



MENTOR NEBRASKA

2021 Mapping Summary

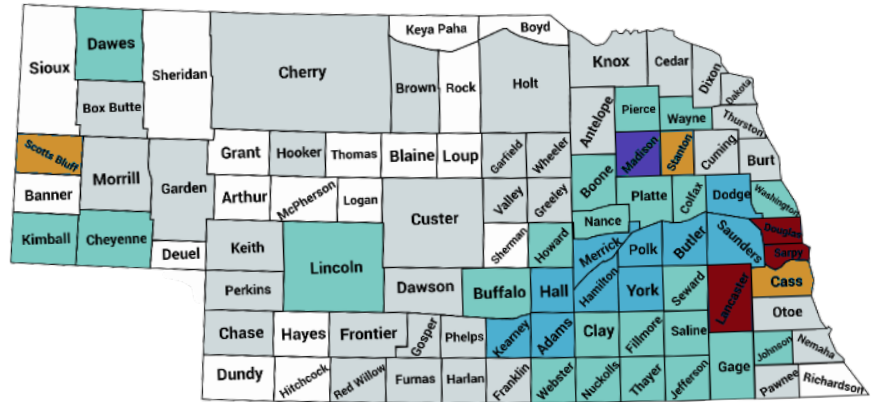
For more than 20 years, MENTOR Nebraska has led the mentoring movement to ensure youth and mentors have access to high-quality experiences - first as Midlands Mentoring Partnership and now as a statewide organization. The 2021 MENTOR Nebraska Mapping Project further fuels this work by providing a snapshot of mentoring in Nebraska's communities and an inventory of existing programming. Through a strengths-based questionnaire and analysis of county and school district data, the project estimates the size and scope of Nebraska's mentoring sector and details location, program design, objectives, audiences, community conditions, and areas for future growth.

NEBRASKA'S MENTORING SECTOR

This report reflects the diverse ways that mentoring shows up in the lives of youth today. While many of the relationships we champion in Nebraska's mentoring movement take place in programmatic contexts led by youth-serving organizations, the reality is that mentoring relationships also come about more organically through family, faith, and community connections in:

- Schools
- After-school programs
- Sports and recreation leagues
- Youth groups
- Clubs
- Summer camps

Organizations represented in this mapping report encompass diverse programmatic models, including: stand-alone, embedded programs in nonprofits, programs that utilize mentoring principles in their service delivery, and other spaces that serve as "mentor-rich" relationship hubs.



of Organizations Providing Mentoring



15+ organizations

provide mentoring services in Nebraska's most populated counties (Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster)

0 organizations

provide mentoring services in 19 of Nebraska's 93 counties

MENTORING BY THE NUMBERS

During the spring of 2021, **60 organizations** offered these insights about the mentoring sector:

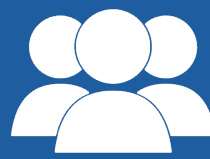
- Youth largely become involved in mentoring through **self-referral** or **caregiver referral**
- Most programs serve **high school** and/or **middle school aged youth**
- **One-on-one** and **group mentoring** are the most common forms of mentoring
- Nonmember organizations are more likely to offer **peer-to-peer** and **virtual mentoring**
- Most programs seek to enhance **social emotional skills**, support general **youth development**, and provide **caring adult relationships**



139
Programs



1,182
Sites



22,000
Youth

28% White
 24% Black
 11% Hispanic/Latino
 6% 2+ Races
 3% Asian
 3% Other
 1% American Indian/Alaska Native
 <1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 24% Unknown*

**Info not shared by youth or data not collected by program*

QUALITY MENTORING PRACTICES

The *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™* (EEP) is a collection of research-informed practices for youth mentoring programs. These elements are widely accepted in the United States as the defining document on programmatic standards for the youth mentoring field. The elements and the practices they promote have been extensively examined in major research studies of mentoring programs and have been shown to be important predictors of positive outcomes for youth.

92.3% of MENTOR Nebraska's member partners reported being familiar with the *Elements of Best Practices* compared to **50%** of nonmembers



STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

Reported by Programs

TOP STRENGTHS

- Partnerships with schools, nonprofits, mental health professionals, and others
- Priority to serve young people who are justice-involved, first-generation college going, and LGBTQIA
- Desire to grow to provide different types of mentoring, reach other communities, and/or increase the number of matches
- Staff representation & cultural competency

“We incorporate our culture and strive to incorporate the culture of our participants in our programming. Our goal is for them to embrace who they are.”

“Our program has a great operational foundation now that we implement EEP.”

“Older teens being peer mentors of elementary youth has been a unique strength as it is mutually beneficial to the mentors and mentees.”

TOP CHALLENGES

- Fundraising to support operations
- Recruiting mentors to meet demand of youth seeking a mentor
- Family engagement in programming
- Program evaluation to demonstrate effectiveness
- Cultural representation in mentors

LOOKING FORWARD

To identify opportunities for mentoring, the mapping project analyzed **15 community and academic indicators**, including poverty rates, juvenile justice system involvement, educational attainment, cost per pupil, free and reduced lunch, and school attendance rates among others. This data identified **14 school districts with the highest need for mentoring services**:

1. Hastings Public Schools
2. Alliance Public Schools
3. So Sioux City Community Schools
4. Lexington Public Schools
5. Fremont Public Schools
6. Ralston Public Schools
7. Omaha Public Schools
8. Franklin Public Schools
9. Norfolk Public Schools
10. Crete Public Schools
11. Scottsbluff Public Schools
12. Mitchell Public Schools
13. Morrill Public Schools
14. Minatare Public Schools

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Overall, the mapping project affirmed and highlighted areas of work for MENTOR Nebraska to consider moving forward:



Support program growth in regions with high need and limited opportunity



Advance best practices across the state through no-cost training and consulting



Elevate BIPOC mentor recruitment



Support efforts to offer unique programming for diverse populations

This mapping project and associated data analysis provides a strong foundation for understanding the size, scope, activities, and environment of mentoring in Nebraska. In phase two of this effort, MENTOR Nebraska will incorporate feedback from participants, providers, and other stakeholders to better understand the broader state of the mentoring sector. This feedback will be integrated into MENTOR Nebraska's strategic plan and used to identify goals around programming, policy & advocacy, youth voice, and statewide expansion to connect more young people with high quality mentoring.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the 60 organizations that participated in MENTOR Nebraska's 2021 Mapping Project:

100 Black Men of Omaha*

ACE Mentor Omaha*

ANDY Foundation

Asian Community & Cultural Center

Athlete2Athlete

Atlas: Lincoln

Banisters Leadership Academy

Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln*

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska*

Big Brothers Big Sisters Of The Midlands*

Big Pals-Little Pals of Greater Columbus*

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership

Boys & Girls Club of Lincoln/Lancaster County

CASA for Lancaster County

Catholic Charities

City Impact

Community Action Health Center

Community Connections Mentoring*

FITGirl, Inc.

Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska

Girls Inc of Omaha - Pathfinders Mentoring*

Greater Omaha Chamber

Greater Omaha Youth for Christ

Guide Right Omaha. Inc.

International Council for Refugees and Immigrants

Joslyn Art Museum

Kids Can Community Center*

Latino Center of the Midlands

MAYS Foundation

Mentoring Plus

MentoringWorks

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

Nebraska Extension, Douglas-Sarpy Counties

Norfolk Family Coalition

Ollie Webb Center, Inc.*

Omaha Girls Rock

Omaha Street School

Omaha Young Life

Partnership 4 Hope Inc.

Partnership 4 Kids*

Project Everlast- Nebraska Children

Ralston Public Schools

Release Inc.*

Saint Francis Ministries

SAVE Program

Sidney High School Mentoring

Society of American Military Engineers

SPARKPositivity

T.R.A.C.life Mentoring

TeamMates Mentoring

The Bay (Rabble Mill)

The Bike Union Mentoring Project*

The Friends Program

The Zone Afterschool Program, Inc.

UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

YMCA Of Lincoln - Northeast

You Go Girl

Youth Emergency Services*

Youth for Greater Good

YWCA Lincoln

*MENTOR Nebraska membership requires all partner programs to:

- Be a youth-serving organization with mentoring matches
- Require a minimum match commitment of one year
- Offer training to all mentors
- Perform background checks on mentors 18+ years old
- Adhere to best practices outlined in the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™* (EEP)
- Complete EEP training
- Complete the National Quality Mentoring System assessment
- Submit data on match demographics
- Sign a non-discrimination clause to receive funding
- Contribute to mentoring leadership meetings

THANK YOU!



AmeriCorps
Nebraska

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