

INCARCERATING A JUVENILE COSTS UP TO \$200,000 PER YEAR

Why MentorUP?

The number of young people in New York State aged 13-18 with pending, prior, or possible conflicts with the law is high. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) currently manages nearly 6,000 youth at a per-person cost of \$200,000 a year. Yet 76% of these young people will be re-incarcerated. In contrast, Alternatives to Detention (ATD) programs cost as little as \$15,000 per youth per year, with recidivism rates lowered to between 17 – 36%.

MentorUP was created to offer site-based mentoring with an academic and asset-building focus to build the confidence and social skills of these youth. MentorUP does this by pairing young people with well trained, highly motivated volunteers. The MentorUP program works to break the cycle of recidivism and help young mentees carve out a better future. Everyone has a stake in helping all young people succeed and take their place as engaged citizens and fully prepared members of a stronger, smarter workforce.

The Volunteer Experience

All CSS/RSVP Mentoring Initiatives are conducted in collaboration with partner organizations that already have mentoring programs in existence.

CSS/RSVP will:

- ❑ Provide mentorship training that equips volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to specialize in mentoring youth in need of intervention
- ❑ Train volunteers/mentors to provide one-on-one academic support
- ❑ Work in collaboration with partners to match a mentor with mentees
- ❑ Integrate the development of a mentee portfolio as an activity in the mentoring relationship

Volunteers in the MentorUP program will meet with mentees on-site at one of our designated locations for a minimum of two hours weekly. The minimum monthly commitment is six hours per month, and the length of the mentoring commitment will be for one year.

Mentoring can change a young person's life, and yours.

Requirements for MentorUP Volunteers:

- ❑ Must go through and pass a criminal background check
- ❑ Enjoy working with children
- ❑ Be non-judgmental
- ❑ Have a sense of humor
- ❑ Have a high school diploma/GED or higher

Training:

- ❑ Volunteers must attend and complete an 18 hour CSS/RSVP mentoring training that addresses the role of a mentor, with a component that's specific to working with adolescents involved with the juvenile justice system. Volunteers will also receive training on asset building and portfolio design.

Key Contacts

Mary Anne Flanagan, Project Director

212.614.5555

mflanagan@cssny.org

Margaret Tapp, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist (Team Leader)

212.614.5467

mtapp@cssny.org

Our Partners:

Center for Community Alternatives
25 Chapel Street, 7th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) serves youth who are at risk, families in crisis, and people struggling to address family problems. CCA helps people find the inner strength to deal with the challenges they face in life. CCA focuses on personal empowerment, self-respect and concerns for the safety and integrity of one's community.

Goodwill Industries Excel Program
4-21 27th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11102

Goodwill Industries Excel Program offers counseling, tutoring, educational activities, recreation, digital editing and workshops to at risk youth ages 12-21. The program serves young people in danger of becoming persons in need of supervision, juvenile delinquents, truants or those charged with committing a crime. The goal is to provide an alternative to institutional care or incarceration and to help the youth get back on track.

Harlem Community Justice Center
170 East 121st Street
New York, NY 10035

Harlem Community Justice Center is a community-based court and resource center that works to solve neighborhood problems in East and Central Harlem, including juvenile delinquency, deteriorating housing, substance abuse, and the challenges presented by ex-offenders returning from incarceration.

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) draws on a 160-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity. We respond to urgent, contemporary challenges by pioneering programs for a more prosperous city.

The CSS/RSVP Mentoring Program is part of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Community Service Society. RSVP is a nationally-acclaimed program that enlists adults ages 55 and older to strengthen their communities by serving as volunteers.

Speaking up about MentorUP

“My goal is to remind all the youth that they can make it.”

Clara E., Volunteer Mentor

“If you can help just one person along the way, that's great!”

Watlereen W., Volunteer Mentor

“I mentor because I want young people to know that nothing is impossible.”

Ann K., Volunteer Mentor