



RESEARCH & POLICY COUNCIL

APRIL 10 - 11, 2007

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THE POLICY SCENE  
FOR MENTORING





## MENTORING ON THE HILL

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- Strengths in the political world:
  - Feel-good issue without opposition.
  - Isn't a handout, is a "helping hand."
- Challenges in the political world:
  - Controversial issues generate more ardent support.
  - Crowded issue environment.
  - Lack of understanding that mentoring takes funding to do well.





## MENTORING IS WELL-POSITIONED

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- Republicans:
  - President focuses regularly on mentoring, and has helped raise funding/awareness.
  - Has led to additional support among Republican members and administration.
  
- Democrats:
  - Tend to fund human service/education issues higher.
  - Traditionally, have more D supporters.
  - Number of D supporters now in positions of power.





## FEDERAL FUNDING

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- Annual federal funding is \$100M:
  - Education's Mentoring Programs grants.
  - HHS' Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.
- Growth in federal funding has increased the number of mentoring relationships.
- Education is seeking to eliminate its program
  - Congressional change resulted in FY2007 funded at FY 2006 levels.
  - Looks positive for FY2008.





## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

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- Education law to be reauthorized this year
  - Presents opportunity to strengthen Education's Mentoring Programs grants
  - Developed joint recommendations with BBBSA and National Collaborative for Youth
- Our recommendations would:
  - Strengthen training/TA, data collection, and reporting requirements.
  - Add in a tiered match to encourage sustainability.
  - Add new authority/funding to support research on school-based mentoring.





## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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- Corporation for National and Community Service is a leader on mentoring:
  - Strategic plan goal of 3 million new mentoring relationships by 2010.
  - Spearheads Federal Mentoring Council
- Could be reauthorized this session:
  - Opportunity to build in funding streams and authority for mentoring at state and local level.
  - Could also pursue national-level funding for research, recruitment campaigns, etc.





## SAFETY

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- Reliable, nationwide background checks are essential to volunteer screening.
- In 2003, Congress passed a screening pilot:
  - SafetyNET, operated by MENTOR, provides FBI fingerprint searches.
  - Cost is \$18 and turnaround time is 3-5 days
  - SafetyNET expires in June 2008.
- MENTOR will be working to:
  - Make SafetyNET permanent.
  - Make it more broadly accessible.





## COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION

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- Research
  - Research findings help make the case for mentoring
  - Identifies promising models that can be pilot-tested through federal legislation
- Policy
  - Look to Council for guidance on existing and potential policy issues
- Practice
  - Stronger mentoring programs make more effective case for federal funding





**MENTOR**®

ALWAYS AT THE HEART OF MENTORING