

STATE BUDGET

MENTORING MATCHING GRANTS (7061-9634) FUNDED AT \$1,000,000 FOR FY20

Advocating for increased funding the Mentoring Matching Grants (7061-9634) remains a top priority for MMP. This is the only dedicated state funding to support youth mentoring programs across Massachusetts and requires a dollar for dollar match on the state investment. If funded at the \$1,000,000 level, the program will support at least 3,200 new and existing matches, leverage \$1,000,000 from the private sector through the match requirement, and improve mentee attitude towards school and other outcomes related to school success, such as increased school attendance and improved grades.

POLICY AREAS



SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH

Work with youth serving organizations to provide mentoring relationships for transition-aged youth in foster care who will leave the social service system without developmental relationships and webs of support.



REQUIRING ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Make recommendations to existing law that will encourage school resource officers to undergo extensive trainings in cultural responsiveness and trauma-informed practice to address unjust and racially/ethnically biased disciplinary practices in Massachusetts schools and alleviate the school-to-prison pipeline.



BULLYING PREVENTION

Support this legislation which creates a grant for 15 schools to recruit and train school-level "relationship-managers" (RM) who are charged with reducing bullying events in the schools. Relationship managers would be working 30-32 hours per week including 3-3.5 hours of face to face time with students, and added weekly trainings to align and strengthen their work. This effort would be shared with SEL4MA and would need to be re-filed in 2019.

ABOUT MMP

With offices in Boston and in Holyoke, MMP works across the state to expand empowering youth-adult relationships to meet the needs of communities.

REVENUE OPPORTUNITY

MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE TO BE DEDICATED TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

Continue to petition the legislature and the Cannabis Control Commission to dedicate a portion of the revenue collected from recreational marijuana sales tax to be allocated to fund youth services and prevention programming, specifically for mentoring, as is the practice of the State of Colorado.



POLICY ITEMS

POLICIES RELATIVE TO DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

MMP will continue to support policies that create and leverage deep and enduring youth-adult relationships that exist within schools, in an effort to prevent youth from dropping out of school and providing support for those who have already left. MMP will focus its energy on efforts to implement a student success coach initiative to formalize a priority on relationships as a systemic solution to high dropout rates and chronic absenteeism. MMP will continue to identify and track other bills that offer opportunities to raise awareness about the importance of relationships, offer funding to provide any necessary infrastructure, and/or leverage mentoring programs and other youth serving organizations.

REPRESENTING THE MENTORING FIELD ON THE TASK FORCE TO PROTECT MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Due to the passage of HB4305, An Act creating a task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse in early January 2015, MMP was appointed to represent the mentoring field on a statewide task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse. The task force focuses on child sex abuse prevention in the context of youth serving programs and is charged with reviewing current prevention initiatives, existing mandates and guidelines for community based child and youth serving organizations, and making recommendations for enhancing prevention efforts and responses to children who are at risk.

MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE TO BE DEDICATED TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

Mass Mentoring Partnership has petitioned the legislature and the Cannabis Control Commission to dedicate a portion of the revenue collected from recreational marijuana sales tax to be allocated to fund youth services and prevention programming, specifically for mentoring, as is the practice of the State of Colorado.

POLICIES RELEVANT TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MMP will pursue opportunities either through the legislature or the administration, to build relationship components that complement career readiness and career exploration programs into state workforce development initiatives. MMP will work to incorporate a focus on the importance of deep and enduring relationships into youth employment programs in an effort to make an explicit connection between mentoring and workforce development.

STAKEHOLDER/CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT

While engaging in budget and public policy arenas, MMP and the field will engage our stakeholder network to support and advocate for these shared priorities. These stakeholders include funders, key policy makers, program staff, program participants (mentors, mentees and families) and other interested and engaged parties. It is critical that this shared agenda is supported by and led by the field as a whole and that all constituents are involved and included in the effort.

For more information, contact **Chelsea Aquino**, *Manager of Government Relations and Public Policy*, Mass Mentoring Partnership at caquino@massmentors.org or **617-695-2476**.



MENTORING MATCHING GRANTS \$1,000,000 IN LINE ITEM 7061-9634 FOR FY20

In FY18 the Mentoring Matching Grants line item (7061-9634) was funded at \$750,000, less than half of what it received when the account was created. We respectfully request \$1,000,000 for this program. An investment of \$1,000,000 would:

- Create and professionally support at least 3,200 empowering youth-adult relationships through mentoring programs in Massachusetts, increasing the odds that these youths will graduate high school on time, make responsible choices and be prepared to join the workforce
- Expand on innovative prevention programming in schools where developmental relationships are needed for youth to thrive and reach their potential
- Leverage \$1,000,000 from the private sector through a dollar-for-dollar match requirement for grantees
- Improve mentee attitude towards school and other outcomes related to school success, such as increased school attendance and improved grades including the expansion of (two) Success Mentors pilot programs in targeted communities in Massachusetts
- Yield an almost 3:1 return on investment through dollars saved in reduced juvenile delinquency and crime, and youth engagement in risky behaviors such as drug, alcohol and tobacco useⁱ

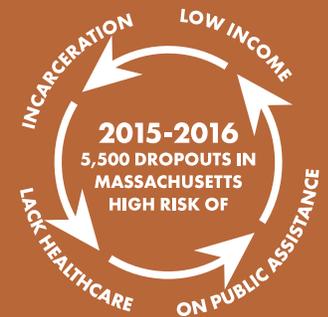
AN INCREASE OF \$1,000,000 WILL MATCH AND SUPPORT AN ADDITIONAL 3,200 YOUTH AND LEVERAGE \$1,000,000 FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH THE DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH REQUIREMENT.

A TREMENDOUS NEED

In the 2015-2016 school year, over 5,500 Massachusetts students left school before earning a diploma. ⁱⁱ Dropouts are:

- less likely to have a job and those who do earn less, on average, than high school graduates,
- less likely to have health insurance than those with more education, and are more likely to depend on Medicaid or Medicare for their coverage,
- more likely to depend on public assistance, and are
- more likely to be incarceratedⁱⁱⁱ

Unmet need for empowering youth adult relationships through mentoring programs remains very high. In the cities with the highest numbers of youth from single parent families in poverty, mentoring needs being met ranges from a high of 33.5% of youth ages 5-17 in Boston, to a low of .2% in Lowell. In each of the Gateway Cities of Brockton, Fall River, Lowell, Lynn, and New Bedford, less than 10% of the need for mentors is being met.^{iv}



A POWERFUL SOLUTION

Empowering youth-adult relationships created and supported in mentoring programs strengthen communities across Massachusetts. For every dollar invested in effective mentoring programs there is a return of \$2.72, including projected increases in lifetime earnings gained by leading at-risk youth down the path to become productive adult citizens, as well as dollars saved through reduced juvenile delinquency and crime, improved school attendance, higher high school graduation rates, along with the lowered risk of youth involvement in risky behaviors such as drug, alcohol and tobacco use. Massachusetts youth experiencing empowering youth-adult relationships in mentoring programs funded through Line Item 7061-9634 have shown many critical developmental improvements, assets that lead to a host of other positive outcomes, including dropout and violence prevention, workforce readiness, and positive social relationships.

On average, grantees spend \$1,250 to screen, train, and match a young person with an adult mentor for a minimum of a school year. The funds are used for this direct purpose and are leveraged through a dollar-for-dollar match requirement in addition to the volunteer time of mentors.

HIGHEST VS LOWEST PERCENTAGES OF MENTORING NEEDS BEING MET





MENTORING MATCHING GRANTS \$1,000,000 IN LINE ITEM 7061-9634 FOR FY20

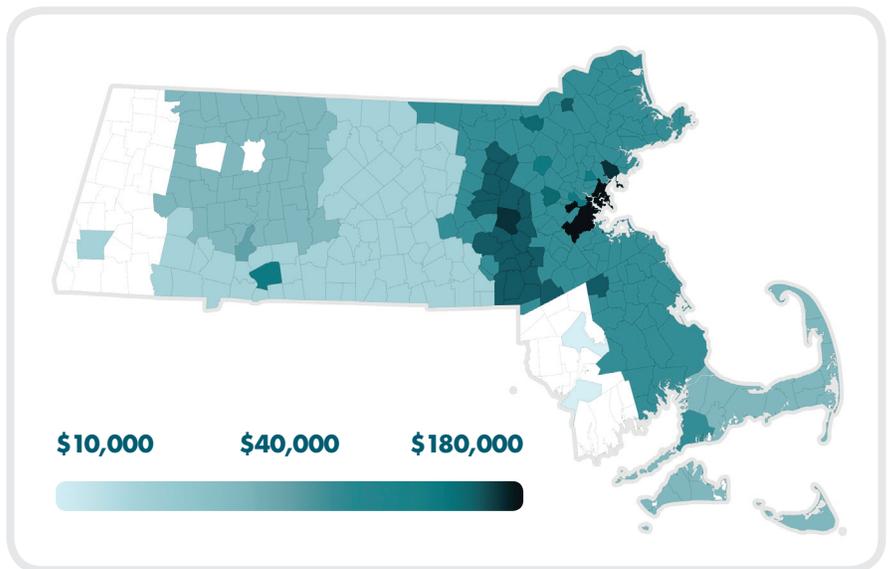
QUALITY PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN PLACE IN MASSACHUSETTS

This money is awarded through a competitive RFP process and community review administered by the Mass Mentoring Partnership. Mentoring relationships are most likely to promote positive outcomes and to avoid harm when they are close, consistent and enduring. Funded programs are supported with training and capacity building, based on the latest research and effective practices, and must meet high levels of quality to ensure that outcomes are maximized. In FY19, programs implemented improvements in the areas of mentor recruitment and training, screening, match support and curriculum development. Due to a cut from the state in the second year of the grant cycle, Mass Mentoring invested private funds to the following programs to ensure level-funding for the programs below.

PROGRAMS FUNDED STATEWIDE THROUGH THE MENTORING MATCHING GRANTS IN FY19

- African Community Education Program (ACE)
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities
- Railroad Street Youth Project
- Associates for Human Services
- People, Incorporated
- Silver Lining Mentoring
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Franklin County Inc
- Project Coach
- Springfield School Volunteers
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass/Metrowest, Inc
- R.A.W. Raw Artistic Works, Inc.
- Strong Women, Strong Girls, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampden County
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mass Bay
- Big Sister Association of Greater Boston
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Boston Partners in Education
- Boston Public Schools
- Cambridge Community Services
- Catholic Charities' Laboure Center
- Centerboard
- Community Teamwork Inc. - BBBS
- Earthen Vessels
- Falmouth Volunteers in Public Schools - Project RISE
- Family Service Association of Greater Fall River, Inc
- Family Service Inc. - BFLF
- Generations Incorporated
- Girls Inc of Lynn - Middle School Program
- Greater Holyoke Boys and Girls Club
- Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
- John Andrew Mazie Memorial Foundation
- Life Transforming Leadership Foundation
- LUK Inc.
- Melrose Alliance Against Violence
- Mother Caroline Academy & Education Center
- Old Colony YMCA

MENTORING MATCHING GRANTS FUNDING DISTRIBUTION STATEWIDE



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ⁱ Wilder Research, "Social Return on Investment in Youth Mentoring Programs," March 2007

ⁱⁱ High School Dropouts 2015-16, Massachusetts Public Schools

ⁱⁱⁱ Social and Fiscal Consequences of the Dropout Crisis. (Updated, 2009). Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University.

^{iv} University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. (2015). Mass Mentoring Counts 2014: The State of Mentoring in Massachusetts. Report for Mass Mentoring Partnership: Boston, MA.

ABOUT MMP

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