



*keeping kids safe, successful and drug free today
for a stronger workforce tomorrow*

CONNECTICUT MENTORING PARTNERSHIP
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

AMACHI MENTORING PROGRAM

**ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING SERVICES FOR YOUTH
IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION**

The Governor's Prevention Partnership

30 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860-523-8042 / Fax:

Website: www.preventionworksct.org

AMACHI Mentoring Model: The Amachi effort began seven years ago in Philadelphia, under the leadership of former Mayor Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., the child of an offender. This one-to-one mentoring program uses faith-based and secular partners to match children of offenders with adult role models to break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration. “Amachi” is a word of Nigerian dialect that means “Who knows but what God has brought us through this child.” The program focuses on children ages 6 to 14 who have an incarcerated parent and who are recommended by churches, schools, caregivers and parents in prison. Specific components of the Amachi Mentoring Model are listed below under program goals and objectives.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership (The Partnership) is a not-for-profit partnership between state government, business leadership and community organizations committed to increasing the number of youth in our schools and communities who have the caring support of mentors. The Partnership provides the infrastructure within the State of Connecticut for mentoring programs to include expansion, best practices, training, program development and technical assistance.

The Governor’s Prevention Partnership, through its Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, serves as the lead agency/fiduciary on this project, which will create a total of **418 new mentor matches** and 6.5 jobs over a three year period. The Partnership will identify and contract with Connecticut mentoring programs with an extensive history of providing mentoring services to youth impacted by incarceration. Those mentoring organizations will:

- Provide innovative and interactive experiences that help youth and prevent destructive decisions;
- Help youth become prepared for tomorrow’s workforce;
- Increase connections to opportunities for youth;
- Help youth make clear connections between education and career choices; and
- Provide or link youth to positive development experiences.

The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership and mentoring partners will provide services to youth between the ages of 6 and 18 who have been impacted by incarceration. Mentors will be required to spend four hours per month with their mentee, engaging in a host of mentoring activities. Amachi’s promise is that one-to-one mentoring will significantly improve life opportunities for children.

PROJECT NEED

An estimated two million children between the ages of 5 and 18 have a parent who is behind bars. With the incarcerated population growing at a rate of 6 percent a year, this number continues to rise (Mumola, 2000).

- Half of the parents are African American (49.4%), and, although most are fathers (93%), the number of incarcerated mothers has risen in the past decade.
- An estimated 65% of female inmates have children (Mumola, 2000).

- Over 60% of mothers in prison are incarcerated more than 100 miles away from their children (Seymour, 1998; Mumola, 2000).
- Most children whose mothers are behind bars are placed with other family members (79%) (Mumola, 2000).

In Connecticut, children living in urban areas have a greater likelihood of being affected by incarceration and even if they do not have a parent or close family member who is incarcerated, it is likely that someone close to them through their extended family, neighborhood or faith community is incarcerated. The State Department of Corrections reports that in 2009, over 11,000 adults from the state's largest urban centers (see chart below) were incarcerated.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that children of offenders have a 70 percent greater likelihood of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. There are an estimated 2.4 million children affected by the nearly 1.5 million parents currently incarcerated in prisons and jails.

ELIGIBLE PROPOSERS

Who can respond: All public and private not-for-profit corporations and local education agencies properly organized in accordance with State and Federal law and in business for at least (5) years providing mentoring services to youth may submit a request for funding.

Furthermore, each proposer must:

- ✓ Be registered with The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership within the last (3) years
- ✓ Have participated/attended the Nationally recognized Elements of Effective Practice (Design and Build, Training of Trainers, or Quality Standards) training offered by The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership or utilize a set of evidence-based best-practices for all aspects of mentoring program implementation and evaluation.
- ✓ Have experience and/or ability in working with faith-based organizations regarding mentor recruitment and children of prisoners.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

While the initial partnership period will begin January 1, 2010, it is the intention of Amachi and The Partnership to recognize performance from September, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Eligible Youth – Youth served in this program must meet the following criteria:

- Between the ages of 6-18 years;

- Adjudicated or court-supported youth, **or**
- Has a parent who has been or is currently incarcerated in prison or in jail, **or**
- Has a family member (individual that lives in the same household, not necessarily a biological family member) who has been or is currently incarcerated in prison or in jail, **or**
- *Resides in one of Connecticut's top 10 cities/towns affected by incarceration.

**The Connecticut Department of Corrections has provided a list of the top 10 cities/towns in the state with the highest number of individuals incarcerated as of October 30, 2009:*

CITY/TOWN	EST. # of Incarcerated adults as of 10/30/09
HARTFORD	2,701
NEW HAVEN	2,171
BRIDGEPORT	1,911
WATERBURY	1,531
NEW BRITAIN	786
STAMFORD	519
MERIDEN	446
NORWALK	427
DANBURY	374
EAST HARTFORD	344

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the program is to provide mentors for a three-year period (36 months) to 418 children impacted by incarceration. The mentors will provide guidance and friendship, serve as a role model, and serve as a resource and advocate to the youth.

This program is designed to help youth impacted by incarceration receive the support and encouragement they need to become productive citizens. Youth will be matched with an adult mentor from one of the mentoring partners working with the Connecticut Mentoring Partnership. The Amachi Mentoring Program will consist of six components, which are based on nationally recognized Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Programs:

1. Mentor Recruitment
2. Mentor Screening
3. Mentor Training
4. Youth Enrollment and Matching
5. Relationship Monitoring and Support
6. Match Closure

The Governor's Prevention Partnership will contract with mentoring partners who will:

1. Match a minimum of **56 mentees** in year one; **126** in year two; and **236** youth in year three with screened adult mentors;
2. Increase opportunities for youth through one-one-one mentoring activities and mentor relationship retention;
3. Provide criminal background checks on all mentors prior to matching them with the youth; and
4. Provide mentors with a minimum of four hours of training on both the Amachi model and overall roles and responsibilities of being a mentor.

AMACHI MENTORING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

All children served under the AMACHI Model will be measured as part of a comprehensive youth mentoring program by the core performance areas with payment benchmarks. There are two core performance areas (mentoring elements) described in the table below:

REQUIRED MENTORING ELEMENTS	PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITY	PAYMENT BENCHMARK
Mentor Match	<p>Mentor has completed screening and program intake process</p> <p>Mentor has attended 2-hour program training</p> <p>Mentee has completed application and intake</p> <p>Mentor and Mentee have been matched</p>	50%
3-Month Match	<p>Mentor relationship has been sustained for 3 months with 16 hours of in person contact</p> <p>Program has provided at least 6 relationship interventions / support / case management</p>	50%

AMACHI OUTCOME REQUIREMENTS

- YEAR 1 (September 2, 2009 – June 30, 2010) – **56 matches**
- YEAR 2 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) – **126 matches**
- YEAR 3 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) – **236 matches**

PAYMENT DISBURSEMENT PROCESS

Mentoring program providers will receive \$600 for each successful match.

After the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with The Partnership, each mentoring program provider will receive 20% start-up funding.

After each successful match, program providers will submit an invoice to The Partnership and The Partnership will reimburse each provider up to 50%.

**e.g., If “Program A” commits to training, screening, matching, monitoring and supporting 10 mentors for year 1 of the Amachi project, it will receive \$600 per match for a total of \$6,000. At the beginning of the project, “Program A” will receive 20% of the funds based on the total number of mentors it has committed to mentoring for the project (20% of \$6,000 is \$1,200). After completing 10 successful matches, “Program A” will receive submit an invoice to The Partnership, requesting \$2,400 (50% of the initial payment). After three months of sustaining, supporting and monitoring the 10 matches, “Program A” will receive the remaining balance of \$2,400 for all 10 matches.*

- 20% start-up funds - **\$1,200**
- 50% after match is complete - **\$2,400**
- 50% after 3 months of sustaining 10 matches - **\$2,400**

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED TO **PROGRAM A** FOR 10 MATCHES- **\$6,000**

Programs may submit monthly invoices as mentor matches are made, even if the total number of matches has not yet occurred.

THE PARTNERSHIP/AMACHI PARTNER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governor’s Prevention Partnership

- Execute Memorandum of Agreements with mentoring program service providers that will match and monitor the mentoring relationships.
- Assist mentoring program service providers with the training of mentoring staff.
- Assist mentoring program service providers with special mentor training for mentors on Amachi.
- Provide overall direct service program supervision.
- Connect service providers to faith-based organization, small businesses and community organizations to help recruit potential mentors.
- Provide programs with direct link to CT Department of Corrections, Angel Tree, urban school districts and DCF for recruitment of mentees.
- Submit program reporting and invoices to Amachi/P/PV.

- Distribute media and press releases regarding statewide campaign for Amachi project.
- Establish cost reimbursement plan for contracted direct service providers.
- Seek additional funding to support project statewide.

Mentoring Program Provider Partners

- Screen potential mentors.
- Orient and train mentors, mentees and parents/caregivers.
- Match mentors and mentees.
- Provide ongoing support, supervision and monitoring of mentoring relationship.
- Help mentors and mentees reach closure.
- Collect data of each match.
- Report data to The Partnership.
- Report the number of jobs connected with projects to The Partnership.

Faith-Based Partners

- Recruit potential mentors, mentees and other volunteers.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS - Narrative Due 12/30/09 4-page max.

I. Proposal narrative – The proposal should include the following components:

- A. A (2-4) page narrative that addresses the following elements:
 - What specific goals and objectives do you hope to achieve by participating in the Amachi Project?
 - How will your program leverage/secure additional funding resources to support your 3-year mentor matches?
 - How will the mentoring matches be formed and maintained?
 - What is the target population for youth that are eligible for this project (*i.e.*, age and location)?
 - Briefly describe how your organization will address each of the 6 required Amachi Program components: (Mentor Recruitment, mentor screening, mentor training, youth enrollment and matching, relationship monitoring and support, match closure)
- B. Description of the participating organization and key staff responsible for the coordination of the project.
- C. A cover sheet outlining the total number of matches your organization is committed to making each year, along with staffing chart should be included (**see attachment A**) with narrative report.
- D. Staffing Matrix (**attachment B**)

Once the proposals are received, The Partnership will select mentoring programs to participate in this program based on:

- Experience in conducting a one-on-one mentoring program and ability to meet the nationally recognized Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Programs
- Prior experience and ability to serve the needs of children of prisoners
- Willingness and capacity to partner, connect with faith organizations to recruit mentors and provide quality services.

Mentoring programs selected to participate will be notified by January 5, 2010

Email your narrative and appropriate attachments to Veronica DeLandro by 12/30/09 veronica.delandro@preventionworksct.org

Program Contacts:

Roland Harmon, Program Manager
The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership
The Governor's Prevention Partnership
30 Arbor Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 523-8042 x 18
roland.harmon@preventionworksct.org

Veronica T. DeLandro
Senior Program Coordinator
The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership
The Governor's Prevention Partnership
30 Arbor Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 523-8042 x 24
veronica.delandro@preventionworksct.org