



2026 NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Advocacy Outreach Toolkit

ENGAGING PUBLIC OFFICIALS

This National Mentoring Month, help elected and other public officials celebrate the power of relationships and commit to investing in youth mentoring programs. Developing relationships with public officials and their staff can lead to actions that expand mentoring opportunities for young people. We've made your advocacy easy with tools, templates, and resources!

As a constituent, personal outreach to elected and other public officials increases the likelihood that these leaders will find a way to celebrate mentoring and publicly respond to your advocacy. Use this fun and essential campaign as a reason to reach out!

PUBLIC OFFICIAL OUTREACH DURING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Advocate to Increase Public Funding for Mentoring: Help build support to increase federal funding for mentoring by using [MENTOR's Action Center](#) to write to and tweet at your Members of Congress. Encourage your network to take action, too!

TIP: If you've met with a Member of Congress' office in the past, use our youth mentoring talking points to send a personal email to your contact.

Support the National Mentoring Month Resolution: Use [MENTOR's Action Center](#) to contact the office of your elected officials in Congress and encourage them to sign on to the annual National Mentoring Month Resolution and join the [Congressional Youth Mentoring Caucus](#).



MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Engage on Social Media: Use [MENTOR's Action Center](#) our [sample messaging](#) to advocate to your members of Congress in a social media post. Thank them for their support of mentoring, or advocate for additional resources for the movement! Be sure to use hashtag #MentoringMonth and tag MENTOR so we can amplify your advocacy efforts!

RESOURCES FOR ENGAGING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

- **Resource:** MENTOR's Legislative Platform and Funding Priorities
- **Tool:** MENTOR's Action Center
- **Resource:** Benefits of Youth Mentoring Talking Points
- **Resource:** Issue-specific resources
- **Resource:** Grassroots advocacy resources
- **Tool:** Sample social media messages

GOVERNORS, STATE LEGISLATORS, & MAYORS

Request a Proclamation: Ask your Governor and/or Mayor to issue a [proclamation](#) honoring National Mentoring Month in your state. A proclamation is a formal recognition and declaration from elected officials for special events and occasions to be honored.

TIP: Many Governors/Mayors have a process for submitting these requests. Be sure to research this prior to January and follow any necessary deadlines. You can send the final product to [Abbie Evans](#) so MENTOR can amplify your success!

Extend Paid Leave Time to Mentor: Are state or city employees eligible for paid volunteer leave time in your state? National Mentoring Month presents a great time to encourage your Governor, Mayor, or other officials to allow employees who serve as volunteer mentors to utilize paid volunteer leave. Make the case to reduce your state's mentee waitlists and increase mentor recruitment efforts.



GOVERNORS, STATE LEGISLATORS, & MAYORS

Nominate a Mayor for Mentoring: Does your Mayor already celebrate and support youth mentoring? [Nominate them](#) to be a Mayor for Mentoring, a national campaign to celebrate the efforts of mayors to expand the quality and quantity of mentoring opportunities for young people in their communities.

Participate in Events: Invite state and local officials to speak at keynotes and/or present awards and recognitions at any celebration events you're hosting in January.

Partner on Recruitment: Work with local programs and your Mayor's office to host a local mentor recruitment campaign.

RESOURCES FOR ENGAGING GOVERNORS & MAYORS

- **Resource:** Benefits of Youth Mentoring Talking Points
- **Template:** Proclamation Press Release for Governors or Mayors
- **Tool:** Sample Social Media Messages
- **Tool:** Recommended Paid Leave for City/ State Employees to Serve as Volunteer Mentors
- **Resource:** Agent of Change Advocacy Guide
- **Resource:** Issue-specific resources
- **Resource:** Grassroots advocacy resources
- **Tool:** Nominate Mayors for Mentoring

If you have any questions about engaging elected officials, please contact [Abbie Evans, Chief External Affairs Officer](#).

