

## Urban Mentoring Initiative Q&A

**Q:** What is the Urban Mentoring Initiative?

**A:** The Urban Mentoring Initiative was created in 2005 through a public-private partnership of the Connecticut General Assembly and the private sector, led by The Governor's Prevention Partnership, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. The Legislature has appropriated \$400,000 over two years to the Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, a program of The Governor's Prevention Partnership, to launch a mentoring expansion effort in seven urban communities.

**Q:** Why are we focusing on urban communities?

**A:** Connecticut's mentoring infrastructure in our urban centers does not meet the need. Lack of mentors — especially males and minorities — and lack of funding for critical program elements (paid mentoring coordinators, background checks for mentors) often are reasons existing programs cannot serve more children. The Urban Mentoring Initiative will address these and other barriers to expanding mentoring in urban settings.

**Q:** Which communities will we be working closely with?

**A:** Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwich, Waterbury, and Windham.

**Q:** Why these communities?

**A:** We chose these seven communities based on an analysis of community needs.

**Q:** What is the overall goal of this initiative?

**A:** The goal of the Urban Mentoring Initiative is to substantially increase the number of mentors in these seven cities to work with at-risk children by increasing the capacity of existing mentoring programs to serve more children; developing new mentoring programs and models, and identifying and leveraging additional mentoring resources.

**Q:** How can a local organization get involved?

**A:** We'll work first with **existing** mentoring programs to strengthen their ability to serve more children and increase program quality through our training, technical assistance and leveraging of additional resources. Other groups that want to start mentoring programs should contact us about training opportunities and/or how they can be involved in a local task force comprised of mentoring providers and key stakeholders. Interested groups can visit [our website](#), call us toll-free at 800-422-5422 or e-mail [Veronica Taylor](#).

**Q:** What if I want to become a mentor?

**A:** There are existing local mentoring programs in towns across the state. Visit the searchable database of quality mentoring programs located on [our website](#).