

INFOCUS



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Mentoring Youth

A consistent relationship with a caring adult can make all the difference in a young person's life. Successful mentoring relationships have been shown to increase self-esteem, improve academic achievement, and decrease the likelihood of substance abuse and delinquent acts by youth.

To help ensure positive outcomes for youth, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds effective mentoring programs and practices. OJJDP's mentoring grants also fund research, evaluation, and training and technical assistance.

Together with its partners, the Office is working to boost mentor recruitment, enhance mentor-mentee matches, and increase the number of youth who have mentors. From 2017 through the first half of 2019, OJJDP-funded programs recruited 95,000 new mentors and served more than 600,000 youth nationwide.

Programs

Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative

Through this initiative, OJJDP funds one-on-one, group, and peer mentoring services to youth who are at high risk for juvenile justice system involvement, including youth impacted by opioids and those on probation. The initiative supports national, regional, and local organizations as they strengthen and expand their mentoring activities.

Specialized Services and Mentoring for Child and Youth Victims of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation¹

Grants awarded under this program help organizations provide comprehensive support services and interventions for youth who are at risk of or who are victims of child sexual exploitation, domestic sex trafficking, or labor trafficking.

Training and Technical Assistance

National Mentoring Resource Center

The center offers comprehensive information on mentoring programs, best practices, tools, and research. Providing access to free training and technical assistance is one of the many ways the center enhances the capacity of practitioners and communities to develop, implement, and expand effective mentoring practices.

For More Information

Access more information about OJJDP's mentoring programs at ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/mentoring.

¹ In fiscal year 2019, category 1 of this program was funded under OJJDP's Youth Mentoring and Missing and Exploited Children funding streams.

Funding

Between fiscal years 2017 and 2019, OJJDP awarded \$228.8 million to help increase mentoring opportunities for youth and to improve the quality and impact of the mentoring they receive.

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2019—\$84 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2018—\$82.3 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2017—\$63.5 million

From the Field

The National 4-H Council is one of many mentoring programs OJJDP supports. Clyde Van Dyke, winner of the 2019 4-H Youth in Action Award, shared how the club empowered him to overcome personal challenges, including a lack of role models for educational success.

"Because of 4-H and the adults who have supported me, I'm not a dropout," he says proudly. "[I'm in college] to pursue a career in digital forensics—a path I never would have discovered without 4-H."

Through the 4-H Club, Mr. Van Dyke learned how to create maps to visualize data, a technique known as "geospatial mapping." He now uses geospatial mapping to help communities better understand the prevalence, trends, and contributing factors to critical issues such as the opioid epidemic. Mr. Van Dyke is also giving back by mentoring young people in elementary schools near his hometown.



Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
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