



Pass It On

Mentor Michigan

What is Mentor Michigan?

Mentor Michigan is a signature program of the Michigan Community Service Commission, the state's lead agency on volunteerism. Mentor Michigan provides crucial support and resources to nearly 250 organizations around the state that are changing lives by matching caring adult mentors with young people in need.

Mentor Michigan supports these mentoring programs by providing training and research, as well as fostering partnerships to advance mentoring. By collaborating the efforts of businesses, faith-based and nonprofit organizations, schools, colleges, universities, and state and local government, Mentor Michigan is able to strengthen and further cultivate the mentoring field.

In addition, Mentor Michigan works to ensure that every young person has a safe and beneficial mentoring experience by developing and promoting the use of quality program standards. Mentor Michigan also strives to build public awareness about the importance of and need for mentors by urging caring adults to "Pass It On," because sharing a little of yourself with a young person can reward both of you with lifelong benefits.

Why is Mentoring Important?

Young people who participate in mentoring relationships often experience long-term benefits and face better outcomes in the following areas:

- **Educational attainment** and the desire to **complete high school** and **attend college**;
- Future **employment** and community **engagement**;
- **Good mental health** that leads to **higher self-esteem** and **life satisfaction**; and
- **Reduced presence of problem behavior** and **criminal offending**.

What Does Mentoring Look Like in Michigan?

A 2010 survey of 137 Michigan mentoring organizations concluded:

- **23,706 young people** were served by mentors in 2010.
- **48 percent** of the youth being mentored were male, while **52 percent** were female.
- Michigan had **17,681 active mentors**. Of those, **33 percent** were male while **67 percent** were female.

"Mentor Michigan, and its statewide network of programs, is building the youth mentoring movement in Michigan by promoting awareness and *Quality Program Standards*. The organization's groundbreaking research on the return on investment provided by mentoring programs will significantly grow the movement and give many more young people a chance for success in school and in life - thanks to the showcasing of key outcomes of mentoring relationships."

Virg Gulker
KIDS HOPE USA
Founder



Mentor Michigan Programs & Activities

- **Mentor Recruitment and Referral.** Mentor Michigan maintains an online directory of mentoring programs in Michigan. Potential mentors, businesses, youth, parents, guardians, teachers, faith leaders, and others can easily access this information to locate mentoring programs in their area. Mentor Michigan also provides mentoring organizations with the resources needed to recruit mentors themselves. Some of these resources, such as the Men in Mentoring Toolkit and the Foster Care Initiative, target important populations for which there is a great need.
- **Public Awareness.** With thousands of children on local mentoring program waiting lists, Mentor Michigan strives to make the need for mentors more visible. By hosting events such as Michigan Mentoring Month each January, Mentor Michigan raises awareness of the value of mentoring for young people and adults alike. Additionally, Mentor Michigan strives to bring awareness and support to the needs of mentoring programs, which require resources and volunteers to sustain their programs.
- **Training & Technical Assistance.** Mentor Michigan has developed quality standards for youth mentoring and emphasizes the importance of ensuring a safe and positive mentoring relationship. Mentor Michigan provides webinars, toolkits, conferences, and other training and technical assistance necessary for mentoring programs to meet and continually improve on these standards. Mentor Michigan also provides mentoring programs with resources to aid them in addressing specific population needs, such as youth in foster care.
- **Annual Conference.** Each fall, Mentor Michigan convenes mentoring professionals from across the state for Michigan's Premier Mentoring Conference. This opportunity brings individuals from various mentoring organizations together for training, networking, and the chance to learn from each other and from national mentoring leaders.
- **Research & Evaluation.** To help gauge the status of mentoring in Michigan and the needs of mentoring programs, Mentor Michigan conducts the Mentor Michigan Census. This information is used to identify future Mentor Michigan focus areas and activities. Mentor Michigan has also been working with the leading authorities to develop an outcomes tool that will effectively evaluate and analyze the impact of mentoring in Michigan.
- **Statewide Recognition.** To recognize the important impact of mentoring, Mentor Michigan honors both Michigan mentors and mentees annually. An Outstanding Mentor of the Year is recognized through the Governor's Service Awards, while the Lloyd Carr MVP Awards recognize youth who benefit from a mentoring relationship.

"Before I had a mentor, I was very behind in school and was not trying. Now I'm caught up with my credits and raised my G.P.A. I'm also moving forward and making better choices. I have improved my relationship with my family. There are no words to explain the change in my thinking. I'm a better person with a future to look forward to."

Gabriela Diaz
2012 Lloyd Carr MVP
Mentoring Award Winner

Mentor Michigan also supports two important mentoring initiatives:

- The Mentor Michigan College Coaching Corps is an AmeriCorps program which utilizes **\$585,000** in federal funds and **45 Michigan's AmeriCorps members** to expand and strengthen mentoring programs and college access in the state.
- The **Mentor Michigan Foster Care Initiative** is a collaborative effort between Mentor Michigan and the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) to **provide mentors for youth in foster care**. To ensure these youth are receiving the highest quality service, Mentor Michigan has developed capacity-building resources, mentor training materials, and mentor recruitment tools for state mentoring programs that address the unique needs of youth in foster care.



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