

Mentoring Talking Points

These talking points provide statistics about mentoring programs to provide Congressional staff with a snapshot of mentoring across the nation. They also provide information about MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership and the National Mentoring Summit.

What is “The Mentoring Gap”?

- 1 in 3 young people in the U.S. will reach the age of 19 without having a mentor. This is the mentoring gap in the United States.

Why Does Mentoring Matter?

- Mentored youth are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who do not have a mentor.
- Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class.
- Mentored youth are 46% less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking.
- Mentored youth are 81% more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities.
- Mentored youth are more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team.
- Mentored youth are 78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.
- The most conservative study of mentoring estimates a \$3 to \$1 return on investment.

What Does Mentoring Look Like?

- **Mentoring programs are operated by many different organizations and agencies.** 79% of youth mentoring agencies are nonprofits, 9% are K12 schools or districts, 3% are government agencies, 3% are higher education institutions, and the remaining 6% are religious institutions, for-profits, healthcare facilities, and others.
- **Mentoring programs do a lot with a little.** The typical mentoring program has a small staff and limited funds. The average mentoring program budget is \$153,465. However, half of programs have a budget under \$50,000 (two-thirds of programs are under \$100,000).
- **The average cost-per-youth served across programs is \$1,695 a year.** However, as the percentage of youths with higher needs in a program increases, so does the average cost. As the cost-per-youth increases so does the quality of services offered including increased pre and post-match training and more match support.
- **Mentoring programs face challenges.** In a recent survey conducted by MENTOR, 47% of mentoring programs responded that mentor recruitment was a challenge followed by 44% reporting that fundraising was a challenge. Mentoring programs need both human capital and funding to close the mentoring gap.
- **Mentoring programs have different program goals.** Mentoring program goals vary based on the organization but some of the most common goals are supporting life and social skills, providing positive youth development, academic enrichment, career exploration, leadership development and college access.

What Do Americans Think About Mentoring?

- At a time when much of the focus is on what divides us, MENTOR research shows that there is something the majority of Americans agree on: **mentoring relationships are powerful tools for connection and are critical to our country's future.**
- More than 80% of adults support government investment in mentoring, and **more than two-thirds are already mentoring or willing to consider it.**
- Research shows that 44% of adults are not yet mentoring but are willing to consider it. This demonstrates that mentoring is poised for growth.

Who is MENTOR?

- MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) is the unifying champion for expanding quality youth mentoring relationships in the United States. Since MENTOR was founded, the number of at risk-youth in quality mentoring relationships has grown from 300,000 to 4.5 million.
- For over 25 years, MENTOR has served the mentoring field by providing a public voice, developing and delivering resources to mentoring programs nationwide and promoting quality for mentoring through standards, cutting-edge research and state of the art tools. MENTOR drives the investment of time and money into high impact mentoring programs through advocacy, influence strategy and public awareness.
- MENTOR's mission is to fuel the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships for America's young people and to close the mentoring gap. MENTOR carries out this work in collaboration with our nationwide network of Affiliates. We engage with the private, public and nonprofit sectors to ensure that all young people have the support they need through mentoring relationships to succeed at home, school and work.

What is the National Mentoring Summit?

- The National Mentoring Summit, founded and convened by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, is the signature event for the mentoring field that brings together top researchers, policy makers, practitioners, the network of affiliate Mentoring Partnerships, corporate partners and many other national youth-serving organizations. The 2018 National Mentoring Summit will bring together approximately 1,000 attendees from the youth mentoring, government, civic, research and corporate sectors.

