

POLICIES REGARDING CHILDREN

1.0
Application and Eligibility of Children

Eligibility for Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregiver's Choice is determined at the time the caregiver or parent completes an application for a child to join the project. The caregiver or parent may initiate an application through the Caregiver's Choice toll-free number, MENTOR's Caregiver's Choice Web site www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice, or through an intermediary organization authorized to enroll children.

At the time of the application, a child must meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be issued a voucher:

- ❑ Be at least four years-old but less than eighteen years-old;
- ❑ Have one or both parents currently serving a sentence at a state or federal correctional facility, or serving a sentence at a local facility under the custody of the state or federal correctional system; and
- ❑ Have the permission of the parent or legal guardian (referred to as caregiver throughout this document) charged with the responsibility of caring for the child while the parent(s) is incarcerated.

All Caregiver's Choice programs use a one-to-one mentoring model. Therefore, children who are currently in a group or team mentoring relationship or on a wait-list for a one-to-one mentoring relationship are eligible to join Caregiver's Choice. If a child is currently in a one-to-one mentoring relationship through a formal program, he or she is not eligible for Caregiver's Choice.

Once a child is determined to be eligible and is issued a voucher, the caregiver may continue forward with the process of selecting a mentoring program and being assigned a mentor, even if the initial eligibility conditions change. For example, if the incarcerated parent is released from prison before a child is matched with a mentor, the child continues to be eligible to use the voucher based on the initial eligibility determination.

2.0
Participation and Voucher Redemption

Once a child is determined to be eligible, he or she will be officially enrolled in Caregiver's Choice. At that time, the caregiver will receive a package including instructions, a voucher, and a list of voucher-approved mentoring programs. The voucher expires four months from the date of issuance, so it is important that the caregiver consider the options available and select a mentoring program within a reasonable amount of time. The caregiver may contact the approved mentoring programs on the list to ask for additional information regarding the program's model, practices, and length of wait-list. The caregiver then selects the program that best meets their needs. At any time, the caregiver may contact the Caregiver's Choice toll-free number for assistance with mentoring program selection.

The caregiver must then contact the program of their choosing and provide the voucher to initiate the enrollment process. The mentoring program will verify the voucher and recruit, screen and train an appropriate mentor for the child. After the program verifies the voucher, it is considered as "redeemed" by the parent or caregiver.

Caregiver's CHOICE

3.0
Caregiver
Expectations For
the Mentoring
Program

Mentoring programs have three months from the date of voucher redemption to match the child with a mentor. If the child is not matched with a mentor within three months, the caregiver may:

1. Call the Caregiver's Choice toll-free number and ask to have a new voucher issued. Once the new voucher is issued, the caregiver can choose a different mentoring program and redeem the voucher; or
2. Stay with the original mentoring program and continue to wait for a mentor for the child.

In addition, if the caregiver is dissatisfied with the services provided by the mentoring program, they may contact the Caregiver's Choice toll-free number to discuss their concerns. The call center staff will attempt to resolve the issue so that the child can remain with the mentoring program. However, if the mentoring program is not fulfilling its obligations to the child or is not following appropriate best practices, the voucher will be invalidated and a new voucher issued so the caregiver can select a different mentoring program.

4.0
Additional Years
of Mentoring

Mentoring programs are required to continue to support mentoring matches beyond the initial twelve-month commitment should the mentors and mentees wish to remain matched.

POLICIES REGARDING MENTORING PROGRAMS

1.1
Application and Eligibility of Mentoring Programs

1. Application, Approval, and Annual Renewal Policies

Mentoring programs must meet a number of requirements related to program model, program practices, length of the mentoring relationship, frequency of match meetings, and program capacity. This ensures that children served by Caregiver's Choice are referred to mentoring programs with the capacity and ability to foster and sustain quality mentoring matches. A checklist for program eligibility and a frequently asked questions (FAQs) document is available at www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice.

To join Caregiver's Choice, a mentoring program must first complete the online application available at www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice. The application asks for a range of program information, including:

- Program name, address, and description;
- Mentoring model and target youth population;
- Contact person;
- Experience matching mentors, three-year funding history, staffing levels, and other capacity-related questions;
- Type of liability insurance policy(ies) held;
- Volunteer screening, training, and matching practices;
- Minimum contact requirements for match (length and frequency);
- Match support and case management practices; and
- Certification that the applicant will abide by project policies and requirements.

Existing grantees for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Mentoring Children of Prisoners program (MCP) may also join Caregiver's Choice, but must meet special eligibility requirements and follow special policies. Please refer to section 1.4 for additional information.

1.2
Securing Final Approval to Participate

MENTOR will review each application to determine whether a program meets the minimum eligibility requirements for participation. Programs meeting eligibility requirements will receive provisional approval. To receive final approval, a mentoring program must:

- Submit a signed agreement from the chair of the board of directors authorizing the mentoring program to participate, and agreeing to abide by project policies and requirements;
- Participate in a web-conference training session on how to use MentorPRO™ Basic—the online tracking and evaluation tool that approved programs will use to track Caregiver's Choice mentoring relationships;
- Participate in a training session (in person, via teleconference, or via web-conference) on the unique opportunities and challenges of working with children of prisoners; and
- Agree to adapt volunteer training content and program policies and procedures to address the needs of this population.

Once a mentoring program completes these requirements, MENTOR will upgrade the program to approved status. At this point, a program's information will be listed on MENTOR's Caregiver's Choice Web site, and a program may redeem vouchers from enrolled children.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS: Caregiver's CHOICE

1.3 Annual Renewal of Approval Status

The approval period consists of one year. MENTOR reserves the right to terminate any program's approval and reassign any Caregiver's Choice children to other mentoring programs for serious breaches of safety or practice, or if the program has attempted to defraud the system and receive payments without providing appropriate services.

At the end of the first year, a mentoring program must submit a renewal application to continue to be listed as an approved Caregiver's Choice program. [Please refer to section 1.4 for special renewal policies that apply to current MCP grantees.] If a program does not renew, it is still responsible for providing mentoring services to children that have already redeemed vouchers and will continue to receive payments as appropriate.

If a mentoring program's approval expires, its information will no longer be shared with caregivers. However, because it may take caregivers several weeks to select a mentoring program, a caregiver could attempt to redeem a voucher with a program whose approval has lapsed. In this case, MENTOR will contact the program directly to discuss its willingness to reapply for Caregiver's Choice. If the program's approval is renewed, it can redeem the voucher and work with the child. If not, the Caregiver's Choice call center staff will contact the caregiver directly to help in the selection of a new program.

1.4 Eligibility and Policies For Current HHS Mentoring Children of Prisoners Grantees

Mentoring programs that are currently receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCP) grant program must meet special eligibility requirements to participate in Caregiver's Choice. This ensures that a program is currently meeting its expectations for the grant, and will be able to serve more children of prisoners with the additional funds provided by Caregiver's Choice.

To be eligible, current grantees must be certified as "exceeding capacity" under their existing MCP grant. This is defined as meeting or exceeding the yearly match goal required under the grant and will be re-evaluated for each grant year. MCP grantees should apply to join Caregiver's Choice only when they have met their grant match goals for the current year. MENTOR will consult with HHS to verify that the MCP grantee has met this commitment.

Assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, the grantee can then redeem vouchers for the remainder of the grant year. At the end of the grant year, the MCP grantee's approval to participate in Caregiver's Choice will lapse. The grantee must reapply when they meet the grant match goals for the subsequent year to be able to begin redeeming Caregiver's Choice vouchers again.

Example: ABC Mentoring Program is in the first year of its MCP grant, and the match goal is fifty children for each year of the grant. In May 2008, ABC Mentoring Program matches the fiftieth child, meeting the grant commitment. ABC Mentoring Program may now apply to join Caregiver's Choice, and can redeem vouchers until September 29, 2008, when the grant's current fiscal year ends. ABC Mentoring Program must then stop redeeming Caregiver's Choice vouchers until it reaches the match goal for FY2009. At that time, ABC Mentoring Program can renew its application and rejoin Caregiver's Choice. Once ABC Mentoring Program's MCP grant comes to an end, it may participate in Caregiver's Choice without meeting special eligibility requirements, and will be subject to annual renewal.

Current grantees that are eligible to redeem vouchers must be careful to ensure that they are not "double-dipping" federal funds. In other words, a mentoring program may not count a voucher-supported mentoring match towards its match goals for the grant.

Organizations that are subcontractors with an MCP grantee do not have to meet these special eligibility requirements. However, these organizations are encouraged to discuss their plans with the lead grant agency to ensure that participation in the voucher project will not negatively impact performance of the grantee.

Mentoring programs that have received funding from other federal sources are eligible without meeting this additional eligibility criterion.

2. Caregiver Enrollment and Voucher Redemption Policies

2.1

Recruiting Eligible Children

Mentoring programs may use Caregiver's Choice recruitment materials to encourage eligible children and their parents or caregivers to enroll in Caregiver's Choice. Children on a program's wait-list or involved in a group or team relationship are eligible for Caregiver's Choice. However, children in an existing one-to-one mentoring relationship are not.

2.2

Following Up on Caregiver Interest

When caregivers enroll children in Caregiver's Choice, they receive a list of approved mentoring programs within their area. The list includes a description of each mentoring program and contact information. The caregiver is encouraged to contact mentoring programs on the list to ask for additional information, such as the program model, goals, and length of wait-list. Approved programs are encouraged to respond promptly to enquiries from caregivers.

2.3

Redeeming a Voucher and Enrolling a Child

Once a caregiver selects a mentoring program, he or she must contact the program to begin the enrollment process. The caregiver must provide the mentoring program with the Caregiver's Choice voucher.

Before enrolling the child, the mentoring program must first verify the voucher's authenticity. Programs will utilize MentorPRO™ Basic to log in the child's name and voucher number. MENTOR will verify that the child's name and voucher number match, that the voucher has not expired and has not been previously redeemed, and that the program is approved to redeem vouchers.

Once the voucher has been validated, it is considered "redeemed" by the caregiver, and the child is associated with the mentoring program that submitted the validation request. The mentoring program may then move forward with its usual child enrollment process.

If the voucher is found to be invalid, MENTOR will contact the caregiver to discuss the situation and determine what steps need to be taken to supply a valid voucher. If a mentoring program chooses to enroll a child without validating the voucher, the program will not receive funds to support that mentoring match.

3. Mentoring Relationship Requirements

3.1

Mentor Characteristics

Mentoring programs should be aware of specific requirements for mentors matched with Caregiver's Choice children:

- Mentors must be at least eighteen years of age. Caregiver's Choice does not support peer mentoring relationships.
- Mentors cannot be paid for their services. Stipends for travel or activities are allowed, but the mentor cannot receive any compensation for time spent mentoring.
- Mentors must be matched in a one-to-one mentoring relationship with a child. Caregiver's Choice does not support group or team mentoring relationships.
- Mentors must receive a job description that clearly denotes the requirements for time commitment, frequency of meetings, and length of the mentoring match.

3.2 Screening Mentors

Each prospective mentor must undergo a thorough screening process. Three specific screening elements must, without exception, be performed for each mentor that will be matched with a Caregiver's Choice child:

- FBI fingerprint background check;
- In-person interview; and
- Two reference checks.

Mentoring programs may choose to add additional screening requirements to conform to their usual volunteer screening process.

The FBI fingerprint background check is required by the federal legislation that created Caregiver's Choice and may be conducted through the appropriate agency within the mentoring program's state or through MENTOR's SafetyNET program (www.mentoring.org/safetynet/). A state-only fingerprint search or a name-based search is not sufficient to meet this screening requirement.

Once the background check has been completed, the mentoring program may not use a volunteer that has a *felony conviction* for any of the following crimes:

- Child abuse or neglect;
- Spousal abuse;
- A crime against a child (including child pornography);
- Violent crimes, such as rape, sexual assault, or homicide; or
- Assault, battery or drug-related felony convictions that are less than five years old.

A background check conducted by SafetyNET will flag any individual who has a conviction for any of these crimes as "does not meet the criteria." Please note that the SafetyNET background check includes more types of crimes than the criteria listed above; therefore an individual with a "does not meet the criteria" determination may still be eligible to volunteer as a mentor. For example, a prospective volunteer who has committed a white-collar felony (e.g., embezzlement) or was convicted of felony drug possession ten years ago would be flagged by SafetyNET as "does not meet the criteria". This individual would not necessarily be disqualified as a volunteer under legislative requirements. Mentoring programs are encouraged to ask volunteers with negative determinations to request their full criminal history to better understand if they are ineligible to be a mentor to a Caregiver's Choice child.

In addition, each state agency that conducts FBI background checks uses different standards in their determinations. Please contact the agency in your state for a list of the criteria used.

In either case, programs are strongly encouraged to develop clear eligibility criteria for prospective mentors reflecting the needs and safety of the children served.

3.3

**Match Support
and Case
Management**

Both mentors and mentees must be properly trained and prepared before being matched. Training requirements include:

- **Mentor Pre-Match Training:** Mentors must receive at least two hours of in-person pre-match training. The training curriculum must include at least some content focused on the challenges and opportunities specific to children of prisoners. Mentoring programs will receive additional guidance on this requirement during the mentoring children of prisoners training that is provided before a program is approved to participate in Caregiver's Choice.
- **Mentee Pre-Match Orientation/Training:** Mentees must receive at least one hour of in-person, age-appropriate orientation or training before the mentoring relationship begins.
- **Ongoing Mentor Training:** Mentoring programs must provide quarterly, ongoing training opportunities for mentors participating in Caregiver's Choice. These opportunities may include sessions for mentors to talk with each other about challenges they are facing, workshops on specific mentoring topics, or more formalized training sessions.

Mentoring programs must also have pre-established matching criteria when selecting which mentor to assign to a child. Matching criteria can be the same for Caregiver's Choice children as for children enrolled in the rest of the mentoring program. However, two key elements must be included:

- The match must respect the preferences of the caregiver and child, and, when appropriate, the incarcerated parent. This could include preferences for the gender or race of the mentor, the faith of the mentor, and other criteria.
- The mentor and mentee must be matched based on similar interests to facilitate an easier bond between the two.

3.4

**Frequency and
Duration of
Mentoring
Relationships**

Caregiver's Choice mentoring relationships must be at least twelve consecutive months in length. Mentoring programs must be able to support year-round mentoring matches. Mentoring programs that normally offer only nine-month mentoring relationships to coincide with the school year must provide regular match meetings and match support for Caregiver's Choice matches during the summer to meet the year-round requirement.

Caregiver's Choice mentors and mentees must also meet regularly over the course of the year. This must include at least four hours of in-person meetings per month, as well as weekly contact. Weekly contact can include in-person visits, phone calls, e-mails, and text messages. By the end of the twelfth month, the mentor and mentee must have met in person at least twelve times, spent a minimum of forty hours together, and maintained weekly contact in some form.

3.5
Match Support and Case Management

A Caregiver's Choice mentoring program must conduct regular and thorough match support to ensure that the mentoring relationship is strong and long-lasting. As the funds for a Caregiver's Choice match are paid out over the course of a year, it is in a mentoring program's best interests to ensure that the match endures.

Caregiver's Choice has minimum requirements for the frequency of match support. Those requirements are:

- During the first month of the mentoring relationship, the program coordinator must conduct match support at least twice a month.
- From the second month to the end of the mentoring relationship, the program coordinator must conduct match support once a month.

Match support contacts must include individual conversations (by phone or in-person) with the mentor and either the mentee or the caregiver (whichever is appropriate based on the mentee's age). This translates into at least four case management contacts in the first month and two case management contacts each subsequent month. By the end of the twelfth month, the program coordinator must have conducted at least eighteen total case management contacts, either in person or by phone, with the mentor and the mentee (or the caregiver).

3.6
Evaluating the Impact of Mentoring Relationships

An important part of Caregiver's Choice is the evaluation of the quality and impact of the mentoring relationships it supports. As such, there are a number of surveys that mentoring programs must administer during the mentoring relationship. All surveys will be supplied through MentorPRO™ Basic at the appropriate time in the mentoring relationship. MENTOR will provide this data to HHS for use in any evaluation of the Caregiver's Choice project. Mentoring programs do not need to compile data or evaluate the impact themselves; they simply administer the surveys and return the data to MENTOR.

The required surveys are:

- A baseline survey for the mentee, to be conducted before the mentoring relationship begins;
- A relationship quality survey for the mentee, to be administered at the nine month mark in the mentoring relationship;
- A post-survey for the mentee to measure the impact of the mentoring relationship, to be conducted at the end of twelve months;
- A post-survey for mentor to assess the mentor's view of any changes the mentee may have undergone, to be conducted at the end of twelve months; and
- A survey for the mentoring program coordinator to determine satisfaction level with Caregiver's Choice, to be conducted at the end of twelve months.

Mentoring programs will be required to collect consent forms from caregivers in order to collect information from mentees.

4.1
Mentoring Relationship Milestones

4. Payment of Funds

To ensure that mentoring programs explicitly understand the expectations for facilitating Caregiver's Choice mentoring matches, MENTOR has created "mentoring relationship milestones." All mentoring relationship requirements detailed in section three will be monitored throughout the relationship as part of the milestones. Payment for the mentoring relationship will be issued in installments, directly linked to the completion of all items within a milestone.

There are four installments over the course of the twelve-month mentoring relationship:

- The first milestone (\$300) is focused on the initial screening and training of the mentor and mentee, and the first meeting of the pair.
- The second milestone (\$200) occurs at the three-month mark, and is linked to the frequency and dosage of match meetings and required case management.
- The third milestone (\$200) occurs at the six-month mark, and is linked to the frequency and dosage of match meetings and required case management.
- The fourth and final milestone (\$300) occurs at the twelve-month mark, and is linked to the frequency and dosage of match meetings, required case management, and required surveys.

A complete list of the components of each mentoring relationship milestone and their related payments is available at www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice.

4.2
Tracking Milestones in MentorPRO™ Basic

MENTOR has created special software, called MentorPRO™ Basic, specifically for Caregiver's Choice. MentorPRO™ Basic allows approved mentoring programs to track their progress toward completion of mentoring relationship milestones.

Use of MentorPRO™ Basic is required in order to participate in Caregiver's Choice. As MentorPRO™ Basic is a web-based program, mentoring programs must have Internet access to use it. Mentoring programs will receive training on MentorPRO™ Basic before receiving final approval to participate in Caregiver's Choice.

MentorPRO™ Basic will track the following items for each Caregiver's Choice child who has redeemed a voucher:

- Child characteristics;
- Mentor characteristics and screening process;
- Mentor and mentee training/orientation;
- Match contacts, including the date, length, and focus of in-person meetings and frequency of phone/e-mail contacts; and
- Match support/case management contacts, including the date of calls, who was contacted, and what issues, if any, were raised.

Program coordinators should have a mechanism in place to collect information about match contacts, whether as a part of regular match support or through a form that mentors submit each month. Program coordinators should also regularly record information about their match support contacts.

To ensure accurate and complete data, program coordinators are encouraged to record mentoring relationship milestone information in MentorPRO™ Basic as it happens, rather than waiting until the end of a milestone period to enter all of the required information. Keeping accurate and current data will also ensure that program coordinators have an up-to-date assessment of which requirements are yet to be completed before a milestone is reached, or if a match is not meeting frequently enough to meet Caregiver's Choice requirements.

MentorPRO™ Basic includes all required surveys for Caregiver's Choice. Program coordinators will receive online notification when a survey should be administered and must then enter the survey responses.

4.3
Issuance of Payments

MENTOR will use MentorPRO™ Basic to track the progress of each Caregiver's Choice mentoring relationship. When all of the elements for a milestone have been completed, MENTOR staff will review the milestone information for accuracy. If the milestone has been completed, it will be approved for payment.

MENTOR will issue payments on a monthly basis, and will "bundle" all payments owed to a mentoring program into one check. Each check stub will include the list of payments paired with their respective voucher numbers and milestones. This will enable mentoring programs to ensure they have received all funds due. Checks will be issued no later than forty-five days after the date that the milestone is met.

As payments are directly linked to the completion of all elements in a milestone, mentoring programs will not receive payments for mentoring relationships that are not adhering to Caregiver's Choice requirements. For example, if a mentoring pair is meeting regularly, but the program staff is not performing required case management calls, no payment will be issued. Or, if a mentoring relationship tapers off mid-way through the twelve month period and is no longer able to meet the minimum requirements for frequency and duration, the mentoring program can retain the payments it has already received, but would not receive any additional payments.

All milestone elements must be met to merit payment.

5. Meeting the Expectations of the Caregiver and Child

5.1
Meeting the Needs of Children of Prisoners

Before receiving final approval, Caregiver's Choice mentoring programs will receive training from experts on fostering mentoring relationships that meet the unique needs of children of prisoners. This training will help ensure that mentoring programs understand how to train and support mentors that are matched with children of prisoners, and the special challenges and opportunities associated with serving this population.

Caregiver's Choice mentoring programs are also required to adapt their policies and procedures manual to incorporate special policies for mentoring children of prisoners. Specifically:

- A policy that upon enrollment, caregivers are offered resources on how to talk to children about parental incarceration, including the importance of telling them the truth about their parent's whereabouts. If the child is not aware that their parent is incarcerated, it can present challenges during the mentoring relationship as the mentor, caregiver, and program coordinator must "keep the secret" from the child.
- A plan to engage the caregiver and, when appropriate, the incarcerated parent, in the mentoring relationship. Without the involvement of the incarcerated parent (if appropriate, depending on the child's specific situation), the mentoring relationship can end prematurely when the incarcerated parent is released from prison and resumes custody.

These policies will be discussed during the initial training for Caregiver's Choice mentoring programs.

5.2
**Time Frame
for Starting
the Mentoring
Relationship**

It is important that the Caregiver's Choice mentoring relationship begin within a reasonable amount of time. MENTOR has attempted to balance the time it takes to recruit and train a suitable mentor with the caregiver's desire that a mentoring relationship begin soon after enrollment.

The mentoring program has three months from the date of voucher redemption to match the child with a mentor. After three months, the caregiver has two options:

1. Call the Caregiver's Choice toll-free number and ask to have a new voucher issued. Once the new voucher is issued, the caregiver can choose a different mentoring program and redeem the voucher.
2. Stay with the original mentoring program and continue to wait for a mentor for the child.

Mentoring programs are encouraged to communicate regularly with the caregiver during the time period between voucher redemption and the beginning of the mentoring relationship to ensure that the caregiver stays engaged and interested in remaining with the mentoring program.

MENTOR will also monitor the time elapsed between voucher redemption and completion of the first milestone. When the time elapsed nears three months, MENTOR will contact the mentoring program to ensure the caregiver's expectations can be met.

5.3
**Premature
Termination of
Mentoring
Relationships**

Even when mentoring programs follow best practices, some mentoring relationships will terminate before the twelve-month mark. If this unfortunate situation does occur for a Caregiver's Choice child, a mentoring program must record the match termination in MentorPRO™ Basic. There are several possibilities for what might occur next:

1. The mentoring program can try to find a new mentor for the child, with the caregiver's permission. In this case, the existing voucher will remain valid. The program will not receive payments for any milestones reached in the initial relationship. Instead, payments will resume when the second mentoring relationship reaches a milestone that was not met in the first mentoring relationship.

Example: Johnny is matched with a mentor for three months, and the mentoring program has received \$500 total for milestones one and two. At four months, the mentor moves away and the relationship ends; then the mentoring program finds a new mentor for Johnny. Once Johnny and his new mentor make it to the six-month mark, the program is eligible to receive payment for milestone three (and milestone four at twelve months). The program would not receive payment for milestones one and two a second time, as each voucher is worth a maximum of \$1,000.

2. The mentoring program ends its association with the child (for example, if the child moves out of the program's service area). In this case the voucher will be invalidated. The mentoring program can retain the payments it has already collected, but may not receive future payments for that child.
3. The caregiver elects to take the voucher to a new mentoring program. In this case, the voucher will be invalidated, and a new voucher issued for the caregiver to redeem with a different mentoring program. The first mentoring program can retain the payments it has already collected, but cannot receive future payments for that child.

Caregiver's CHOICE

5.4

**Caregiver
Dissatisfaction
and Removal
of Child**

The purpose of Caregiver's Choice is to give caregivers the ability to choose the mentoring program that best suits their needs. The caregiver also retains the right to remove their child from the mentoring program. In addition, if the caregiver is ever dissatisfied with the services provided by the mentoring program, they may contact the Caregiver's Choice toll-free number to discuss their concerns.

MENTOR will first attempt to resolve the issue so the child can remain with the existing mentoring program. But, if the mentoring program is not fulfilling its obligations to the child or is not following appropriate best practices, the voucher may be invalidated and a new voucher issued so the caregiver can select a different mentoring program.

6. Other Policies

6.1

**Additional Years
of Monitoring**

Mentoring programs are required to continue to support mentoring matches beyond the initial twelve-month commitment should the mentors and mentees wish to remain matched.

6.2

Evaluations

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may choose to evaluate the Caregiver's Choice project in the future. Should this happen, MENTOR will share all data gathered throughout the course of the project with the evaluator. All confidential youth data will be shared in aggregate with personally identifiable data removed. HHS and its evaluator may require additional information to conduct the evaluation. In this case, mentoring programs who have received funds through Caregiver's Choice will be required to cooperate with the evaluation requirements.