

## TALKING POINTS

These talking points provide statistics about mentoring programs to provide legislative staff with a snapshot of mentoring across Minnesota and the nation. This sheet also provides information about MENTOR Minnesota and Mentoring Action Day.



### What is “the mentoring gap”?

1 in 3 young people in the U.S. will reach the age of 19 without having a mentor. This is the mentoring gap.

### Why does mentoring matter?

- Mentored youth are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who do not have a mentor.
- Students who meet regularly with mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class.
- Mentored youth are 46% less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking.
- Mentored youth are 81% more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities than their peers.
- Mentored youth are more than twice as likely to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team.
- Mentored youth are 78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.
- Even conservative studies report that mentoring estimates a \$3 to \$1 return on investment.

### Quick facts:

**Mentoring programs are diverse** and are operated by many different organizations and agencies. Out of all youth mentoring agencies:

- 79% are nonprofits,
- 9% are K12 schools or districts,
- 3% are government agencies,
- 3% are higher education institutions,
- and 6% are religious institutions, for-profits, healthcare facilities, and others.

**Mentoring programs do a lot with a little.** The typical mentoring program has a small staff and limited funds. Half of programs have a budget under \$50,000 and two-thirds are under \$100,000. Yet these programs are able to make incredible differences in the lives of youth and communities.

**The average cost-per-youth served is \$1,695 per year.** With increases in cost-per-youth, we also see an increase in quality of services offered like pre- and post-match training and greater match support.

**Mentoring programs face challenges.** In a recent survey by MENTOR National, 47% of programs reported that mentor recruitment was a challenge and 44% reported that fundraising was a challenge. Our programs need more human capital and funding to close the mentoring gap.

**Mentoring programs may be diverse, but share common values like:**

- Life and social skills support,
- Positive youth development,
- Academic enrichment,
- Career exploration,
- Leadership development, and
- College access.

**What does the public think about mentoring?**

- In the midst of political division, our research shows that the majority of Americans agree that mentoring relationships are powerful tools for connection and are critical to our state's future.
- More than 80% of adults support government investment in mentoring.
- More than two-thirds of adults are currently mentoring or are willing to consider it – demonstrating that mentoring is poised for growth.

**Who is MENTOR Minnesota?**

Launched in 1994 as a community mentoring initiative, MENTOR Minnesota has led the state mentoring movement for over 20 years. Over decades, we have ensured youth and mentors have access to high-quality mentoring experiences and resources through our network of 200 mentoring programs. We are dedicated to building and elevating the capacity of programs, systems, and policies to strength youth mentoring relationships.

**What is Mentoring Action Day?**

Storytelling is the most effective way to build power amongst our legislators. By familiarizing ourselves with the Capitol and engaging with representatives, we can advocate for mentorship in Minnesota. Mentoring Action Day is all about empowering constituents to advocate for themselves and the needs of the youth. It is critical that we work together to close the mentoring gap.

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