

What is mentoring?

Mentoring is a structured, one-to-one relationship between a young person and an adult, a relationship meant to help the young person grow in a variety of ways. Quality mentoring programs provide carefully screened and trained adults that spend time with a child, usually an hour a week over the course of a year.

MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

Caregiver's CHOICE

- I am interested in enrolling my child; please contact my child's other parent or caregiver!
- I am interested in enrolling my child; please send me program lists and voucher!
- I am interested in enrolling and have already identified the following approved mentoring program _____

CHILD'S NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ BOY GIRL

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD (circle): PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/RELATIVE/FRIEND/NEIGHBOR _____

MY NAME _____

CAREGIVER'S NAME _____
(or other parent)

WHO SHOULD BE CONTACTED? (circle): SELF/CAREGIVER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE (if available) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (if available) _____

PREFERRED CONTACT (circle): MAIL/PHONE-indicate best time to call _____/E-MAIL _____

MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

Caregiver's CHOICE

An innovative project connecting children of incarcerated parents to quality mentoring programs.

MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS **Caregiver's CHOICE**
MENTOR.

This is a "Mentoring Children of Prisoners Voucher Demonstration, funded by the Family Youth Services Bureau under grant #90CV0457."

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MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

Caregiver's CHOICE

- Are you caring for a child whose parent is incarcerated?
- Are you looking for new ways to help your child succeed?
- Have you thought about mentoring?



MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS **Caregiver's CHOICE**

MENTOR.

Welcome to the Mentoring Children of Prisoner's Voucher Demonstration Program "Caregiver's Choice." Established in 2007, the Voucher Demonstration Program is designed to increase access to mentoring services nationwide and provide caregivers and parents the choice to select a mentoring program that meets high quality standards. The Family and Youth Services Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded a grant to the National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) to coordinate the distribution of the vouchers. The goal is to serve children who reside in areas not served by a Mentoring Children of Prisoner's basic grant, Native American children and children residing in rural areas. In addition, MENTOR provides ongoing training and technical assistance to all community based Caregiver's Choice Mentoring Providers and their Affiliates.

HOW CAN MENTORING HELP A CHILD WHOSE PARENT IS INCARCERATED?

Mentoring benefits both children and families. Children with an incarcerated parent are a diverse group of children with a shared experience. They can benefit from mentoring in a variety of ways. Many children benefit from an additional adult who can help them with their homework and encourage them in school. Other children may enjoy playing games and sports with their mentor. Often times, mentors can provide an empathetic ear and support as children struggle with their parent's incarceration.

When children spend time with their mentors, it can open up free time for caregivers or parents. For busy caregivers with work commitments, mentors may provide peace of mind: knowing their child is with a trusted adult for activities and outings. Also, research indicates that children with mentors have better relationships with parents and peers, are less likely to skip school, and are more likely to feel confident about their schoolwork.

WHAT IS CAREGIVER'S CHOICE?

Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregiver's Choice is designed to connect caregivers and parents with quality mentoring programs. These programs match children who have incarcerated parents with screened and trained adult mentors.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

Caregiver's Choice makes it possible for many more kids across the country to have mentors, and for many more families to enjoy all the benefits of mentoring. This program is unique because it gives *you*, the child's parent or caregiver, the power to *choose*—to look at the possibilities and decide on the best mentoring program to meet your needs and the needs of *your* child.

FOR EXAMPLE, A CAREGIVER CAN CHOOSE:

- A mentoring program that is run by a secular organization, or one run by a church or faith-based group; or
- A program that is close to the child's school, or one close to home.

Caregiver's Choice takes the guesswork out of finding a mentoring program. Because all the programs in Caregiver's Choice are approved, caregivers can feel comfortable choosing a program based on their needs, knowing all the programs and mentors meet standards for safety and quality.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

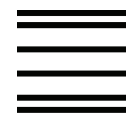
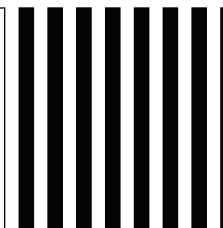
Parents/caregivers complete an enclosed application or visit www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice to enroll a child in Caregiver's Choice. Once the initial application is completed the caregiver will receive a list of the approved mentoring programs in their city or state and a voucher (or mentoring scholarship) for their child. Caregivers then take the voucher to the program that best fits their needs, and the program looks for a mentor for the child. If a caregiver needs more information or guidance to choose a program, help is available by phone at 877-333-CHOICE (877-333-2464).

The enrollment process should take about 30 days.

WHO CAN USE THE VOUCHERS?

Any child, from age 4 up to age 18, who has a parent in a federal or state correctional facility and who is not already enrolled in a formal mentoring program.

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