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The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for OJJDP's FY 2012 Mentoring Enhancement Demonstration Program. This program furthers the Department's mission by supporting evidence-based enhancements to improve the effectiveness of mentoring programs and reduce risk factors for juvenile delinquency.

## **OJJDP FY 2012 Mentoring Enhancement Demonstration Program**

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are limited to states (including territories), units of local government (including federally recognized tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations), and institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education). For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee. (See Eligibility, page 3.)

OJJDP may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations in future years.

### **Deadline**

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. (See How To Apply, page 13.) All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 14, 2012. (See Deadlines: Registration and Application, page 3.)

### **Contact Information**

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726**, **606-545-5035**, or via e-mail to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).  
**Note:** Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Justice Information Center (JIC) at 1-877-927-5657, via e-mail to [JIC@telesishq.com](mailto:JIC@telesishq.com), or by [live Web chat](#). JIC hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Grants.gov number assigned to this announcement: OJJDP-2012-3275  
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# OJJDP FY 2012 Mentoring Enhancement Demonstration Program (CFDA #16.726)

## Overview

This demonstration program will support collaborations of qualified, established mentoring program sites that enhance (1) the matching of youth and mentors based on needs, skills, experiences, and interests; (2) initial and ongoing training for mentors, and (3) ongoing mentor support. The program aims to improve the effectiveness of mentoring through the systematic implementation of advocacy or teaching functions into mentors' roles. This program is authorized by the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-55, 125 Stat. 552,617.

## Deadlines: Registration and Application

Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. OJP encourages applicants to register several weeks before the application submission deadline. In addition, applicants are urged to submit applications **at least 72 hours prior** to the due date of the application to allow time to receive the validation message and to correct any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. The deadline to apply for funding under this announcement is 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 14, 2012. See How To Apply, page 13, for details.

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to states (including territories), units of local government (including federally recognized tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations), and institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education). For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee.

Eligible applicants must submit a collaborative application for a coordinated implementation of a single program design in three to five separate mentoring program sites located within the same regional area. One applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as co-applicants.

OJJDP may elect to make awards in future fiscal years for applications submitted under this solicitation, dependent on the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Identify the primary program goal as implementing systematic teaching or advocacy functions into the mentor's role via enhancing the (1) mentor-mentee matching process, (2) initial and ongoing training, and (3) ongoing mentor support (see Program-Specific Information, page 4).

Agree to, actively participate in, and comply with all requirements under a multi-site, multi-year evaluation of this demonstration program (see Program-Specific Information below.)

- Submit a collaborative application demonstrating a coordinated implementation of a single program design in 3-5 separate established and qualified mentoring program sites located within the same regional area. An established youth mentoring program site is defined as one in which the following characteristics have been in place for at least **3 years** at the time of application and to which the enhancements will be applied: (1) has provided mentoring services to a particular target population that will continue under the enhancement; (2) has operated in a particular geographic region that will continue under the enhancement; and (3) has used a mentoring model (i.e., one-on-one, group, etc.) that will continue under the enhancement. (**Note:** The focus of this solicitation is on enhancing regional mentoring efforts through collaborations of three-five program sites. It is not focused on national or large scale implementation.) One applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as co-applicants.
- Successful applicants must serve 75-100 new/additional youth per site under this program. The target age group for this solicitation is 12-14 years old; however, applicants may include youth as young as 11 and as old as 15 at the time of the initial mentoring match. The mentoring relationship can continue until the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Program-Specific Information

This demonstration program will support collaborations of qualified, established mentoring program sites to incorporate advocacy or teaching functions into mentors' roles through (1) matching youth and mentors based on needs, skills, experiences, and interests; (2) initial and ongoing training for mentors; and (3) ongoing mentor support. Dubois et al. (2011) identified the enhancements through a recent meta-analysis (*How Effective Are Mentoring Programs for Youth? A Systematic Assessment of the Evidence\**) that examined the moderators of mentoring program effectiveness. This program focuses on three of six key moderators of program effectiveness that the meta-analysis identified:

- The program included an advocacy role for mentors.
- The program included a teaching/information provision role for mentors.
- Mentors and youth were matched in the program based on similarity of interests.

**Advocacy or teaching activities in mentor roles and functions.** For purposes of this solicitation, advocacy or teaching roles or functions are defined as those in which the mentor offers active guidance to the youth and seeks to facilitate the youth's relationships with peers and/or other supportive adults and to support engagement with appropriate activities and resources.

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\* DuBois, D.L., Portillo, N., Rhodes, J.E., Silverthorn, N., and Valentine, J.C. 2011. "How Effective Are Mentoring Programs for Youth? A Systematic Assessment of the Evidence." *Psychological Science in the Public Interest* 12(2)57-91.

This should not be confused with an overly directive or authoritarian approach, which has evidence of potential harmful outcomes in youth mentoring.\*\* It is also not a therapeutic, counseling, informational/instructional, or explicit skill-building, such as a job skills, approach.

It is, instead, a developmental approach to mentoring in which the mentor's role is to actively foster the development of the youth. The mentor functions in a way that actively demonstrates concern with helping the youth reach his or her full potential. In doing so, the approach focuses on building a close relationship with the youth in the context of providing appropriate guidance in combination with enhancing the youth's access to key resources and supports outside of the relationship.

Examples of this type of approach may include, but are not limited to:

- Connecting mentees to additional social services.
- Assisting mentees with resolving differences or issues with teachers.
- Assisting mentees in resolving or managing peer relationships.
- Connecting mentees to afterschool activities or recreational opportunities.

In these approaches, the mentor actively facilitates relationship building and connects the youth to resources.

These examples are for illustration purposes only and in no way indicate a specific program preference from OJJDP.

**Mentoring programs.** For the purpose of this solicitation, qualified mentoring programs are those that support a structured relationship between a volunteer adult and one or more youth, with one-on-one or group-mentoring. **For purposes of this solicitation, all mentors must be voluntary and not paid a regular stipend, wage, or salary for their time spent mentoring.** Research indicates that youth who participated in mentoring relationships that lasted a year or longer improved in academic, psychosocial, and behavioral measures, while those youth in mentoring relationships that lasted between 3 months and 1 year had fewer indications of positive effects. Additionally, youth who had been in a mentoring relationship that lasted fewer than 3 months reported decreases in measures of self-worth and perceived scholastic competence. OJJDP recommends that mentoring matches be structured to last for a minimum of 12 months.

**Qualified established program sites.** OJJDP defines an established youth mentoring program site as one in which the following characteristics have been in place for at least **3 years** at the time of application and to which the enhancements will be applied: (1) has provided mentoring services to a target population that will continue under the enhancement; (2) has operated in a particular geographic region that will continue under the enhancement; and (3) has used a mentoring model (i.e., one-on-one, group, etc.) that will continue under the enhancement. (Note: The focus of this solicitation is on enhancing regional mentoring efforts through collaborations of three to five program sites. It is not focused on national or large scale implementation.)

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\*\* Keller, T.E. 2005. "The stages and development of mentoring relationships." In D.L. DuBois and M.J. Karcher (Eds.), *Handbook of youth mentoring* (pp. 82–99). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

**Qualified collaboratives of program sites.** All applications must be part of a collaborative of at least three and as many as five mentoring program sites where the mentoring enhancements will be applied. That collaborative must implement a specific program design consistently across all sites. Each site must have a separate address and location and serve different, non-duplicated youth populations. This may include different chapters or locations of the same parent organization; however, official organizational charts must reflect an independent program site. Each site must already have a qualified, established mentoring program. OJJDP encourages applicants to consider partnering with sites relatively close in proximity to leverage shared costs for training or program-related activities.

**Target population.** Successful applicants must serve 75-100 new/additional youth per site within the first year of implementation in each of the program sites. The target age group for this solicitation is 12 to 14 years old; however, applicants may include youth as young as 11 and as old as 15 at the time of the mentoring match. The match may continue until the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Applicants should provide documentation of their ability to meet the number of matches requirement that includes, but is not limited to, documentation of the number of youth served and mentor matches made in previous years.

### **Purpose, Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables**

The purpose of this solicitation is to apply research findings to improve the effectiveness of mentoring practice. This solicitation will support the collaboration of qualified, established mentoring program sites in the implementation of advocacy and teaching roles for mentors via enhancement strategies that focus on matching youth and mentors, training for mentors, and ongoing mentor support. These strategies will likely contribute to the quality of the mentoring program and the efforts to address both individual and environmental factors that contribute to delinquency.

**Eligible enhancement strategies.** Applicants must propose to implement the following strategies. Applicants must clearly describe how the strategy they describe in their application will change or improve their current practices. Applicants may not propose to simply continue their current practices:

- **Mentor-Mentee Matching.** Applicants must detail how they will match mentors and mentees. The matching process must be based primarily on matching a youth's needs and interests with a mentor's experiences, skills, and interests (as opposed to being based on demographic features). Dubois et al. found that taking into account a youth's needs and interests when matching him/her with a mentor was important to the overall success of the mentoring program. This will also likely support the teaching or advocacy functions for the mentor.
- **Mentor Training.** Research demonstrates that initial and ongoing training for mentors is a moderator of program effectiveness. For the purposes of this solicitation, OJJDP defines training as opportunities for the mentor to enhance skills, knowledge, and abilities in serving as a mentor to and in building relationships with youth mentees. This training must focus primarily on building a mentor's skills and effectiveness in serving in the advocacy/teaching function.
- **Ongoing Mentor Support.** To support the advocacy and teaching functions of mentors, applicants should outline how they will improve the ongoing communication and support that program coordinators, match specialists, etc., offer mentors. This includes, but is not limited











































