

# **OJJDP FY 2010 Group Mentoring Research and Evaluation Program (CFDA Number # 16.726)**

## **Overview**

OJJDP seeks to expand what is known about nontraditional mentoring programs as a prevention and intervention strategy for juvenile delinquency. While mentoring appears to be a promising intervention for disadvantaged youth, more evaluation work is required to identify the programs and program elements that best bring about desired changes in participating youth.

OJJDP seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of select group mentoring programs supported by local Boys and Girls Clubs. The evaluator will work with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) to identify the project's scope and will monitor the implementation of mentoring programs at several sites across the country. The evaluator will conduct process and outcome evaluations to measure the success of the implementation of these programs and their impact on intervention in and reduction of juvenile delinquency. This initiative is authorized by the "Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2010" (Pub. L. 111-117).

## **Deadlines: Registration and Application**

Registration is required prior to submission. OJP strongly encourages registering with Grants.gov several weeks before the deadline for application submission. The deadline for applying for funding under this announcement is 5:00 p.m. eastern time on June 28, 2010. Please see the "How to Apply" section, page 8, for more details.

## **Eligibility**

OJJDP invites applications from public agencies, including state agencies, units of local government (including federally-recognized Indian tribal governments as determined by the Secretary of the Interior and published in the Federal Register), public universities and colleges (including tribal institutions of higher education), and private organizations (including faith-based, community, and tribal organizations) whose primary function is research and evaluation.

Due to the complex nature of this project and the necessity for the evaluator to work efficiently with BGCA throughout the duration of the project, OJJDP may conduct site visits/interviews with the applicants prior to making an award.

OJJDP welcomes joint applications from two or more eligible applicants; however one applicant must be designated as the primary applicant for correspondence, award, and management purposes and the others as co-applicants.

## Program-Specific Information

### Purpose

OJJDP is committed to the development of intervention efforts to prevent and reduce delinquency and problem behaviors among at-risk youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods. The commitment extends to the development of new and innovative programs and the evaluation of promising practices.

Mentoring is a process designed to achieve specific goals, such as improved academic performance, social relationships, or job skills, and to support personal development. Mentoring uses relationships to impart changes in attitudes and behaviors. Effective mentoring programs include programs that match a mentor with one or more youth and can take place in multiple and informal settings, as well as in a school or program context.

Research supported by OJJDP and others indicates that mentoring matches should be structured to support a relationship that lasts at least 12 months or through an entire school year. Research further finds that mentoring relationships that last 2 or more years increase positive outcomes for youth. Research also indicates that significant training for the mentor, oversight of the relationship, and data collection to track the relationship and its outcomes contribute to the structured support that is crucial to the mentoring relationship. While some studies have shown mentoring to be a promising intervention for disadvantaged youth, further evaluation is needed to determine the type of programs and the components of those mentoring programs that are necessary for bringing about desired changes in participating youth.

As mentoring has grown in popularity, there has been an expansion from the traditional one-on-one mentoring relationship to other types of mentoring, such as site-based, group mentoring models in after-school programs. Research indicates characteristics of mentoring programs that increase the likelihood for positive outcomes, including the length, frequency, and quality of the mentoring relationship. But rigorous research and evaluation on nontraditional group mentoring programs has been more limited. OJJDP is committed to making promising intervention strategies more effective and making these strategies available to a larger population of at-risk juveniles.

This solicitation will support evaluation of the effectiveness, implementation, and impact of the following nontraditional mentoring programs implemented by local Boys and Clubs across the country: *Project Learn*, *Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach*, and *SMART Leaders*.

**Project Learn.** This project reinforces and enhances the skills and knowledge that young people develop at school through productive learning activities at the Club and in the home. Project Learn emphasizes collaborations among Club staff, parents, and school personnel.

**Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach.** Responding to the growth of youth gangs growing in cities and their expansion into suburban and rural communities, **Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach** is a gang prevention and intervention initiative targeting youth ages 6 to 18. Through referrals from schools, courts, law enforcement, and community youth service agencies, the program identifies at-risk and delinquent youth and recruits them into ongoing BGCA Club programs and activities.

**SMART Leaders.** This curriculum-based program uses group activities, role-playing, and discussion to promote social and decision-making skills in racially diverse 14- to 17-year-old youth. Participants take part in educational discussions on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and are provided the opportunity to recruit other youth for the program and assist with sessions offered younger children.

The evaluator will monitor these programs in numerous sites and conduct process and outcome evaluations that measure the program implementation and the impact on juvenile delinquency. Additional information about the above projects is available in OJJDP's Model Program Guide, which may be found at [www2.dsgonline.com/mpg/](http://www2.dsgonline.com/mpg/).

**Research Questions.** What is site-based, group mentoring? How effectively do these programs get implemented in different sites? What kind of adult-youth relationships develop in the group setting? What factors help them develop? Can these group mentoring projects produce the kind of outcomes for youth that have resulted from traditional mentoring programs? What are the cost benefits of group mentoring in comparison to traditional mentoring programs?

**Program Design.** OJJDP is open to a variety of methodological approaches to investigate this topic. The evaluator should consider a program that includes a multivariate analysis. OJJDP will give preference to rigorous experimental designs that include random assignment of participants when feasible. The evaluator should be prepared to work with BGCA throughout the project period to acquire the relevant program curricula and to refine the program design and the sample of local Boys and Girls Clubs to assess the integrity of program implementation and to collect program specific data. The evaluator should plan for comparative program monitoring for integrity of implementation and impact evaluation in various BGCA Clubs across the nation.

### **Goals, Objectives and Deliverables**

**Goal.** The primary goal of this evaluation is to increase knowledge regarding the use of group and site-based mentoring programs. Specifically, this evaluation will measure the quality of implementation and assess the impact of select nontraditional mentoring programs that BGCA has supported in Clubs across the country. The evaluator will conduct process and outcome evaluations on programs from a sampling of Clubs. The evaluation will also measure the length, frequency, and quality of the mentoring relationship within these programs and the effectiveness of the various components of these programs.

**Objectives.** The program's objectives are as follows:

- determining the effectiveness of select BGCA, site-based, nontraditional mentoring programs
- conducting a process evaluation of the implementation of these programs at local Boys and Girls Clubs
- conducting an outcome/impact evaluation of group mentoring programs in these clubs
- providing the field with research findings on the effectiveness of nontraditional mentoring programs.

**Deliverables.** The deliverables of the program are as follows:

- detailed progress reports to OJJDP every 6 months of the project period. These reports will describe the status of the evaluation, methodological and implementation issues, progress toward the project goals, and other issues relevant to the study's completion.
- several reports, one of which, based on study findings, will document the theoretical and implementation issues of the research questions in a manner suitable for publication, at OJJDP's discretion, preferably in a peer-reviewed journal. The successful applicant will summarize this longer report in a second shorter version suitable for an OJJDP bulletin. The final grant report should be a detailed summary of the entire project and include both process and outcome evaluation information.

### **Amount and Length of Awards**

OJJDP will make one award of as much as \$2 million for a 3-year project period. The award amount will cover the entire requested project period.

This award is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

### **Budget Information**

**Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver:** With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, federal funds may not be used to pay total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. (The 2010 salary table for SES employees is available at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/10tables/indexSES.asp>.) Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a higher rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award may be waived on an individual basis at the discretion of the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for the Office of Justice Programs. An applicant that wishes to request a waiver must include a detailed justification in the budget narrative of its application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request that the applicant adjust and resubmit their budget.

The justification should include: the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service being provided, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work that is to be done.

### **Research, Human Subjects, IRB Review, and Confidentiality**

All applicants for OJP funds are advised that the Department of Justice defines *research* as "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to

develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.” 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d). If OJP determines that a funded application involves research and includes human subjects, the approval of an Institutional Review Board (IRB) might be required before OJP funds may be spent for these purposes. If an application includes an evaluation component, that component will be examined by OJP to determine whether it meets the definition of “research.” All applications should be as clear as possible in describing the purpose of the evaluation, and the extent to which its findings may contribute to generalizable knowledge.

The protection of human subjects of OJP-sponsored research is of critical importance. If an application involves human subjects of research, it must explain whether IRB approval has been or will be obtained, and it must explain applicant’s procedures for obtaining informed consent and minimizing risks.

All applications that include a research or statistical component that collects information identifiable to a private person will be required to complete and submit to OJP a privacy certification.

For further guidance regarding Federal regulations regarding research, human subjects protection, and confidentiality, please see the OJP website ([http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm)).

**Match Requirement.** Match is not required for this program.

## Performance Measures

To assist DOJ in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act, P.L. 103–62, applicants who receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measures the results of their work. Applicants must discuss in their application their methods for collecting data for performance measures. Refer to “What an Application is Expected to Include,” page 10, for additional information. Grantees are required to provide the data requested in the “Data Grantee Provides” column so that OJP can calculate values for the “Performance Measures” column. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data Grantees Provide
To implement a process and outcome evaluation of select, existing BGCA mentoring programs.	Percent of research-related deliverables (reports, etc.) completed on time.	Number of deliverables to be submitted to OJJDP (as outlined in the program narrative).  Number of deliverables completed and submitted to OJJDP on time (as determined by the timeline in applicant proposal). Deliverables will differ depending upon the specific project requirements.
	Percent of deliverables that	Number of deliverables that meet OJJDP’s expectations for

	meet OJJDP's expectations for depth, breadth, scope and quality of study, and pertinence.	depth, breadth, scope and quality of study, and pertinence, as determined and reported by OJJDP.
--	---	--

For more information about OJJDP performance measures, see [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grantees/pm/](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grantees/pm/) or contact Janet Chiancone at [janet.chiancone@usdoj.gov](mailto:janet.chiancone@usdoj.gov).

## How to Apply

Applications will be submitted through Grants.gov. Grants.gov is a “one-stop storefront” that provides a unified process for all customers of federal grants to find funding opportunities and apply for funding. Complete instructions on how to register and submit an application can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). If you experience difficulties at any point during this process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **1-800-518-4726**, 24 hours, seven days a week, except Federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur and it can take up to several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. The Office of Justice Programs highly recommends that applicants start the registration process as early as possible to prevent delays in submitting an application package by the application deadline specified.

All applicants are required to complete the following:

1. **Acquire a DUNS Number.** A DUNS number is required for [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) registration. The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number in their applications for a new award or renewal of an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Obtain a DUNS number by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com). Individuals are exempt from this requirement.
2. **Acquire or Renew Registration with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Database.** OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. An applicant must be registered in the CCR to successfully register in Grants.gov. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Please note, however, that applicants must update or renew their CCR registration at least once per year to maintain an active status. Information about CCR registration procedures can be accessed at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).
3. **Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov Username and Password.** Complete your AOR profile on Grants.gov and create your username and password. You will need to use your organization's DUNS Number to