
MENTORING PROGRAM: YOUTH of PROMISE (MentorUP)

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 Contact

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Our Partners:

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

Farragut Community Center
228 York Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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.

African Center for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
111-20A Farmers Blvd
St. Albans, New York 11412

The African Center for Community Empowerment (ACCE) empowers and groom at-risk inner-city youth to become wholesome, functioning and productive members of society. They train and provide the tools necessary for low income teen and young adult parents to help themselves and their children by becoming responsible adults and better parents. ACCE, also serves as a resource center for social, economic and cultural revival and empowerment for low income inner-city communities.

Youth and Congregation in Partnership (YCP) & Girls Re-entry Assistance Support Program (GRASP)
350 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

The YCP program offers mentoring and comprehensive services for court involved youth between the ages of 13 to 22. The GRASP program offers mentoring and comprehensive services for high-risk and court-involved females between the ages of 13 to 25. The goal is to help change the lives of those who have served time and are returning to their communities and are in need of support.

The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

The Fortune Society supports successful reentry of formerly incarcerated men and women and promotes alternatives to incarceration. They do this by: believing in the power of individuals to change, building lives through service programs shaped by the needs and experiences of their clients, and changing minds through education and advocacy to promote the creation of fair, humane and truly rehabilitative correctional system.

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

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.