

INFOCUS



Liz Ryan, OJJDP Administrator

January 2022

Mentoring Youth

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) invests in mentoring programs and services to help ensure positive outcomes for youth. Successful mentoring relationships have been shown to increase youth's self-esteem, improve academic achievement, and steer them away from delinquency, substance use, and other high-risk behaviors.

The Office works with its partners to boost mentor recruitment, enhance mentor-mentee matches, and increase the number of youth who have mentors. From 2017 through the first half of 2021, OJJDP's programs recruited nearly 143,000 new mentors and served more than 971,000 youth nationwide.

Diverse populations of youth benefit from OJJDP's mentoring programs, including those impacted by opioids and drug addiction, youth in rural communities, American Indian and Alaska Native youth, children of parents on active military duty, and children of incarcerated parents.

Programs

National and Multistate Mentoring Programs

These programs support one-on-one, group, and peer mentoring to youth who are at risk for delinquency, victimization, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. The programs emphasize family engagement and promote positive relationships between youth and law enforcement.

Mentoring for Youth Affected by the Opioid Crisis and Drug Addiction

Grants awarded under this program fund support services and interventions—as part of a prevention, treatment, and supportive approach—for children and youth who have been impacted by substance use.

Training and Technical Assistance

National Mentoring Resource Center

Guided by a board of nationally renowned mentoring researchers, the center offers comprehensive resources, evidence-based practices, tools, and research to improve the quality and effectiveness of youth mentoring. The center's services are available at no cost to all youth mentoring providers.

For More Information

Learn more about OJJDP's mentoring programs at ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/mentoring.

Funding

Between fiscal years 2019 and 2021, OJJDP awarded \$258.3 million to increase mentoring opportunities for youth and to improve the quality of the mentoring they receive.

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2021—\$89.4 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2020—\$84.9 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2019—\$84 million

From the Field

“Horrible,” is how Kyndall Miller describes her college application process. “My whole life we lived in low-income areas and my schools were not great,” shares the Kentucky native. “I’m a first-generation college student; I had no one holding my hand and telling me what to do.”

In need of guidance, Kyndall turned to her mentor from Covington Partners, an OJJDP grantee in Covington, KY, for help. “She was an affirming voice. She encouraged me and believed I could do it. That meant so much.”

Now a first-year student at the University of Louisville, Kyndall is giving back—as a youth advisor to OJJDP's National Mentoring Resource Center and as a volunteer at a local mentoring organization, helping children develop literacy skills. Mentoring has been instrumental to Kyndall's success and she is determined to help other underserved youth achieve their dreams.



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