

Mentoring Connection



Contact Information

Have questions about becoming a mentor or referring a youth? Please feel welcome to call us and inquire.

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Adults interested in mentoring can visit the Family Programs Hawaii web site and complete the volunteer application and consent forms for background checks.

www.Familyprogramshawaii.org



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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Mentoring Connection seeks adult mentors to be matched to youth ages 17-21 who are in their final year of high school and are preparing to leave foster care.

Why Mentor?

Mentors can truly improve the lives of youth in foster care. Youth who are close to emancipating from or “aging out” of the foster care system face many challenges as they transition into their adult lives. Research has shown that youth who report having at least one caring and trusted adult in their lives have better chances of success in early adulthood.

Mentoring relationships make a difference. Foster youth who have a mentor as part of their safety net show improved educational achievement, lower suicide risk, and better overall health. Youth in foster care who report that they have a mentor also report less depression, less stress, and better satisfaction with life.



Be a Mentor

It is easy and rewarding to be a mentor! We are now recruiting volunteers on Oahu. Mentors should be over 21 years old and meet the following criteria:

- ♥ Complete the volunteer application
- ♥ Pass a screening and background check
- ♥ Attend a mentor orientation training
- ♥ Be a good role model and have fun
- ♥ Be committed to spending time with a mentee

Mentoring Rewards

For as little as a few hours a month, mentors can make a big impact on the life of a young person. Mentors spend time with a youth to establish a positive, personal relationship. Mentors and mentees choose the activities that suit them best. Go bowling, shoot hoops at a park, visit a museum or tour a college campus together. Program staff will check in regularly to answer questions and offer support and resources.

Other ways to support mentoring

Don't have time to volunteer? You can give support by referring a friend or donating cash, gas cards, event tickets, or gift cards.

Our Goals

Mentoring Connection serves youth ages 17-21 who are currently residing in foster care, shelters or group homes. Minors need consent from their Child Welfare Social Worker before they participate. We would like to connect youth with a mentor when they are in their final year of high school or nearing completion of a GED or diploma program. The mentoring program is voluntary, so the youth decide if they want to participate. The goal is to offer the youth a stable, caring adult mentor who is a part of their life both before and after they exit care.

What is Required of Mentees?

- ◆ Meet with agency staff and complete an interview that assists in mentor matching
- ◆ Be willing to meet regularly with a mentor

Mentors and mentees are matched based on the preferences of the youth and the adult. Some criteria include same gender, common interests, geographic proximity, and similar personalities.