



One to One Mentoring Disadvantaged Students

1. **Purpose:**

Funding from this proviso was provided to two organizations to develop skilled mentors who work one on one with high school students to support academic success and keep them on track to graduation. Those organizations are Big Brothers Big Sisters and Community for Youth.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Community for Youth:

- Each program participant was provided a 1:1 weekly mentoring experience from September 2022–June 2021
- Each mentor, student, and parent were supported through monthly match support meetings with program staff to ensure a high-quality mentoring experience for each student
- Each student received guided career-integrated mentoring from a diverse set of mentors representing high-quality careers and professions (tech industry, government, corporate, and nonprofit sector)
- Monthly curriculum was designed and facilitated to support student's academic and social emotional growth
- Staff also supported all students and family with resource navigation during COVID-19 (rent assistance, food subsidies, online learning, and digital access)

Big Brothers Big Sisters:

- Recruitment and training of 70 volunteer mentors
- Monthly support calls and coaching for 70 mentors
- Biweekly check-ins and support contacts for 70 students
- Biweekly staff-led sessions to foster social-emotional skills, develop students' growth mindset, and encourage youth to set goals for their future
- Monthly cohort events at each school to foster student-mentor connections
- Technology for mentors and youth to connect safely between monthly events
- Closure process for students and mentors ending participation
- Collection of process and outcome data on program/student indicators
- Served additional 78 students with private funds

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Community for Youth: High school students in South Seattle area. Must have demonstrated need and commitment to personal growth and academic pursuit.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: Eligibility requirements varied slightly by school district, but all participants were required to:

- Be a student at one of five partner high schools
- Obtain parent permission for participation
- Fall into one or more of these categories:
 - Be enrolled in an academic support or selected advisory class
 - Have risk factors reducing their likelihood of graduating on time
 - Request mentor support to graduate and achieve post-high school success

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 6
Number of Schools: 9
Number of Students: 115
Other: 0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1.0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation: \$250,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY21) \$250,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$250,000	\$250,000
FY20	\$250,000	\$250,000

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of school districts	Number of schools	Number of students
FY21	6	9	115
FY20	NA	NA	91

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

N/A

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Community for Youth Overall Student Program Data in 2020-2021:

- 89% Student Retention
- 100% Senior Graduation Rate (16/16) vs. 64% SPS average of same demographic
- 82% of Seniors going on to Higher Education
- 91% Students of Color (34% Black/AA, 22% Asian, 9% Hispanic, 22% 2+ races, 2% Native American, 2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 9% White)
- 47% speak a language other than English at home
- 7 Different Languages Spoken in the home
- 60% in "Non-Traditional" Household composition
- 69% Free/Reduced Lunch (vs. 34% of SPS students).
- 100% Low-Income (per 80% of Area Median Income)

Highlights from End of Year Strength of Relationship survey results:

- 45% of students showed overall progress on Goal Setting Behavior
- 90% of students maintained or increased their strong feelings of connectedness to their community
- 75% of students maintained or increased their personal expectations that positive future outcomes will occur in their life
- 55% of students maintained or increased skills for setting and pursuing goals

Big Brothers Big Sisters Overall Student Program Data in 2020-2021:

- 100% of MentorU 9th graders passed into 10th grade.
- 88% of MentorU students reported that, when something was on their mind, their mentors were helpful to them.
- 28% of youth in our site-based programs saw improvement in their depressive symptoms; another 53% at least held steady.
- 13 MentorU seniors graduated this spring and are headed into bright futures

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

N/A

10. **Future opportunities:**

N/A

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092 Sec. 1518 (19) - \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for contracts with Washington state based nonprofit organizations that provide a career-integrated one-to-one mentoring program for disadvantaged high school students facing academic and personal challenges with the goal of keeping them on track for graduation and post-high school success. The mentoring must include a focus on college readiness, career exploration and social-emotional learning. An applicant requesting funding for these dollars must successfully demonstrate to the department that it currently provides a career-integrated one-to-one volunteer mentoring program and has been mentoring high school youth for at least twenty years in the state prior to application.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

Name: Dixie Grunenfelder

Title: Executive Director, Student Engagement and Support

Phone: 360-878-0138

Email: dixie.grunenfelder@k12.wa.us