

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 currently manages nearly 6,000 youth at a per-person cost of \$200,000 a year. Yet 76 percent of these young people will be re-incarcerated. In contrast, Alternatives to Detention programs cost as little as \$15,000 per youth per year, with recidivism rates lowered to between 17–36 percent.

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

Mentoring can change a young person's life, and yours.

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.

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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Mentoring Program: Youth of PROMISE (MentorUP)

Our Partners:

South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation
555 Bergen Avenue, 3rd Floor
Bronx, NY 10455

The South Bronx Overall Development Corporation (SoBro) enhances the quality of life in the South Bronx by creating innovative economic, educational and career development program for youth and adults. The SoBro YouthBuild Transformation Academy is a comprehensive education and leadership development program for youth, ages 18-24, who have not completed high school.

The Door – A Center for Alternatives
424 East 147th Street, 4th Floor
Bronx, NY 10455

The Door's mission is to empower young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive youth development services in a diverse and caring environment. The Door helps a rapidly growing population of disconnected youth in New York City.

African Center for Community Empowerment
111-20A Farmers Blvd
St. Albans, NY 11412

The African Center for Community Empowerment (ACCE) empowers at-risk inner-city youth to become wholesome, functioning, and productive members of society. ACCE also serves as a resource center for social, economic, and cultural revival and empowerment for low income inner-city communities.

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 alternatives to incarceration. They do this by 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 a fair, humane, and truly rehabilitative correctional system.

Kings County District Attorney/YCP/PRD Programs
350 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

The Kings County District Attorney (KCDA) is committed to public safety, fairness, and equal justice. As part of the bureau of youth initiatives, they offer mentoring through the Youth and Congregations in Partnership and Project ReDirect Programs. The aim of these programs is to provide support through mentoring, tutoring, career advice, and literacy support to young people, ages 14-22, in alternative to incarceration.

Speaking Up About MentorUP:

“I had the opportunity to work with a young man on his career choices. Mentoring gave him the chance to explore many possibilities.”

Charlie C., Volunteer Mentor

“I wanted to use my free time to give back for the next generation. I can help young people; help build them up.”

Cecilia C., Volunteer Mentor

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) draws on a 170-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity through research, advocacy, litigation, and innovative program models that strengthen and benefit all New Yorkers.

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.