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Administration for Children and Families
Family and Youth Services Bureau

Report to Congress

The Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program

2007

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Executive Summary

Quality, one-on-one relationships that provide young people with caring role models for future success have profound, life-changing potential. Done right, mentoring markedly advances youths' life prospects.¹

Congress of the United States of America

The Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program (MCP) (42 USC 629i) is designed to respond to the problems and disadvantages of the estimated two million children between the ages of five and eighteen who have an incarcerated parent. With the incarcerated population growing at a rate of six percent a year, this number continues to rise. In most cases (ninety-three percent), children of prisoners have fathers who are in jail, although the number of incarcerated mothers is increasing. An estimated sixty-five percent of female inmates have children and six percent or more are pregnant. The problem of parental incarceration is particularly acute among African-Americans: Forty-nine percent of inmates with children are African-American.²

Under the statute, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) is authorized to fund community- and faith-based organizations, State or local units of government, tribal governments, or tribal consortia to provide mentors to children of prisoners. The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), is the agency responsible for administering the program.

HHS is required to submit a report on an evaluation of the program. This Report describes notable achievements, significant challenges, solutions, and steps toward the future in the context of actual results and experience and serves as an interim response pending the final evaluation.

The Report describes the processes for awarding grant funds to the most qualified applicants; setting strategic goals and performance measures; establishing a data collection system (the ACF Online Data Collection System or OLDC); providing technical assistance; and using program monitoring, caseload data, and evaluation findings to improve outcomes for the children of prisoners being served by the MCP program.

Children of incarcerated parents are faced with serious challenges that place them at a particularly high risk for delinquency, depression, and poor academic or social outcomes. Children of prisoners are seven times more likely than their peers to become involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and six times more likely to be incarcerated during their lives.³ There is an extensive body of research that shows mentoring by a trained, screened, caring adult can result in significant positive changes in the lives of disadvantaged youth.⁴

Through Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, Congress has appropriated just over \$208 million to establish and operate mentoring programs for children of prisoners. The size of the average grant is approximately \$200,000 for each of three years; grants range in size from \$26,000 to \$2,000,000 per year. MCP

¹ Congress of the United States of America, 2003.

² Mumola, 2000.

³ Johnston, 1995; Travis and Waul, 2004.

⁴ Rhodes(in press); Tierney and Grossman, 2000 (improvements in both peer and parent relationships); DuBois *et al.*, 2002.

grantees must provide funding or in-kind services to match the Federal award at a rate that increases from twenty-five percent of total funding during the first two years to fifty percent in the third year. For example, an applicant requesting \$100,000 must provide a minimum of \$33,333 in project years one and two (total project cost equals \$133,333) and a minimum of \$100,000 in year three (total project cost equals \$200,000). As of the beginning of Fiscal Year 2007, 238 grantees are in operation.

By the end of FY 2006, these programs had made 42,169 mentoring matches between children of prisoners and caring adults. Research indicates that mentoring generally begins to show positive effects on children only after about six months of mentoring and relationship-building have occurred.⁵ A Federally-funded national evaluation of MCP will be undertaken to study the effects of mentoring upon these children over the next several years. Chapter 5 describes how mentoring relationships and long-term outcomes will be independently evaluated nationwide.

On September 28, 2006, the President signed into law P.L. 109-288 which reauthorized the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program. The law established a Service Delivery Demonstration project in which HHS can enter into a cooperative agreement with an entity to ensure the distribution of mentoring service vouchers to families and caregivers of children whose parent(s) are incarcerated. Vouchers will enable the family to choose a mentoring program that meets quality standards, and enable organizations to serve children closer to where they live. The cooperative agreement intends to reach priority populations that are not already served by an MCP program, including communities with substantial numbers of children of prisoners, rural areas, and concentrations of American Indian and Alaskan Natives. Vouchers will increase access to mentoring services for children of prisoners. The Service Delivery Demonstration project is to achieve the following statutory outcomes; 3,000 vouchers for mentoring service in the first year, 8,000 vouchers in the second year; and 13,000 vouchers in subsequent years.

⁵ Rhodes, 2002 (pages 60-61).

Chapter 1 Introduction

Through countless acts of kindness, mentors across America are changing our Nation for the better. Every child deserves the opportunity to realize the promise of our country, and mentors show that a single soul can make a difference in a young person's life.... Mentors are soldiers in the armies of compassion, sharing their time to help provide a supportive example for a young person. Mentors help children resist peer pressure, achieve results in school, stay off drugs, and make the right choices.⁶

President George W. Bush

The Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program (MCP) (42 USC 629i) is designed to respond to the vulnerability and disadvantages of an estimated two million children between the ages of five and eighteen who have an incarcerated parent. The program, authorized by the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001, is administered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The legislation (Title IV-B Subpart 2, section 439(g) of the Social Security Act) requires an evaluation of the program be conducted and a report on the findings of the evaluation be submitted to Congress.

This Report describes and assesses issues and activities involved in program start-up, implementation, development, and maturation from the vantage point of more than one year of formal data collection and two years of observations. It describes notable achievements, significant challenges, solutions, and steps toward the future in the context of actual results and experience.

The Report describes how long-term outcomes will be independently evaluated nationwide over the next several years. ACF plans to assess and evaluate the MCP program nationally and comprehensively. The evaluation will seek to determine whether or not the youth in the program have benefited and what practices can maximize positive outcomes. An effective evaluation not only will describe program operations and implementation successes and challenges, but also will assess the efficacy of various practices in launching and supporting programs.

At the time of this Report, nearly all MCP grantees have recruited, trained, screened, and supervised growing numbers of adult volunteers and carefully matched them as mentors for youth. Most grantees have made substantial progress toward their goals, and more and more of their mentoring pairs have entered the period beyond six months that research shows is usually the minimum time needed to establish suitable and nurturing relationships. It is the quality and endurance of relationships that have the greatest effect on outcomes, such as children's behavior, educational commitment, and relationships with parents or authority figures.

The Report describes the current operational status of the MCP program and key characteristics of its 238 grantee organizations. The processes for awarding grant funds to the most qualified applicants, setting goals and objectives, establishing a data collection system, providing technical assistance to improve service quality, using program monitoring, data, and evaluation findings for continuous improvement, building partnerships at the national and regional levels to promote the program, and putting in place a coherent national evaluation strategy are discussed.

⁶ National Mentoring Month, 2006: A proclamation by the President of the United States of America.

In the “Findings” of the legislation establishing the MCP program, Congress cited research on mentoring and the challenges faced by children of prisoners.

In the period between 1991 and 1999, the number of children with a parent incarcerated in a Federal or State correctional facility increased by more than 100 percent, from approximately 900,000 to approximately 2,000,000. In 1999, 2.1 percent of all children in the United States had a parent in Federal or state prison.... Parental arrest and confinement lead to stress, trauma, stigmatization, and separation problems for children.... As a result, these children often exhibit a broad variety of behavioral, emotional, health and educational problems that are often compounded by the pain of separation.... Empirical research demonstrates that mentoring is a potent force for improving children’s behavior across all risk behaviors affecting health. Quality, one-on-one relationships that provide young people with caring role models for future success have profound, life-changing potential....⁷

With the incarcerated population growing at a rate of six percent a year, the number of children between the ages of five and eighteen affected by parental imprisonment continues to rise. In most cases (ninety-three percent), children of prisoners have fathers who are in jail, although the number of incarcerated mothers is increasing. An estimated sixty-five percent of female inmates have children and six percent or more are pregnant. The circumstance of parental incarceration is particularly devastating among African-Americans: Forty-nine percent of inmates with children are African-American.⁸

Children of incarcerated parents are faced with a number of serious issues that put them at high-risk for delinquency, depression, and poor academic and social outcomes. Children of prisoners are seven times more likely than their peers to become involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and six times more likely to be incarcerated during their lives.⁹

These poor outcomes are not surprising given the range and degree of problems that these youth are likely to face. Parental incarceration often adds stress to families already struggling with poverty, instability, financial strain, abuse, domestic strife, or neglect. The child loses the supervision and emotional and financial support that an incarcerated parent otherwise might provide. Additionally, children of prisoners are likely to feel stigmatized by peers, teachers, and society in general. They are often limited by assumptions that they too will go to prison. Out of shame and fear of rejection, many children of prisoners do not tell even their closest friends or potentially helpful adults of their parent’s imprisonment.¹⁰

As a result of these stresses, children of incarcerated parents are at heightened risk for psychological and behavioral problems. Among the most commonly cited effects are:

- Low self-esteem;

⁷ Congress of the United States of America, 2003.

⁸ Mumola, 2000.

⁹ Johnston, 1995; Travis and Waul, 2004.

¹⁰ Gabel, 1992; Gaudin and Sutphen, 1993.

- Anger and depression;
- Emotional numbing and withdrawal from friends and family;
- Feelings of abandonment, loneliness, shame, guilt, and resentment;
- Eating and sleeping disorders;
- Diminished academic performance; and
- Inappropriate or disruptive behavior at home and in school.¹¹

The MCP program provides children with positive role models by matching children of incarcerated parents with mentors. To achieve results, MCP organizations must adopt evidence-based practices in creating matches and supporting mentors. Funded organizations agree to:

- Identify children with incarcerated parents;
- Recruit and train caring adult mentors;
- Conduct criminal background checks on mentors before they are matched with children;
- Place mentors and youth in one-to-one relationships;
- Attempt to establish relationships that last at least one year;
- Monitor matches and intervene if problems arise;
- Help the families of the youth (by connecting youth with their incarcerated parents, if appropriate, and assisting custodial parents and siblings in accessing non-MCP services);
- Partner with other organizations that provide services that youth in the program might need; and
- Promote positive youth development (by fostering positive relationships and promoting education, community involvement, and other pro-social behaviors).

¹¹ Henriques, 1982; Johnston, 1995; Jose-Kampfner, 1995; Travis and Waul, 2004.

Chapter 2

Mentoring and the MCP Program

Research literature from multiple fields argues that supportive adult mentors can help youth avoid risk behaviors and make successful transitions to adulthood.¹² A widely-cited 1995 Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) surveyed 959 youth, ages ten to sixteen. Half of the youth were placed in the treatment group and half in the control group. Youth were surveyed at intake into the program and eighteen months later. The experimental design revealed that mentored youth were forty-six percent less likely than control group members to start using drugs, twenty-seven percent less likely to start using alcohol, and almost thirty-three percent less likely to engage in physical violence. Mentored youth also had improved school attendance and performance as well as improved peer and family relationships.¹³ Additional research analyzing a variety of mentoring efforts demonstrated modest benefits across a broad spectrum of outcomes, ranging from academic achievement to feelings of self-worth.¹⁴

Current research suggests the following practices, all of which are emphasized in MCP, may be effective in establishing and supporting mentoring:

- For the most intensive mentoring programs, matching youth and volunteers in one-to-one relationships;
- Fostering relationships that last a minimum of one year;
- Encouraging mentors and youth to meet frequently (close to once a week);
- Carefully screening mentors (to ensure both that they pose no threat to the youth and are able to commit the requisite time);
- Providing mentors with ongoing training, support, and supervision;
- Monitoring implementation of the program;
- Involving youths' parents or guardians;
- Providing structured activities for mentors and youth;
- Conducting mentoring activities outside of school.

The final point is not intended to downplay the value of formal and informal relationships established between students and teachers, coaches, or counselors. However, mentoring that emphasizes a broad range of experiences, including fun, in a wide variety of conducive settings shared with an adult on a one-to-one basis, may be able to achieve positive effects that go beyond academic attendance and progress.¹⁵

Programs serving older youth may need to adopt additional strategies to be effective and tailor mentoring differently for pre-teens and young teenagers in comparison to older children. The National Faith-Based Initiative found that older children were more likely than younger children to be engaged in

¹² Rhodes, 2002.

¹³ Tierney and Grossman, 2000.

¹⁴ DuBois *et al.*, 2002; Grossman and Rhodes, 2002.

¹⁵ Tierney and Grossman, 2000; Dubois *et al.*, 2002; Jucovy, 2003.

the risky behaviors that mentoring programs aim to prevent.¹⁶ The study also revealed that older children tended to terminate mentoring relationships earlier than younger children. This suggests that the kinds of interventions most effective for older youth may need to be different from those geared to help younger children.

Significant benefits for the child accumulate gradually over time as the mentoring relationship progresses and a bond develops. Thus, fostering an effective and lasting connection between the youth and the adult is of paramount importance. Successful mentoring relationships are characterized by mutual respect, trust, and understanding and by both partners valuing the relationship. High quality relationships predict positive outcomes, particularly academic achievement and improved self-worth.¹⁷

¹⁶ Bauldry and Hartmann, 2004.

¹⁷ Rhodes, Grossman and Roffman, 2005; Grossman and Rhodes, 2002; DuBois *et al.*, 2002.

Chapter 3

Implementation Objectives, Performance Measurement, and OMB Program Assessment (PART)

The Mentoring Children of Prisoners program is committed to measuring program performance. In order to measure success or failure, a program must have clearly defined objectives, establish outcome measures, and conduct program assessments that incorporate program objectives and outcome measures. This chapter identifies the objectives and performance goals and outlines how they relate to the implementation of the program, the performance budget, and the program rating and assessment.

ACF's implementation objectives for the program

Encourage large numbers of qualified applicants to seek funding

In the FY 2003 awards process, there were 427 applicants eligible for review and 572 in FY 2004. There was no competition held in FY 2005; continuation funding was awarded. In FY 2006, there were 245 applicants. Particular care was taken to disseminate information on the funding opportunity to a wide audience of potential providers.

Award grants based on high quality proposals and qualifications

Proposals were reviewed by panels consisting of three independent, non-federal experts. The review process took three weeks and was carefully supervised by ACF staff to assure fair and consistent scoring.

Carry out the President's Faith- and Community-Based Initiative effectively

ACF has had more than two decades of experience working with many faith-based organizations within its family of providers for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs. The MCP awards process acknowledged the varying challenges for both small faith- or community-based organizations and other, larger and more experienced secular organizations.

Put in place systems for grants management, program training, and technical assistance

Mentoring grantees have a central office ACF program specialist assigned by location within the ten Federal Regions. The program specialist assists grantees in grants management, service delivery planning, program start-up, program implementation, reporting, partnership-building, and other requirements. Staff closely monitor grantee activities and oversee detailed quarterly narrative progress and financial reports.

Establish and operate a data collection system

ACF developed, with input from researchers, grantees, practitioners, and other partners and interested members of the public, a series of thirty-eight questions about caseload, clients, demographics, and child-adult "match" characteristics that grantees answer on a quarterly basis. The questions focus on factors that are associated with quality mentoring relationships.

Design and direct a national program evaluation

A national evaluation began in FY 2006 to provide knowledge on the program's accomplishments and needed improvements. Information on the evaluation can be found in Chapter 5.

Use program monitoring, data and evaluation findings for continuous improvement

As ACF puts in place mechanisms for a long-term evaluation of MCP, staff and technical assistant contractors are implementing measures to improve grantee operations and to share promising practices. Staff program specialists review financial statements and narrative reports on grantee progress and are in constant contact with grantees seeking guidance, innovative approaches, and other assistance. Ongoing caseload data provides insight into program delivery and effectiveness.

Build partnerships at the national and regional levels to promote the program

ACF has shared ideas and coordinated resources with Head Start, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Bureau of Prisons, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Mentoring Partnership, National Crime Prevention Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters, America's Promise, Campfire USA, Pew Charitable Trusts, and other organizations to strengthen MCP program operations.

Performance budget goals and target

The measures discussed below are the principal outcome and efficiency measures derived from quarterly caseload reporting and featured in annual performance plans.¹⁸ They exist in both long-term and annual versions. Additional measurements of relationship quality and positive changes in the child's life will be based upon surveys and evaluation activities described in Chapter 5.

Companionship with caring adults

This measure is based on the number of children of prisoners with caring adult companions in relationships that conform to the evidence-based (one-to-one relationship) standard of the MCP. Forming and supporting these matches are the primary tasks of MCP grantees.

Sustainability of relationships

The percentage of relationships that endure beyond twelve months would be evidence of lasting bonds and possibly life-long relationships, which are not uncommon among successful mentoring relationships in general. Research shows that mentoring relationships must develop and deepen gradually before youth begin to demonstrate significant positive outcomes. The greatest benefits are associated with mentoring relationships that last twelve months and beyond.¹⁹

Duration of relationships

The percentage of relationships within the caseload that have reached twelve months combined with the percentage that have endured beyond comprise a broader measure than the long-term "sustainability" measure.

Efficiency

One of ACF's goals is to minimize matches of very short duration (i.e., those ending in three months or less as a percentage of all cases terminating during a measurement period). Matches which end prematurely represent a significant investment loss, because costs are largely front-loaded to cover outreach, recruiting, screening, training, and preparing mentors before the initiation of matches. Even more important, premature cessations can diminish self esteem if the child feels abandoned, loses trust, or believes himself or herself at fault for the end of the relationship.

¹⁸ FY 2007 ACF performance plan, 2005.

¹⁹ Grossman & Rhodes, 2002.

Program rating and assessment (PART)

The MCP program underwent an intensive review using the Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART) over the course of FY 2005. It required a challenging and stringent general audit of the new program. Due to the program's recent inception at the time of the PART, previous performance data was not available to provide sufficient analysis on the program's progress and growth. Since this counted for fifty percent of the total score, MCP received a mark of sixty-three percent, rating of Results not Demonstrated. It achieved maximum scores for design, strategic planning, and program management and was compared favorably with similar programs, Federal or otherwise. The following OMB diagram shows the scoring and weighting of the PART review.²⁰

Section	Score
Program Purpose & Design	100%
Strategic Planning	100%
Program Management	100%
Program Results/Accountability	20%

The PART is divided into four sections with numerous subsections.

Program purpose and design requires explanation and evidence to answer a number of questions. Is the program purpose clear? Does it address a specific and existing problem and is not redundant or duplicative of any other effort? Is it free of major flaws and effectively targeted?

Strategic planning requires a presentation of specific long-term and annual performance measures that focus on outcomes with ambitious targets and timeframes for demonstrating progress. It also requires evidence that grantees, sub-grantees, contractors, cost-sharing partners, and other government partners commit to the goals of the program. It focuses on regular, independent evaluations, the methodology of budget requests, strategic planning, and prioritization of funding decisions.

Program management addresses collection of timely and credible performance information, how the federal manager and all program partners are held accountable, obligation of funds, competitive procedures for contracts and grants, partnerships and collaborations, financial management, oversight practices, and publication of performance data.

MCP received "YES" scores, i.e., one hundred percent, for every section and subsection described above, indicating that ACF is consistently providing the program its best environment for success. ACF

²⁰ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/index.html>, Expectmore.gov

has been fully engaged since the program's inception, fulfilling its oversight and management responsibilities, establishing credible and relevant goals and measures, collecting reliable performance data, incorporating competitive business practices and research-tested program design, efficiently targeting resources, and holding itself and key players fully accountable.

Program results/accountability, the final section, demonstrated that the MCP program score was affected by challenges facing grantees during the start up of their programs, particularly their ability to recruit and match volunteers and children in numbers sufficient to achieve agreed-upon goals. Some organizations had never received a Federal grant and/or were new and formed specifically to operate an MCP program. During the PART review, the program had operated for only two years, and the PART process was underway as data collection was only just beginning.

The MCP program has developed corrective action plans and taken numerous steps to meet the challenges identified by the PART score, particularly to meet the need to establish a greater number of mentoring matches for children of prisoners. The annual targets could not be based on previous performance data and analysis; additionally, these targets did not account for increased growth rates as programs improved their efficiency in making matches. ACF staff began conducting site visits to grantees in FY 2005 which continue to take place. In FY 2006, the technical assistance contractor began national activities and local site visits and held four regional and two national conferences. ACF expects that these efforts, along with the growing success of experienced grantees in forming matches, will increase program performance. Data reports indicate that the number of matches has grown substantially and steadily in every quarter.

Chapter 4

Program Activities and Achievements

Overview of MCP program

The MCP program attempts to ameliorate some of the hardships and negative outcomes that can result from parental incarceration. By matching children of incarcerated parents with mentors, the MCP program seeks to provide the children with positive role models and increased stability.

Through FY 2006, Congress has appropriated nearly \$159 million to develop mentoring programs for children of prisoners. The size of the average grant is approximately \$200,000 for each of three years; grants range in size from \$26,000 to \$2,000,000 per year. MCP grantees must provide funding or in-kind services to match the federal award at a rate that increases from twenty-five percent of total funding during the first two years to fifty percent in the third year.

Fifty grantees, funded at the end of FY 2003, the first year that funding was made available, operated for three years. They were joined in FY 2004 by 169 more, most of who are well into their third and final year at the time of this Report. In FY 2005 continuation funding was awarded. In FY 2006, approximately \$11.2 million in new start funding was awarded to 76 mentoring organizations. Of these, 29 were veterans from the FY 2003 and FY 2004 competitions who were awarded funding to expand into new service areas.

By the end of FY 2006, 42,169 mentoring matches had been established between children of prisoners and caring adults. MCP operates in 48 of the 50 States and Puerto Rico and includes five Native American tribal grantees. At this time, 238 grantees are in operation. A few of the FY03 and FY04 grantees relinquished their funding due to problems they encountered operating their programs. A number of grantees had not previously operated programs under federal grants, and some were organizations newly-formed to provide mentors for children of prisoners. A variety of differing affiliations, experiences, and program goals characterize the organizations implementing the MCP program. Grantees range from well-established mentoring organizations to small community- and faith-based organizations.

Many MCP grantees are following the “Amachi” model developed by W. Wilson Goode, Sr., D. Min. and Public/Private Ventures.²¹ The Amachi model is a partnership between secular non-profit agencies and congregations in the surrounding community. An established mentoring program provides infrastructure, such as screening and training of volunteers. The congregations recruit participants and help nurture the success of the mentoring relationships.

Currently available information

With its current data protocol, ACF monitors a significant number of variables on grantees’ performance, such as number of children served, average frequency of mentor/youth contact, average length of mentoring relationships, and support activities provided. To assess outcomes, ACF is accumulating data on the prevalence of relationships lasting at least twelve months. Indirect indicators such as average training hours for mentors and rate of premature relationship terminations (e.g., matches

²¹ National Crime Prevention Council, 2004.

ending for whatever reasons before the intended time period has passed) can also be measured. Every effort is made to ensure that grantees report data to the Online Data Collection System fully and accurately.

Summary of preliminary data on grantee performance to date

ACF requires grantees to submit quarterly online reports on their caseloads, participant demographics, frequency of contact between mentors and youth, duration of matches, and other key programmatic data. The following paragraphs summarize key grantee performance information applicable up by the fourth quarter of FY 2006 with over ninety five percent of the grantees reporting.

At the end of FY 2006, 42,169 mentoring matches had been established through the program.

The growth in the number of new matches from quarter to quarter has been fairly rapid. Grantees made 6,437 matches in the fourth quarter of FY 2006, compared to only 1,694 in the first quarter of FY 2005. With this robust inflow of new matches, the active caseload has been expanding accordingly: 4,493 cases were active during the first quarter of FY 2005, 6,465 during the second quarter, and over 9,600 during the third quarter. The active caseload rose to 10,644 in the fourth quarter of FY 2005 and exceeded 11,564 during the first quarter of FY 2006. During the first quarter of FY 2006, 5000 matches were made while the program grew and made 6437 matches during the last quarter of the same fiscal year. This growth rate is expected to continue. These numbers represents the most recently active cases with regular meetings between mentors and mentees. The 40,000 match number includes current active matches, those previously established which have ceased, and the replacement matches found for many of the children involved in matches that came to an end.

Illustrative MCP program data, FY 2004-2006	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Total Number of Grantees	52	218	238 ²²
Number of Cumulative Matches	2,823	14,644	42,169
Data as of the 4th Quarter of FY 2006²³			FY 2006
Number of children in current mentoring matches			16,626 ²⁴
Percentage of male children in current matches			31.0%
Percentage of male mentors			38.9%
Percentage of female children in current matches			69.0%
Percentage of female mentors			62.1%
Average age of all children in current mentoring matches			10.8
Average number of hours of initial or pre-match formal training/orientation per mentor during the quarter			6.4
Average number of hours of post-match training per mentor during the quarter			4.7
Average number of mentors per quarter counseled on not meeting obligations to mentees			4

—Source: Administration for Children and Families, Online Data Collection System

²² Illustrative data is based on the performance of the 218 grantees in operation throughout FY2006.

²³ Some data may not add up due to rounding, overlapping categories, or grantee data entry issues.

²⁴ Caseload for 4th quarter for FY 2006 includes children who were initially matched in previous quarters and were currently active in their matches during the 4th quarter for FY 2006; cumulative matches (42,169) include matches which have ceased.

Operational characteristics of the program at present

Recruitment of youth

According to quarterly narrative progress reports, grantees conduct outreach activities using a variety of methods, including mailings, providing leaflets to people in prison, talking with parents who are on buses that take visitors to prisoners, family events at prisons, prison ministries, outside congregations, media campaigns (radio announcements, etc.), and contacting social service agencies and schools. This last strategy can be particularly effective. Well-established programs (such as Big Brothers Big Sisters) already had procedures in place to identify children of prisoners and recruit mentors; therefore they were able to rapidly expand their services to additional children through their MCP grant funding.

Outreach to parents and recruitment and retention of mentors

The organizations conduct outreach to parents, including incarcerated parents. Parental consent is required for youth participation in the program.

Finding the right volunteers is a critical element of the program, and mentor attrition rates are high. In order to participate, all must submit to criminal background checks. Most prospective mentors must go through several rounds of screening, including in-depth interviews. Most programs have several mandatory trainings, and prospective volunteers sometimes drop out during the pre-match process as they realize that mentoring represents a major commitment of time and energy. Opportunities to care, make a difference, and participate in social events with other mentors/mentees are the primary reasons adults volunteer to be mentors. Their motivation may derive from self-actualization or a creed of fellowship and good works. Feelings of camaraderie and respect for children are of the utmost significance for good mentoring. There are no financial or material incentives.

Background checks on mentors

Funded programs must undertake a criminal background check for the mentors. Some programs perform a national background check; others do a State check, while others do a local check. In addition, many programs conduct interviews with prospective mentors, and these too serve as a form of background check. All programs exercise discretion over what is a disqualifying characteristic in a potential mentor. This essential work can require time and money and impose significant administrative burdens on grantees.

Mentor training and supports

Most mentor training is group training. Some established programs already have training modules that have been reconfigured for MCP. The average pre-match mentor training time is currently six hours, with an average of an hour and twenty minutes of post match training.

Federal mentoring dollars may not be used for case management or ancillary services to the families, but programs must link with organizations that provide social services. Some organizations also provide training to mentors in critical elements such as how to respond to signs of abuse, malnutrition, and other participant needs.

Other services

Some social service agencies that host programs have multi-service support groups for parents, both incarcerated and custodial, and provide other services for released ex-offenders and their families. ACF

funds activities directly related to the operation of the matching process, including administrative costs, mentor training, and data collection, but also covers planning and coordination for other services to support the family.

Faith-Based Grantees

Some grantees are faith-based organizations or partner with faith-based organizations. ACF is committed to ensuring compliance with 45 CFR Part 87, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations. These regulations provide for the following:

- Non-discrimination against religious organizations;
- Ability of religious organizations to maintain their religious character, including the use of space in their facilities, without removing religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols;
- Prohibition against the use of Federal funds to finance inherently religious activities;
- Application of State or local government laws to religious organizations.

Partnerships and collaborations

ACF has initiated or joined collaborative efforts with many of the Federal and non-Federal leaders in the mentoring field to strengthen the MCP program. MCP has been implemented in consultation with several partners, including the Departments of Justice and Education, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI), USA Freedom Corps, and the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. ACF applied lessons learned from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) demonstration grants for services to children of prisoners, administered through the National Institute of Corrections and the Child Welfare League of America. The initial program announcement for MCP was drafted in consultation with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, USA Freedom Corps, and the Department of Education.

Creating a high performance program

Technical assistance and support for grantees

From the program's beginning, ACF has hosted several national educational and training conferences, developed and facilitated online data reporting, monitored grantee performance, helped grantees develop strategies for program improvement, and assisted them in meeting grants management requirements. Federal program officers provide grantees with extensive, one-on-one technical assistance to help them establish their programs, improve services, and reach performance goals. ACF is also facilitating transfers of promising practices from experienced to less experienced grantees and has funded a national contract to provide technical assistance to all MCP grantees.

The most recent national conference in the on-going series was held in November, 2006, and all grantees funded in FY 2006 were present. Regional conferences in FY 2007 will take place from March through May of 2007. Site visits, prioritized by need, will often include meetings with more than one grantee. ACF and the technical assistance contractor are assessing needs for technical assistance and identifying promising practices among the most successful grantees. A peer monitoring tool and peer-to-peer technology transfer protocols are being developed. The contractor prepares monthly newsletters emailed to all MCP grantees and has built a website that includes both public and grantee-specific pages.

Chapter 5

Evaluation Projects and Plans

Research and evaluation strategy

Based on extensive research by a number of scholars, mentoring is a highly promising approach to helping disadvantaged and disconnected youth. The MCP evaluation is critical to enhancing the impact and success of mentoring children of incarcerated parents. The end product of the research effort should contribute to improved results through innovative tools, more effective technical assistance, service improvement, and enhanced grantee capabilities. When possible, ACF will release interim reports and updates during intermediate stages of the research in order to assist grantees in their on-going work.

Ongoing measurement of relationship quality

The essence of mentoring is a healthy companionship between at-risk youth and compassionate adults. A relationship measuring tool, developed by Rhodes, Reddy, Roffman, and Grossman,²⁵ assesses the dynamics of the mentor/mentee relationships. The Relationship Quality Instrument (RQI) includes variables to measure mentee satisfaction with the relationships; the extent to which mentors have helped mentees cope with problems; how happy mentees feel (or don't feel) when they are with their mentors; and whether there is evidence of trust in the mentoring relationships. The RQI is administered to MCP youth who are at least nine years old and have been in a mentoring relationship for at least nine months; the survey is conducted on an annual basis and aggregate results are published accordingly.

Additional questions in the relationship survey focus on the preliminary identification of program design factors and other elements, such as demographics, that appear to influence responses on the tool. ACF made the instrument available online for administration to mentees during the autumn of 2006. Results were reported in the FY 2006 Performance Report. Data from the survey have been used to help in conducting the next phase of evaluation, which focuses on outcomes.

Evaluation of child outcomes and positive life changes

The impact study of Big Brothers Big Sisters by Public/Private Ventures found that after eighteen months mentored youth were forty-six percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs and twenty-seven percent less likely to begin using alcohol, as compared with similar youth in a control group.²⁶ Little Brothers and Little Sisters also "skipped" half as many days of school as did the control group. (It should be noted that mentees in MCP encompass a broader age range and are a higher risk population than the youth participants in the Big Brothers Big Sisters impact study.)

The evaluation will compare outcomes and changes in outcomes for children in the MCP program with outcomes and changes in outcomes among groups of similar youth from other evaluations and from national surveys. The evaluation will determine whether children in the MCP program do better in a

²⁵ Rhodes, Grossman and Roffman, 2005.

²⁶ Tierney J. and Grossman, J., 1995.

number of areas than would ordinarily be expected from a control group.²⁷ The following categories for baseline and follow-up measurement include:

- Identity development;
- Cognitive development;
- Social and emotional development;
- Relationships;
- Behavioral outcomes;
- Academic outcomes; and
- Psychological outcomes

The study will examine mentoring outcomes in fully-implemented programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in establishing mentoring matches that increase the likelihood of positive outcomes for participating youth. The evaluation will collect information about organizational factors and service models to provide context for the child outcomes, but will be limited in its documentation of processes. ACF has a number of other means by which to monitor program implementation, such as the caseload data system, needs assessment surveys by the technical assistance contractor, and observations by federal staff during site visits and as they review regular progress reports.

The study will begin during the summer of 2007 after final OMB clearance is granted for data collection. During this stage, criteria for site selections will be finalized and a proposed list will be reviewed by the Family and Youth Services Bureau with the firm contracted to conduct the study. Youth will voluntarily participate in an intake survey at these sites, and will be asked to participate in a follow-up survey at one-year. The research firm will work in conjunction with participating sites to ensure that confidentiality and standards for research are met while administering the surveys to youth.

²⁷ Due to the nature of the study,, a control group is not being utilized as part of the design.

Chapter 6 In Summary

Children of incarcerated parents are plagued with a number of serious challenges that render them particularly high-risk for delinquency, depression, and poor academic and social outcomes. Extensive research has shown that mentoring by a caring adult can result in significant positive changes in the lives of disadvantaged youth. Accordingly, the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program was enacted to fund organizations to provide mentors for children of prisoners. In only a few short years, hundreds of mentoring programs across the nation have provided mentors to tens of thousands of children through the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.

In the course of accomplishing this, HHS formed a large community of now 238 organizations in 48 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and equipped them with the means to provide mentoring for children of prisoners. Grants administration protocols, accountability, program standards, performance goals, data collection systems, training and technical assistance resources, and evaluation plans had to be established and put into action. Most importantly, grantees needed to learn and apply the practices shown by past experience and research to be effective: building strong partnerships with their surrounding communities, diligently screening and training mentors, carefully tailoring services to the individual situations and needs of children, supervising and supporting relationships to keep them together and on the right track, and accurately gathering data with which to determine whether their efforts are achieving results.

Not all programs experienced a smooth and quick start up, and the ability of some grantees to grow the number of matches has been a significant concern. Yet, as oversight and technical assistance are focused where they have been needed the most, data reports point to an accelerating growth curve toward long-term match goals. To ensure that service quality improves as the program expands, HHS has detailed plans and activities in place to measure the quality of mentoring relationships from the viewpoint of the children. HHS will also study how these children's lives are being affected over the long-term and how their schoolwork, relationships, and health are progressing, not only compared to their initial situation, but benchmarked against the experience of children in similar programs and circumstances.

On Thursday, September 28, 2006, the President signed into law P.L. 109-288 which reauthorized the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program. The law established a Service Delivery Demonstration project in which HHS can enter into a cooperative agreement with an entity to ensure the distribution of mentoring service vouchers to families and caregivers of children whose parent(s) are incarcerated. Vouchers will enable the family to choose a mentoring program that meets quality standards, and enable organizations to serve children closer to where they live. The cooperative agreement intends to reach priority populations that are not already served by an MCP program, including communities with substantial numbers of children of prisoners, rural areas, and concentrations of American Indian and Alaskan Natives. Vouchers will increase access to mentoring services for children of prisoners. The Service Delivery Demonstration project is to achieve the following specified outcomes; 3,000 vouchers for mentoring service in the first year, 8,000 vouchers in the second year; and 13,000 vouchers in subsequent years. These matches will increase the total performance of the program as it strives to bring compassion into the lives of children of prisoners through one-on-one relationships.

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Appendices



United States Department of
Health & Human Services

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 3, 2004

Contact: ACF Press Office
(202) 401-9215

President Announces Mentoring Grants for Children of Prisoners

President Bush today announced \$45.6 million in grants to provide mentors to children of prisoners. Aimed at helping some of the two million children who have at least one incarcerated parent, the grants are the latest in President Bush's agenda of compassion in action.

"Mentors are the heroes who provide a trusting relationship with a child or youth in need," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "We know that youth outcomes can be improved with the help of a mentor. Today's grants will give young Americans the hope and guidance they need to grow up to be successful, healthy adults."

Research has found that significant physical absence of a parent has profound effects on child development. Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to become involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. Parental arrest and confinement often lead to stress, trauma, stigmatization, and separation problems for children. These problems may be compounded by existing poverty, violence, substance abuse, high-crime environments, child abuse and neglect, multiple caregivers, and/or prior separations.

"Children of prisoners need mentors. They need caring, responsible, and committed adults who can be role models, counselors, and teachers," said Dr. Wade F. Horn, HHS assistant secretary for children and families. "Youth who have parents in prison still have the same yearning and desire for a father or mother as any other child. These grants -- part of President Bush's agenda of compassion in action -- will help give kids mentors who will make a difference in their lives."

The grants are administered through HHS' Administration for Children and Families, which received 581 applications this year for new grant money. Panels were conducted in Washington for two weeks in May, and 164 grantees were selected, totaling \$35 million. Some of the recipients include Volunteers of America in Louisiana, the Anchorage Children's Home in Florida, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Michigan. The awards are the first installment in three-year grants.

Additionally, five tribal grantees -- as announced by Secretary Thompson during a July 19 visit to the Navajo Nation -- won mentoring awards totaling \$1.7 million. The awards are the first installment in

three-year grants.

Finally, \$8.9 million was awarded to organizations for their second year of mentoring service, continuing the three-year grants announced last year.

The mentoring children of prisoners program is a three-year initiative put forth by President Bush in his 2003 State of the Union address, fully funded this year by Congress. So far, approximately 6000 kids have been mentored, with an expectation of 33,000 additional youth served as a result of the new grants. A complete list of organizations and grant awards is below:

Mentoring Children Of Prisoners Program			
FY 2004 Year-One First Installment			
ORGANIZATION	CITY	STATE	AWARD
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska	Juneau	AK	\$300,000.00
Catholic Community Service	Juneau	AK	\$132,000.00
State of Alabama Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board	Montgomery	AL	\$900,000.00
Centers for Youth and Families	Little Rock	AR	\$573,000.00
Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services, Inc.	Benson	AZ	\$225,000.00
Comprehensive Youth Services of Fresno, Inc.	Fresno	CA	\$120,000.00
Imperial County Office of Education	El Centro	CA	\$360,000.00
Family Support Services of the Bay Area	Oakland	CA	\$175,000.00
Fresno Leadership Foundation dba One By One Leadership	Fresno	CA	\$360,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County	Tustin	CA	\$183,000.00
Templo Calvario	Santa Ana	CA	\$128,000.00
YMCA of San Diego County	San Diego	CA	\$183,000.00
Alum Rock Counseling Center, Inc.	San Jose	CA	\$110,000.00
Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters	Los Angeles	CA	\$260,000.00
Redwood Community Action Agency	Eureka	CA	\$153,000.00
Project Avary, Inc.	San Rafael	CA	\$90,000.00
Tahoe Youth and Family Services	South Lake Tahoe	CA	\$65,000.00
Prevent Child Abuse California	North Highlands	CA	\$400,000.00
America On Track	Santa Ana	CA	\$130,000.00
Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc	Norwalk	CA	\$200,000.00
Proteus, Inc.	Visalia	CA	\$249,000.00
Peer Assistance Services, Inc.	Denver	CO	\$200,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Inc.	Denver	CO	\$314,000.00
Family & Children's Agency, Inc	Norwalk	CT	\$100,000.00
Covenant to Care, Inc.	Bloomfield	CT	\$165,000.00
East Capitol Center for Change, Inc.	Washington	DC	\$150,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area	Washington	DC	\$510,000.00
Progressive Life Center, Inc.	Washington	DC	\$266,000.00
Professional Counseling Resources, Inc.	Wilmington	DE	\$700,000.00

Anchorage Children's Home of Bay County, Inc.	Panama City	FL	\$163,000.00
Children's Home Society of Florida	West Palm Beach	FL	\$2,000,000.00
Southeast Dade Ministerial Alliance	Homestead	FL	\$550,000.00
Florida Sunrise Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc.	Jacksonville	FL	\$160,000.00
Hands on Broward, Incorporated	Oakland Park	FL	\$175,000.00
Christians Reaching Out to Society, Inc.	West Palm Beach	FL	\$130,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Heart of Georgia	Macon	GA	\$123,000.00
RCIP, Inc	Stone Mountain	GA	\$175,000.00
Institute of Community and Organizational Development, Inc.	Athens	GA	\$240,000.00
Metro Atlanta Youth for Christ	Decatur	GA	\$165,000.00
Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.	Honolulu	HI	\$120,000.00
Serve Our Youth Network of Iowa	Pella	IA	\$175,000.00
Community Corrections Improvement Association	Cedar Rapids	IA	\$45,000.00
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency	Pocatello	ID	\$100,000.00
Passages Alternative Living Programs	Chicago	IL	\$150,000.00
Cra-Wa-La Volunteers in Probation Inc.	Lawrenceville	IL	\$216,000.00
Cook County Department of Public Health	Oak Park	IL	\$200,000.00
TASC, Inc.	Chicago	IL	\$350,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry Co.	McHenry	IL	\$118,000.00
Southern Illinois Regional Social Services	Carbondale	IL	\$88,000.00
Youth Network Council	Chicago	IL	\$200,000.00
Rockford MELD, Inc.	Rockford	IL	\$110,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois	Belleville	IL	\$166,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana, Inc.	Fort Wayne	IN	\$130,000.00
Indiana Youth Services Association, Inc.	Indianapolis	IN	\$300,000.00
Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas	Wichita	KS	\$75,000.00
Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc.	Wichita	KS	\$925,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana	Louisville	KY	\$117,000.00
Kentucky State University	Frankfort	KY	\$75,000.00
Lexington Leadership Foundation	Lexington	KY	\$220,000.00
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans	New Orleans	LA	\$350,000.00
Big Buddy Program	Baton Rouge	LA	\$180,000.00
Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal	New Orleans	LA	\$300,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana, Inc.	Lafayette	LA	\$700,000.00
Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Southeast LA	New Orleans	LA	\$71,000.00
Wayside Youth and Family Support Network, Inc.	Framingham	MA	\$75,000.00
New England Farm Workers' Council, Inc.	Springfield	MA	\$250,000.00
Home S.P.A.C.E. Inc. (Known as Aid)	Boston	MA	\$250,000.00
Big Sister Association of Greater Boston	Boston	MA	\$164,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Frederick County, Inc.	Frederick	MD	\$89,000.00

Children Having Incarcerated Parents, Inc.	Baltimore	MD	\$85,000.00
U.S. Dream Academy, Inc.	Columbia	MD	\$200,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Central Maryland	Baltimore	MD	\$500,000.00
Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families	Baltimore	MD	\$300,000.00
Mission of Mercy	Riverdale	MD	\$75,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit	Southfield	MI	\$270,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint	Flint	MI	\$277,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County, Inc.	Jackson	MI	\$121,000.00
HelpSource	Ann Arbor	MI	\$75,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Saginaw Bay Area	Saginaw	MI	\$110,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clinton and Ionia Counties	St. Johns	MI	\$87,000.00
Bridge Builders for Kids(DBA)	Lake City	MN	\$150,000.00
Kinship of Greater Minneapolis	Minneapolis	MN	\$75,000.00
Camp Fire USA National Headquarters	Kansas City	MO	\$115,000.00
Assemblies of God Charities	Springfield	MO	\$150,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Boone County	Columbia	MO	\$382,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of MS	Jackson	MS	\$435,000.00
Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA	Ocean Springs	MS	\$115,000.00
Wayne County Youth Outreach Program, Inc.	Goldsboro	NC	\$100,000.00
Bridging the Gap of Eastern Carolina, Inc.	Rocky Mount	NC	\$155,000.00
Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Inc.	Fayetteville	NC	\$38,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Piedmont, Inc.	Statesville	NC	\$130,000.00
Youth Focus, Inc.	Greensboro	NC	\$57,000.00
The Village Family Service Center	Fargo	ND	\$42,400.00
Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters	Lincoln	NE	\$87,000.00
Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Nashua	Nashua	NH	\$135,000.00
Youth Consultation Service, Inc.	Newark	NJ	\$243,000.00
Paulsboro Community Development Center, Inc.	Paulsboro	NJ	\$325,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Camden & Gloucester Counties	Audubon	NJ	\$136,000.00
Center For Family Services, Inc	Camden	NJ	\$200,000.00
Liberty Community Development Corporation	Plainfield	NJ	\$75,000.00
First National Community Health Source	Albuquerque	NM	\$75,000.00
Youth Development, Inc.	Albuquerque	NM	\$87,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada	Reno	NV	\$250,000.00
Western Nevada Community College	Carson City	NV	\$125,000.00
Family Services of Westchester, Inc.	Port Chester	NY	\$90,000.00
Compeer, Inc.	Rochester	NY	\$148,000.00
Phoenix Houses of New York, Inc.	Bronx	NY	\$124,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, Inc.	New York	NY	\$150,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ulster County, Inc.	Kingston	NY	\$417,000.00
New York City Mission Society	New York	NY	\$200,000.00

Be-A-Friend Program, Inc.,			
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County	Buffalo	NY	\$200,000.00
Hope Initiatives, CDC	Rochester	NY	\$160,000.00
Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc.	New York	NY	\$120,000.00
Cincinnati Youth Collaborative	Cincinnati	OH	\$450,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County	Lorain	OH	\$100,000.00
Renaissance Community Development Corporation	Columbus	OH	\$200,000.00
S.O.A.R. Development Corporation	Forest Park	OH	\$200,000.00
The James C. Williams Center for Advancement	Toledo	OH	\$102,000.00
Volunteers of America of Oklahoma, Inc.	Tulsa	OK	\$120,000.00
The University of Oklahoma	Norman	OK	\$700,000.00
The Boys and Girls Aids Society of Oregon	Portland	OR	\$150,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Portland	Portland	OR	\$175,000.00
The Next Door, Inc.	Hood River	OR	\$93,000.00
Beaver County MH/MR, D&A Program	Beaver Falls	PA	\$100,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bedford and Somerset Counties	Somerset	PA	\$90,000.00
United Communities Southeast Philadelphia	Philadelphia	PA	\$200,000.00
Every Child, Inc.	Pittsburgh	PA	\$127,000.00
UCP South Central PA	Hanover	PA	\$80,000.00
People for People Inc.	Philadelphia	PA	\$126,000.00
Programa de Apoyo y Enlace Comunitario, Inc.	Aguada	PR	\$135,000.00
Big Sisters of Rhode Island	Cranston	RI	\$76,000.00
Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education	Providence	RI	\$110,000.00
Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources, Inc.	Greenville	SC	\$195,000.00
Clemson University	Clemson	SC	\$200,000.00
We Stand for Kids	Anderson	SC	\$65,000.00
A Better Way	Columbia	SC	\$88,000.00
Northeast Community Services Agency	Johnson City	TN	\$112,000.00
Knoxville Leadership Foundation	Knoxville	TN	\$156,000.00
Families of Incarcerated Individuals, Inc.	Memphis	TN	\$175,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee	Nashville	TN	\$1,000,000.00
Community Solutions of El Paso Incorporated	El Paso	TX	\$114,000.00
Sam Houston State University	Huntsville	TX	\$100,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso, Inc.	El Paso	TX	\$100,000.00
Deep East Texas Council of Government	Jasper	TX	\$118,000.00
Families Under Urban and Social Attack, Inc.	Houston	TX	\$100,000.00
WABC-Central City Comprehensive Community Center	Houston	TX	\$175,000.00
West Dallas Community Centers, Inc.	Dallas	TX	\$140,000.00
Communities in Schools-McLennan County Youth Collaboration	Waco	TX	\$375,000.00
Northeast Texas Community College Foundation	Mount Pleasant	TX	\$114,000.00

South Fair Community Development Corporation	Dallas	TX	\$240,000.00
Gulf Coast Big Brothers & Big Sisters	Galveston	TX	\$26,000.00
United Methodist Family Services	Richmond	VA	\$200,000.00
International Medical Services for Health dba INMED Partnerships for Children	Sterling	VA	\$150,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Hampton Roads	Chesapeake	VA	\$100,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Virginia	Roanoke	VA	\$75,000.00
Educational Service District 101	Spokane	WA	\$266,000.00
Children's Home Society of Washington	Seattle	WA	\$315,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of King and Pierce Counties	Seattle	WA	\$257,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington	Vancouver	WA	\$146,000.00
Madison-area Urban Ministry	Madison	WI	\$180,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI	\$275,000.00
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Greater Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI	\$500,000.00
First Christian Church of Cheyenne	Cheyenne	WY	\$157,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Wyoming	Laramie	WY	\$200,000.00
Sub-Total \$35,030,400			

Tribal Mentoring Children Of Prisoners Program
FY 2004 Year-One First Installment

ORGANIZATION	CITY	STATE	AWARD
The Navajo Nation	Window Rock	AZ	\$740,000.00
Dry Creek Rancheria of Poma Indians	Geyserville	CA	\$34,000.00
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council	Browning	MT	\$354,000.00
Wakanyeya Pawicayapi, Inc.	Porcupine	SD	\$500,000.00
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Keshena	WI	\$61,000.00

Tribal Sub-Total \$1,689,000

Mentoring Children Of Prisoners Program
FY 2003 Year-Two-Second Installment FY 2003

ORGANIZATION	CITY	STATE	AWARD
Alabama Attorney General's Office	Montgomery	AL	\$461,568
Center For Youth and Families, Inc	Little Rock	AR	\$525,000
MatchPoint of Arizona, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ	\$75,000
Pima Prevention Partnership	Tucson	AZ	\$195,000
Centerforce, Inc	San Rafael	CA	\$70,000
Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning	Sacramento	CA	\$270,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Services	Redding	CA	\$120,000
Path of Life Ministries	Riverside	CA	\$480,000
San Diego Youth and Community Services, Inc	San Diego	CA	\$150,000
Denver County Area Youth Services	Denver	CO	\$100,000
Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut; Workforce, Inc.	Hartford	CT	\$225,000
Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters	Hartford	CT	\$270,000

Big Brothers Big Sisters of DE, Inc	Wilmington	DE	\$82,500
Hawaii Youth Services Network	Honolulu	HI	\$165,000
Franklin Williamson Human Services, Inc	West Frankfort	IL	\$75,000
Indiana Behavioral Health Choices, Inc.	Indianapolis	IN	\$172,500
YMCA of Greater Louisville	Louisville	KY	\$52,500
Community Service Center, Inc.	New Orleans	LA	\$62,500
Breaking the Chains Foundation	Hyattsville	MD	\$120,000
Center for Children	LaPlata	MD	\$47,044
US Dream Academy, Inc.	Columbia	MD	\$420,000
Volunteers of America Northern New England	Brunswick	ME	\$120,000
Alternatives for Girls	Detroit	MI	\$100,000
Volunteers in Prevention, Probation, and Prisons, Inc	Detroit	MI	\$240,000
Search Institute	Minneapolis	MN	\$150,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri	St. Louis	MO	\$193,500
Missoula County	Missoula	MT	\$60,000
Montana Human Resources Development Council Directors	Bozeman	MT	\$112,500
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte	Charlotte	NC	\$238,500
Chatham County Together!	Pittsboro	NC	\$30,000
Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council	North Branch	NJ	\$60,000
San Juan County Partnership, Inc.	Farmington	NM	\$200,000
Center For Community Alternatives, Inc	Syracuse	NY	\$150,000
Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families	New York	NY	\$75,000
The Osborne Association, Inc	Long Island City	NY	\$75,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Central Ohio, Inc.	Columbus	OH	\$256,932
Little Dixie Community Action Agency	Hugo	OK	\$60,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Portland	Portland	OR	\$105,000
Committed Partners for Youth	Eugene	OR	\$75,000
Deschutes County	Bend	OR	\$62,500
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern PA	Philadelphia	PA	\$450,000
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Bucks County, Inc	Jamison	PA	\$82,000
Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation	Pittsburgh	PA	\$180,000
The Salvation Army, a New York Corporation	Philadelphia	PA	\$95,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Alamo Area	San Antonio	TX	\$487,500
City of Longview	Longview	TX	\$175,000
Montgomery County Youth Services, Inc	Conroe	TX	\$75,000
South Plains Community Action Association, Inc.	Levelland	TX	\$90,000
Center For Multicultural Human Services	Falls Church	VA	\$100,000
Girl Scouts-Totem Council	Seattle	WA	\$67,500
Volunteers of America Western Washington	Everett	WA	\$165,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI	\$400,000
FY 2004 Sub-Total \$35,030,400			

FY 2004 Tribal Sub-Total \$1,689,000

FY 2003 Sub-Total \$8,869,544

Total \$45,588,944

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NOTE: Since this press release was issued, several of the grantees have relinquished grants or handed over operations to successors.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2006

Contact: ACF Press Office
(202) 401-9215

HHS Awards \$11.2 Million for Mentoring Children of Prisoners

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today awarded approximately \$11.2 million to 76 organizations to train adult volunteers to mentor children and youth whose parents are incarcerated. The grants are part of mentoring children of prisoners program introduced by President Bush in his 2003 State of the Union address.

"With these grants, we are helping train mentors and match them with children in need, because every child needs an enduring relationship with a caring adult," HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said. "This program will provide more children and youth of incarcerated parents with an opportunity to grow in hope and make the right life choices."

Grantees will use the funds to train mentors and match them with children and youth aged four to 18. Potential mentors will be screened for child and domestic abuse and other criminal history. Mentors will receive training and will also be required to commit to a one-on-one relationship and meet at least once a week with the child. Grantees will monitor and assist the mentors on an ongoing basis.

"These grants will enable more volunteers to have a positive and lasting impact in the lives of disadvantaged children," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Wade F. Horn, Ph.D. "They will help more children and youth of incarcerated parents develop into responsible adults."

Nearly 2 million children in the United States have an incarcerated parent. Studies have shown children with incarcerated parents who have mentors are less likely to use drugs or alcohol and initiate violence and are more likely to attend and perform well in school. Since this program began in 2003, approximately \$158 million has been awarded to grantees to provide new mentors to children and youth of incarcerated parents. Over 33,000 mentors and children have been matched so far, on track with the target of 100,000 matches by fiscal year 2008.

On Sept. 28, President Bush signed the Child and Families Services Improvement Act of 2006 into law. The legislation reauthorizes the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and includes the President's proposal to

allow program vouchers to expand access to mentoring services nationwide.

For more information on the mentoring children or prisoners program, go to:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/mcpfactsheet.htm>.

To view a complete list of the awards, go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/news/press/2006/mcpp_06_awards.htm.

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Note: All HHS press releases, fact sheets and other press materials are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.

Last revised: October 5, 2006

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services · 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. · Washington, D.C. 20201

Sept. 2006 Mentoring Children of Prisoners Grants

Arkansas	Boys and Girls Club of Benton County, Inc	Bentonville	\$127,000
Arizona	Big Brothers Big sisters of Northeastern Arizona	Show Low	\$107,000
Arizona	Pima Prevention Partnership	Tucson	\$169,000
Arizona	Pima Prevention Partnership	Tucson	\$122,000
Arizona	Pima Prevention Partnership	Tucson	\$127,000
California	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marin and Napa Counties	San Rafael	\$179,993
California	Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County, Inc	San Diego	\$67,000
California	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, Inc	Ventura	\$52,000
California	Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents	Eagle Rock	\$75,070
California	Centerforce	San Rafael	\$87,000
California	Indio Youth Task Force	Indio	\$107,000
California	Metro United Methodist Urban Ministry	San Diego	\$109,968
California	Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, Inc	Redding	\$165,000
California	Path of Life Ministry	Riverside	\$159,000
California	Watts-Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club	Los Angeles	\$122,000
California	We Care America San Jacinto Valley	San Jacinto	\$49,061
Colorado	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Inc	Colorado Springs	\$77,000
District of Columbia	Capitol Educational Support	Washington	\$157,000
Delaware	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware	Wilmington	\$77,000
Florida	Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida, Inc	Palm Springs	\$507,000
Florida	Faith Temple Christian Center	Rockledge	\$87,000
Florida	Youth In Action, Inc	Panama City	\$87,000
Georgia	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia	Macon	\$35,000
Georgia	DeKalb County, Georgia	Atlanta	\$139,302
Georgia	SafeHouse Outreach, Inc	Atlanta	\$207,000
Georgia	Tennis in the Hood, Inc	Fayetteville	\$182,000
Georgia	Youth Connections, Inc	College Park	\$112,000
Iowa	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa	Clive	\$50,000
Iowa	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Siouxland	Sioux City	\$150,000

Illinois	Franklin Williamson Human Services, Inc	West Frankfort	\$82,000
Indiana	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana, Inc	Indianapolis	\$129,990
Indiana	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monroe County, Inc	Bloomington	\$61,235
Kentucky	YMCA of Greater Louisville	Louisville	\$75,000
Maryland	Center for Children, Inc	La Plata	\$55,000
Maryland	Institute for Interactive Instruction	Laurel	\$107,000
Maryland	U.S. Dream Academy, Inc	Columbia	\$367,000
Michigan	Muskegon Community Health Project, Inc	Muskegon	\$107,000
Michigan	Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA)	Pontiac	\$132,000
Michigan	Volunteers in Prevention, Probation & Prisons, Inc	Detroit	\$185,000
Missouri	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri	St. Louis	\$200,000
Mississippi	Adams County Coalition for Children and Youth	Natchez	\$182,000
Montana	Missoula County	Missoula	\$60,000
North Carolina	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte	Charlotte	\$185,000
North Carolina	Chatham County Together	Pittsboro	\$36,055
North Dakota	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bismarck-Mandan	Bismarck	\$55,526
New Jersey	Big Brothers Sisters of Morris, Bergen & Passaic, Inc	Parsippany	\$98,700
Nevada	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada	Reno	\$127,000
New York	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, Inc	Albany	\$126,359
New York	Exodus Transitional Community, Inc	New York	\$90,000
New York	Greenhope Services for Women, Inc	New York	\$132,000
New York	Hour Children, Inc	Long Island City	\$75,000
New York	New York at Risk, Inc	New York	\$75,000
Ohio	Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Central Ohio	Columbus	\$750,000
Ohio	Community Drop In Center	Canton	\$30,125
Oklahoma	Little Dixie Community Action Agency	Hugo	\$100,000
Oregon	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Portland	Portland	\$112,000
Oregon	Committed Partners for Youth	Eugene	\$75,000
Pennsylvania	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Buck County, Inc	Jamison	\$120,000
Pennsylvania	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital	Harrisburg	\$72,000

	Region		
Pennsylvania	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern PA (BBBS SEPA)	Philadelphia	\$630,000
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation	Pittsburgh	\$200,000
South Carolina	Clemson University	Clemson	\$174,195
Tennessee	Boys to Men	Johnson City	\$112,000
Tennessee	University of Tennessee	Chattanooga	\$136,972
Texas	Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc	San Antonio	\$607,000
Texas	City of Longview	Longview	\$92,000
Texas	Serving Children and Adolescents In Need, Inc	Laredo	\$107,000
Texas	Travis High School Education Foundation	Austin	\$107,000
Virginia	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harrisonburg & Rockingham Counties	Harrisonburg	\$82,000
Virginia	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Peninsula	Hampton	\$91,340
Virginia	Mother Seton House, Inc T/A Seton Youth Services	Virginia Beach	\$50,000
Washington	Volunteers of America Western Washington	Everett	\$199,406
Wisconsin	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Milwaukee	Milwaukee	\$750,000
Wisconsin	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe Indian	Hayward	\$67,000
West Virginia	Children's Home Society of West Virginia	Charleston	\$73,708
West Virginia	Ohio County Commission	Wheeling	\$77,000

Appropriations Information

From the FY 08 ACF Congressional Justification

MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

Authorizing Legislation – Section 439(h) of the Social Security Act.

2006 Enacted	2007 Enacted	2008 President's Budget	Increase or Decrease
\$49,459,000	\$49,493,000	\$50,000,000	+507,000

2008 Authorization: \$50,000,000.

Statement of the Budget Request – The FY 2008 budget request of \$80,000,000 will provide funding to establish mentoring relationships for children of arrested and/or incarcerated parents.

Program Description – The Mentoring Children of Prisoners program was reauthorized in 2006. In addition to the basic program, the legislation authorized a new voucher program allowing families to enroll children in accredited mentoring programs of their choice. The Mentoring Children of Prisoners basic program provides competitive grants to State and local governments; Indian tribes and consortia; and faith- and community-based organizations to create and maintain one-to-one mentoring relationships between children, ages 4 through 18, of parents who are incarcerated with caring, supportive adult mentors. The authorizing language allows applicants to apply for grants up to \$5 million which will represent up to 75 percent of the program cost in the first two fiscal years of funding. In the final year of funding, grantees are required to become gradually more self-sufficient with at least 50 percent of funding provided through public-private partnerships.

Funding for the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program during the last five years has been as follows:

2003	\$ 9,935,000
2004	\$49,701,000
2005	\$49,598,000
2006	\$49,459,000
2007	\$49,493,000