

## Mentoring Talking Points and Information about the National Mentoring Summit

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 and the National Mentoring Summit. Aides are welcome to utilize this information in social media, speeches, and other communications materials.



### What is “The Mentoring Gap”?

- 1 in 3 young people in the U.S. will reach the age of 19 without having a mentor. In recent years, the gap has continued to grow, and young people under the age of 24 are still in need of and want more mentoring support than they are currently receiving. In fact, almost 70% of today’s young people could remember a time when they wanted a mentor for support, but didn’t have one. This is the mentoring gap in the United States.

### Why Does Mentoring Matter?

- Multiple research studies have shown mentoring relationships to be an important catalyst of economic mobility, especially those from low-income and low-education households.
- The average American gives the mentors they had growing up more than 50% of the credit for their success in life. That goes up considerably for those who grew up in poverty or faced serious trauma.
- Mentored youth are 92% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.
- Mentored youth are 22% more likely to have experienced a strong sense of belonging while growing up.

### What Does Mentoring Look Like?

- **Youth find mentors through programs provided by several institutions and systems.** 79% of youth mentoring programs are led by nonprofits, 9% by K-12 schools or districts, 3% by government agencies, 3% by higher education institutions, and the remaining 6% by religious institutions, for-profits, healthcare facilities, and others.
- **Mentoring programs do a lot with a little.** Most mentoring programs operate with small budgets and staffing. Most have fewer than three full time staff members, and 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, programs serving youth with severe needs often have much higher costs, as they require more intensive mentoring experiences. Generally, research suggests that programs offer higher-quality mentoring services as their cost-per-youth increases, 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. Research has shown that mentoring is one of the few strategies that can effectively address all of these areas of need, and often address multiple at once.

## What Do Americans Think About Mentoring?

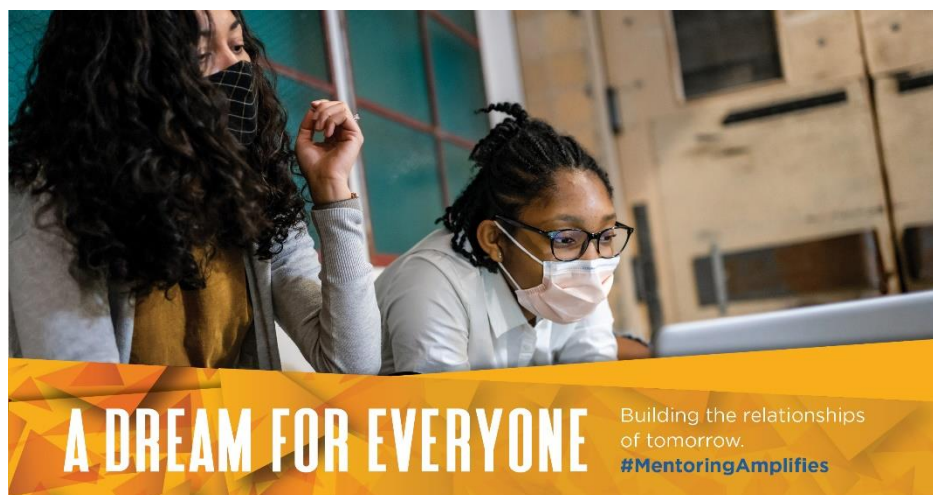
- At a time when much of the focus is on what divides us, research shows that there is something most Americans agree on: **mentoring relationships are powerful tools for connection and are critical to our country's future.** MENTOR's Power of Relationships study found that 88% of Americans think more mentoring is needed, and that strengthening youth education, reducing youth violence, and upholding the nation's morals and values were the top 3 reasons the nation benefits.
- **More than 80% of adults support government investment in mentoring,** and 44% of adults have never mentored a young person but are willing to consider it. This demonstrates that mentoring is poised for growth.

## Who is MENTOR?

- MENTOR is the unifying champion for expanding quality youth mentoring relationships in the United States. Since MENTOR was founded, the number of youth facing risk in quality mentoring relationships has grown from 300,000 to 4.5 million.
- For more than 30 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 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 its nationwide network of Affiliates, and is engaged with the private, public and nonprofit sectors to ensure that all young people have the relational supports they need to succeed at home, school and work.

## What is the National Mentoring Summit?

- The National Mentoring Summit, founded and convened by [MENTOR](#), is the signature event for the mentoring field that brings together top researchers, policy makers, practitioners, a network of Affiliates, corporate partners, other national youth-serving organization and many others. The 2023 National Mentoring Summit will bring together over 3,000 attendees from the youth mentoring, government, civic, research and corporate sectors.



*MENTOR and its Affiliate Network offer training, research, tools, and many free resources for mentors and mentoring programs on our web page, [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org). #MentoringAmplifies*