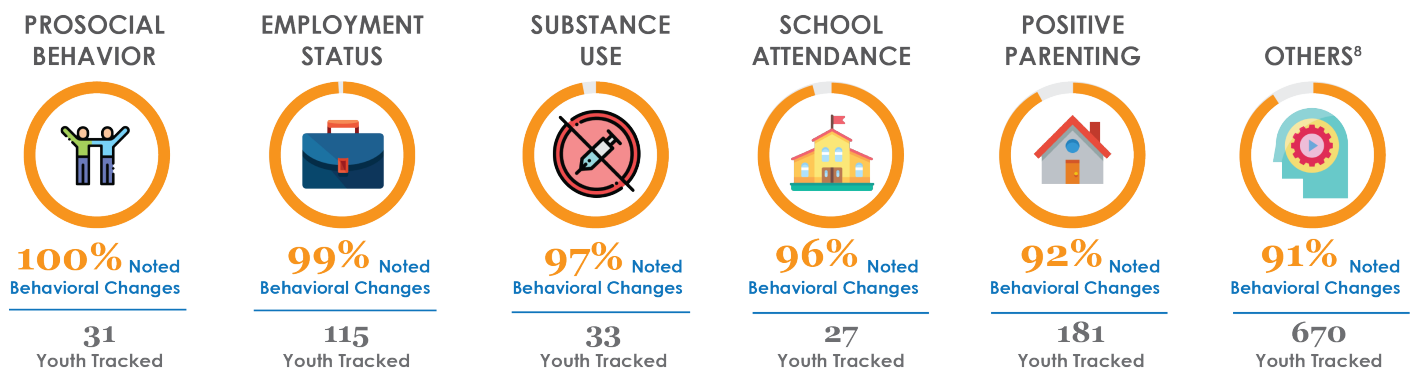
⁵ This percentage includes compliant grantees with operational and not operational statuses.

⁶ Youth served includes young fathers, young mothers, and Latino/a youth.

TARGET BEHAVIORS

The SCA Juvenile Mentoring program promotes positive outcomes, such as improved academic performance and increased positive parenting behaviors. To measure the impact of SCA Juvenile Mentoring programs on the lives of enrolled youth, grantees report on behavior changes in several targeted areas (e.g., prosocial behavior, substance use, employment status). During the January–June 2018 activity period, grantees observed the largest short-term⁷ improvement among youth receiving services to improve prosocial behavior, with 100 percent of youth demonstrating a positive change (figure 3). In the short-term overall, 93 percent of program youth showed improvement in a targeted behavior.

Figure 3. Short-term Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



YOUTH EXITING SUCCESSFULLY

SCA Juvenile Mentoring programs create and define the specific requirements for youth to successfully complete their program. Youth who fulfilled all program obligations and requirements successfully exited, while those who failed to complete the requirements, such as those expelled or who left voluntarily, are considered to have unsuccessfully exited the program. Of the 84 youth who exited the SCA Juvenile Mentoring program during the activity period, grantees reported 51 percent successfully exited (figure 4).

Figure 4. Percent of Youth Exiting Successfully



⁷ Short-term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience while enrolled in the program or 0–6 months after completing the program’s requirements. Long-term outcomes refer to benefits or changes that youth experience 6–12 months after completing the program requirements.

⁸ Others include antisocial behavior; family relationships; social competence; GED; perception of social support; high school completion; occupational skill training; and community involvement.

YOUTH RECIDIVISM

To track program success at reducing recidivism, grantees monitor youth for adjudication during and following a youth's involvement in the grantee's program. An adjudication can result in youth commitment to a juvenile residential facility, sentencing to adult prison, or some other sentence.⁹ Grantees tracked 354 program youth for adjudication for a new delinquent offense during the January–June 2018 activity period. During this time frame, 18 percent of program youth reoffended in the short-term (figure 5). In the long-term, 12 percent of program youth tracked during the activity period reoffended (figure 5).

Figure 5. Program Youth Recidivism



CONCLUSION

OJJDP's SCA Juvenile Mentoring program strengthens and expands the delivery of high-quality mentoring opportunities for youth in placement in the juvenile justice system. Mentoring can strengthen at-risk youth's protective factors by improving academic performance, social skills, and job skills; support behavioral and personal development; and reduce substance use and other risky behaviors.¹⁰ The results reported by OJJDP's SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees for this activity period reinforces the research on the positive impact of mentoring on the lives of at-risk youth.

During the January–June 2018 activity period, 19 SCA Juvenile Mentoring grantees served a total of 377 youth with the support of OJJDP funding. Grantees increased the number of mentors recruited by 14 percent compared to the previous activity period, resulting in 65 percent of program youth matched with a mentor during the activity period. Ninety-one percent of mentors remained with the program at the end of the activity period. Overall, 93 percent of program youth showed a behavioral improvement, including improvements in prosocial behavior, community involvement, and employment status. Grantees succeeded in preventing recidivism during this activity period. Over 80 percent of youth did not reoffend in the short-term. These results demonstrate the positive impact of SCA Juvenile Mentoring programs at improving outcomes for at-risk youth returning to the community from out-of-home placement and reducing risk factors associated with further involvement in the justice system.

⁹ Other sentence could include probation or electronic monitoring.

¹⁰ National Institute of Justice. Mentoring. <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=290>.