

# YOUTH MENTORING GRANT PROGRAM

Unfortunately, 1 in 3 young people in the United States reaches the age of 19 without having a mentor of any kind. This number includes 9 million at-risk youth who are missing out on the critical support and connections that mentoring can provide. Park and recreation agencies are closing this gap by offering youth mentoring programs and helping at-risk youth gain access to mentors.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the U.S. Department of Justice administers a federally-funded [Youth Mentoring Grant Program](#). Grants are provided to youth-serving organizations nationwide in support of mentoring programs. The agency also provides critical research, training and technical assistance, and publications to help inform the mentoring field.

## THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) ASKS CONGRESS TO:

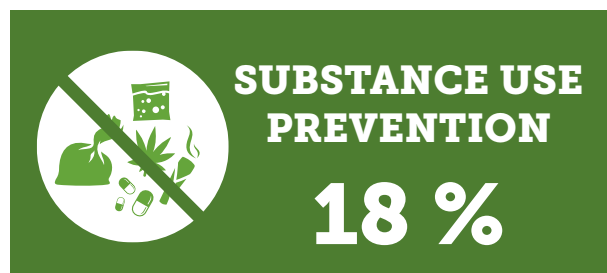
### Fund the OJJDP Youth Mentoring Grant Program at \$100 Million Annually

## LASTING IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

**The Youth Mentoring Grant Program** is a critical support for young people throughout the country who are at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system. The program serves to:

- Act as a prevention and intervention strategy for young people at times when they are the most likely to need support;
- Help hundreds of thousands of young people achieve positive academic, professional and personal outcomes; and
- Deter young people away from negative and risky behaviors, including drug abuse.

**Park and recreation agencies deliver out-of-school time programming that helps local children deal with the many challenges of growing up. Such programming may focus on:**



Resource: [NRPA'S Out-of-School Time Report](#)

## WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT

### **Mentoring is being utilized as a means of addressing national challenges.**

As communities across the country struggle with the effects of opioid misuse and abuse, mentoring programs have responded accordingly. When strategically integrated into initiatives, mentoring strengthens efforts to prevent drug and other substance abuse, supports young people experiencing opioid addiction in their families, and promotes healthy decision-making, positive behaviors, resiliency and strong futures.

### **An investment in mentoring is an investment in the future of all America's young people.**

Youth who are at-risk of falling off track but have a mentor are 55% more likely to enroll in college and 52% less likely to skip a day of school than their peers, while maintaining better attitudes towards school. Mentoring also plays a role in preventing young people from engaging in harmful behaviors, youth with mentors are 46% less likely than their peers to start using drugs.



## VISIT YOUTH MENTORING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Come see the incredible work of youth mentoring first-hand! The NRPA Park Champion initiative connects members of Congress and staff to local park and recreation agencies receiving federal funding in their states/districts.

To set up a site visit to a youth mentoring program in your community contact

**NRPA's Advocacy and Outreach Manager,**

**Jayni Rasmussen, at [jrasmussen@nrpa.org](mailto:jrasmussen@nrpa.org) or 703.858.4731.**

*For questions or to set up a meeting with NRPA, contact Senior Government Affairs Manager Kate Clabaugh at [kclabaugh@nrpa.org](mailto:kclabaugh@nrpa.org)*



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