YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance: Fact Sheet

“There are a lot of young people out there that want to do the right thing, that want to learn and grow and that are truly gifted but don’t always have the proper guidance or structure to do it alone. They need people who will step up to the plate and help.” (Mentor, Project REBUILD, Inc., OH)

The YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance (NMA) provides supportive adult mentors to thousands of YouthBuild students across the United States and its territories through an innovative approach that combines group and one-on-one mentoring. The NMA is:

- **Evidence based.** NMA programs employ an evidence based program model based on the universally trusted *Elements of Effective Practice*.
- **Youth oriented, outcome driven.** The NMA improves outcomes for YouthBuild students through the support and guidance of committed, caring community volunteers who take a personal stake in their lives.
- **Innovative.** NMA programs are supported by an engaged community of practice, a learning community that continually raises the performance of all members through lessons learned, innovations, and best practices.
- **Successful.** The NMA has over-delivered in all measurable performance areas based on an impartial assessment of proposed versus actual deliverables for major funding partners.

The NMA’s vision is to embed quality mentoring into the DNA of 200+ YouthBuild programs, expand resources focused on the mentoring of “opportunity youth” starting with YouthBuild, and support mentoring research that raises the level of impact across all community-building, youth-serving programs.

**Evidence Based Model**

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<th>Employ Best Practices</th>
<th>Build Strong Emotional Bonds Through Frequency &amp; Duration</th>
<th>Measure Positive Effects</th>
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| Recruit, Screen, Train | • First 3 months: group mentoring  
12+ months: one-on-one mentoring  
12 months: group activities | Program Retention  
Academic Achievement  
Positive Placement  
Post-Secondary Education |
| Match & Monitor  
Closure/Transition | | |

NMA programs provide a full fifteen months of mentoring to YouthBuild students by tapping into the natural assets of the youth and community. By employing group mentoring in the first three months to support one-on-one matches over the next twelve months, NMA programs are able to recruit volunteers more easily, build trust between mentors and mentees more quickly, and sustain longer and more effective mentoring relationships.

**Friends of the Alliance**

We wish to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of our strategic partners:

- MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership
- DOJ/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- DOL/SMART
- Education Northwest
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Stephen and Mary Agnes Hamilton
- John Jay College CUNY

Youth Oriented Impact

The positive impact of mentoring on YouthBuild students, mentors, and staff is best told in their own words. For example, Lani and Jean, the mentee-mentor pair from Santa Rosa YouthBuild (California) pictured to the right, talk in this brief video about how they met and connected, and how their mentoring experience has had a positive impact on their lives. Other testimonials include:

“He supports me when I am feeling down... and keeps me motivated. He helped me get into the Center for Community College Partnership Program. Through him I have told my story via public speaking events with his colleagues at the LA Times. I do things now that I never would have done before like going to poetry events instead of getting in trouble and doing drugs with my friends. I want to make a difference now and be more politically active. I feel like I have a friend now.” – Mentee, CCEO YouthBuild, CA

“The young people are special and gifted and need someone to believe in them.” – Mentor, YouthBuild McLean County, IL

“The impact on the youth is amazing! I can honestly say that each and every one of the youth with a mentor seem to be more comfortable with themselves. More able to take risks, challenge themselves, ask questions, venture out into the world looking for jobs or heading to our local community college.” – Mentoring Coordinator, YouthBuild Santa Rosa, CA

Discover more about the impact of mentoring: http://youthbuildmentoringalliance.org/mentoring-videos

Innovations

The NMA’s web-based Community of Practice features all of the innovations coming out of NMA programs, training, and research. Updates are made regularly to news, products, services, events, e-learning modules, discussion boards, research, and resources for YouthBuild mentors, mentees, mentoring coordinators, and other champions.

Recent additions include:

- What’s Next: College Knowledge (e-learning module)
- Quick-Start Guide for New YouthBuild Mentoring Coordinators (toolkit)
- That Magic Moment: YouthBuild mentors & mentees on what it takes to light the match (white paper)

Success

The NMA was formed in 2009 with a three-year grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to provide for a dedicated Mentoring Coordinator in 40 local programs to coordinate all programmatic elements for the mentoring of 1500 YouthBuild students. Three years later, and the NMA has funded mentoring in 58 YouthBuild programs. Collectively these programs have matched nearly 3,000 successful mentoring matches. As demonstrated in the table to the right (data as of August 2012), the NMA has over-delivered in all measurable areas.

View all currently active NMA programs here: https://youthbuild.org/siteview/sites/mentoring