



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Military Connected Students Mentoring

1. **Purpose:**

These funds are used specifically to provide mentors to students from Military families, many of whom experience loss due to deployment or have unmet social-emotional needs. Funds were provided to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington and Multicultural Hope Center.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Funds are used to create and sustain a mentor-mentee relationship, including tutoring, homework help, and general mentoring to improve quality of life and create best academic outcomes for Military students. In addition, contractors:

- Develop new and expand existing mentoring programming to specifically serve military-connected students
- Recruit and enroll mentors to support military-connected students
- Enroll military-connected students in one-to-one mentoring
- Provide military culture training for mentors
- Match volunteer mentors with military connected students
- Provide on-going match support to military-connected student mentoring matches
- Provide match closure support for military-connected student mentoring matches
- Collect demographic and outcome data on military student mentoring matches

In Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center's program, all mentors are similarly active duty or are Veterans from one or more branches of the military, which is advantageous since the mentor understands military culture, deployment, and is better able to understand the needs of the student.

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

Eligibility is determined based on age of student, residence in State of Washington, and verification of family as a bona fide Military family with at least one active duty parent.

Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 17
Number of Schools: 40
Number of Students: 92
Other: 0

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

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0.0

FY20 Funding: State Appropriation: \$125,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY20) \$125,000

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

No

Yes, please explain.

If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY20	\$125,000	\$125,000

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

One hundred percent (100%) of all mentor-mentee relationships were kept intact, and no closures were reported. The program continued throughout the period of COVID-19, with special social distancing measures and limited occupancy in place, as well as utilizing advanced sanitization. One hundred percent (100%) of all students graduated their respective grades, showing strong proficiency in Math and Literacy. A special graduation drive-through ceremony took place for all Military students at the end of the school year.

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

N/A

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

Child and Youth Survey (COS) Outcome Results from Big Brothers Big Sisters:

- 89% of students say they plan on finishing HS and attending college/vocational school

- 86% of students say they feel good about themselves when they are in school
- 90% of students say doing well in school is important to them
- 95% of students say they work well with other kids at school
- 96% of mentors say their Little has made improvements since they started meeting

Youth Strength of Relations (YOS) Results:

- 97% of students say their relationship with their Big is very important to them
- 95% of students say when something is bothering them, their Big listens while they talk about it
- 100% of the students say they feel safe when they are with their Big

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

Contractors were unable to collect quantitative metrics from School Districts due to COVID-19. Big Brothers Big Sisters did administer pre and post COS/YOS surveys to track BBBS's three main strategic objectives; academic performance and educational expectations, avoidance of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competency.

10. **Future opportunities:**

N/A

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

ESSB 6168 Sec. 520 (16) - \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for contracts with state-based nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to military-connected students exclusively through one-to-one volunteer mentoring. The goal of the mentoring is to build resiliency in military connected students and increase their ability to cope with the stress of parental deployment and frequent moves, which will help promote good decision-making by youth, help increase attachment and a positive attitude toward school, and develop positive peer relationships. An applicant requesting funding for these dollars must successfully demonstrate to the department that it currently provides direct one-to-one volunteer mentoring services to military connected elementary students in the state and has been providing military mentoring to students in the state for at least twenty-four months prior to application.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**
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