

PROGRAM MODELS

1. **School-based** approach is best for practitioners and funders who:

- Want to serve youth with school-related needs
- Want to attract youth, elder and minority mentors
- Want to serve larger numbers of youth, particularly boys (caseloads are larger and cross-gender matching enables female volunteers to be matched with boys)
- Are willing to accept potential limitations on the length or depth of the mentoring relationship
- Want to provide youth with an adult who can meet them for about one hour a week during the school year and engage in academic or social activities conducive to the school setting
- Have relationships established with schools or sufficient time and resources to establish these relationships
- Have limited funds

2. **One-on-one community-based** approach is best for practitioners and funders who:

- Want a program model that already has a proven track record of achieving a wide range of impacts (e.g., decreasing risk-taking behaviors, improving academic outcomes, improving peer and parental relationships)
- Want to provide youth with an adult friend who can expose them to new experiences and provide help and advice on a wide and varying set of topics
- Want a program that can follow a child through residential moves
- Want to provide youth with 3-4 hours a week of friendship-based adult interaction (this amount of time is often at one weekly meeting, perhaps promoting deeper communication than more brief interactions)
- Want a well-defined set of best practices
- Have a central focus of creating long lasting mentor-youth relationships
- Have goals that aren't conducive to a school-based approach (e.g., exposure to new experiences, career exploration)
- Will provide extensive screening and supervision
- Do not primarily recruit youth or elder mentors

3. **Group approach** is best for practitioners and funders who:

- Want to match many youth quickly
- Want to attract elder, minority and lower-income mentors
- Want a place-based approach
- Want to provide youth with missing peer social interaction
- Want to serve youth both in and beyond elementary school (particularly older youth who are attracted to social opportunities)
- Do not have a primary focus on creating long-lasting mentor-youth relationships
- Can provide relatively extensive pre- and post-match training to mentors
- Have limited funds