



MENTORING CONNECTOR: 3 NATIONAL STANDARDS

The 3 National Standards are derived from MENTOR's cornerstone publication, the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™, 4th Edition* and have been designed to ensure that Programs in the Mentoring Connector are of high quality. A Program applying to be listed in the Connector must meet all 3 National Standards before being Approved. Programs that do not meet one or more of the Standards are still eligible to be listed in the Connector, and either a MENTOR Affiliate or National team member (depending on their state) will work with the Program to help them meet all standards.

1:

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Programs must conduct background checks on all mentors 18 years of age and older, except for school-based and peer-to-peer mentoring Programs that involve youth as mentors under the age of 18; however, any adults who participate in or supervise such a Program must have cleared a background check within the past three years. While background checks are required by MENTOR, the type of background check and how they are used to make decisions remains at the discretion of the Program. For example, performing a background does not mean that formerly incarcerated folks cannot be mentors at your organization.

2:

TRAINING FOR MENTORS

Programs must offer and adequately describe the training they provide to incoming mentors in order to be listed on the Mentoring Connector. The research done in the EEPM revealed that trained mentors are more likely to be confident role-models for youth, and less likely to abandon their desire to mentor. By supporting mentors with training, you are improving the chances that a mentee is matched with an engaged mentor.

3:

MINIMUM MATCH COMMITMENT

Programs must commit to matching mentors and mentees in a thoughtful and future-orientated manner. A minimum match commitment refers to the process of matching mentor and mentee together based on interests, skills, personality, background, etc., in order to enhance the mentoring relationship. In other words, matching mentors to mentees must not be a random process. After internal deliberation and external feedback, this National Standard was officially revised in Feb. 2021 to be more inclusive. Originally the match commitment was based on time, and required Programs to spend at minimum 3 or more months matching mentors to mentees. However, many short-term Programs, such as seasonal or sports-related organizations, do not have match commitments of more than 3 months. If your Program was denied in the past due to not meeting this National Standard, please reach out to info@connector.org to be reinstated.