



## National Youth Mentoring Initiative

**Vision Statement:** Youth thrive with support from a caring mentor who notices them and their potential.

### Background

Mentors offer youth guidance, support, experience and much-needed encouragement at a critical time for achieving academic and personal goals. Having steady, positive influences can serve as a major catalyst for growth and accomplishment that can happen in a person's life and can lead to increased confidence and self-esteem, improved academic performance and relationships, and help a child realize their true potential.



**Every dollar invested** in Boys & Girls Clubs **returns \$9.60** in current and future earnings and cost-savings to their communities.

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**Currently, one in three young people — an estimated 16 million — will grow up without a mentor.**

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**The National Youth Mentoring Initiative** critical grant program administered at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This office has a long history of supporting mentoring programs—awarding more than **\$834 million** in grants to mentoring organizations since 2008. Boys & Girls Clubs have long recognized the need and importance of mentors in the lives of America's youth and utilize high quality mentoring programming to serve more than **34,000** youth and teens in all **50** states.

### Club Approach

As a leader in the out-of-school time space, Clubs meet the needs of local communities across the country, keeping young people safe, providing opportunities for improving academic success and building character and leadership skills, which helps increase youth resiliency and reduces high-risk activity. Clubs leverage BGCA's nationwide network to link youth with caring mentors, positive youth development and skill-building programs.

Youth Mentoring Program helps strengthen, expand and enhance mentoring curriculum for Club members and focuses on: At-Risk Youth, Native Youth, Opioid Impacted Youth, and Military Youth. Funds are used to promote positive outcomes and reduce the potential impact of poverty, community violence, gang activity and incarcerated parents for youth who attend or are referred to a Boys & Girls Club.

Boys & Girls Clubs utilize a combination of group and one-on-one mentorship approaches, foster the development of peer-to-peer relationships, strengthen the development of critical social skills, and establish close connections to the participants' communities.

# Youth Mentoring is Effective

The National Mentoring Partnership along with Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth Outcome Initiative report confirms the positive impact mentoring has on young people, especially at-risk youth, to help them succeed in school, work, and life. Young adults who were at-risk for falling off track but had a mentor are:



\*Older teens with optimal Club experience.

## Mentoring & The Opioid Epidemic



**Mentors support the healthy development of young people, which can help prevent early drug use, and are instrumental support systems when youth are dealing with the addiction or substance use-related incarceration of parents and other adults in their lives.**

## Success Stories

The **Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County**, Montana uses their OJP Youth Mentoring grant to provide opportunities and Club programs to **48 members**. The Club utilizes special scheduling to allow staff members designated time to mentor youth one-on-one to build stronger relationships and deepen impact based on individual needs. Regularly attending youth are selected based on demonstrated needs and the Club is seeing improvement in social competencies. As a result of the mentoring efforts, participating youth are seeing improved success in relationships with peers and siblings and have become more engaged in Club programs.



<sup>1</sup> Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth Outcome Initiative Report. (2020).

<sup>2</sup> National Mentoring Partnership Data. (2014). [https://www.mentoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The\\_Mentoring\\_Effect\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.mentoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The_Mentoring_Effect_Executive_Summary.pdf)