



An affinity group of the National Human Services Assembly

Mentoring Programs

Department of Education & Department of Health and Human Services

Background:

During his 2003 State of the Union address, President Bush stressed the positive impact mentoring can have on our nation's youth and requested, over the next three Fiscal Years, \$300 million for the *Mentoring for Success* program at the Department of Education and \$150 million for the *Mentoring Children of Prisoners* program at the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to the President's recognition of a need for increased funding and the needs of children of prisoners, the initiative also calls for more adult volunteer mentors.

Outcomes:

Research has proven that one to one mentoring relationships can help youth overcome challenges and achieve their potential. Children with professionally supported, on-going, positive adult relationships show an increase in self-esteem, school performance and have better relationships with peers and adults.

Programs:

- *Mentoring for Success* is the Department of Education's first competitive grant program specifically for mentoring. These funds are used to promote mentoring programs for children with the greatest need with the goal of assisting these children in receiving support and guidance from a mentor with the purpose of improving their academic performance; interpersonal relationships with their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members; and reducing their juvenile delinquency and involvement in gangs.
- The Department of Health and Human Services' *Mentoring Children of Prisoners* program provides an adult role model for children with at least one criminally involved parent. The goals of the program are to improve the interpersonal relationships of these children, and break the cycle of juvenile delinquency and incarceration. In situations where incarcerated parents are actively engaged in the mentoring process, reunification is a natural process with realistic expectations. Mentors can facilitate a smooth transition from prison by helping the parent reconnect with their child.

Funding:

FY 2003 appropriation:	\$26.9 million	(\$17.2M for MFS/\$9.7M for MCOP)
FY 2004 budget requested:	\$150 million	(\$100M for MFS/\$50M for MCOP)
FY 2004 appropriation:	\$100 million	(\$50M for MFS/\$50M for MCOP)
FY 2005 budget requested:	\$150 million	(\$100M for MFS/\$50M for MCOP)
FY 2005 appropriation:	\$100 million	(\$50M for MFS/\$50M for MCOP)
FY 2006 budget request:	\$100 million	(\$50M for MFS/\$50M for MCOP)

National Collaboration for Youth Funding Request: \$150 million
(\$100M for MFS/\$50M for MCOP)

For more information, contact Michael Hackman, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (mhackman@bbbsa.org).