NEW THIS YEAR

To help understand the state of mentoring in Nebraska, MENTOR Nebraska surveyed 60 organizations for our 2021 Mapping Project. 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. View the mapping report summary here.

# of Organizations Providing Mentoring by County

To strengthen the quality and effectiveness of mentoring, MENTOR Nebraska provides capacity building support to mentoring and youth-serving programs across the state. We expanded our reach this year by onboarding eight consultants to help provide no-cost consulting to programs.

CONSULTANTS

SHARI COLLINS  BRAXTON CROWDER  MARISA HATTAB  SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

ANGELA HIPP  SUSAN MAYBERGER  DERNECIA PHILLIPS  TESS STARMAN
To support more young people involved in the juvenile justice system, MENTOR Nebraska is expanding our Youth Initiated Mentoring (YIM) program. We launched the country’s first standalone YIM model at Charles Drew Health Center and will continue to work alongside community organizations across the state to implement the YIM model.

“We are so excited to launch the Youth Initiated Mentoring model at Charles Drew Health Center. The need for mentors has never been greater and this is a unique opportunity to transform the lives of young people while strengthening our community.”

KENNY MCMORRIS
Charles Drew Health Center | Omaha

To expand MENTOR Nebraska’s network and reach across Nebraska, we welcomed four new board members and two staff members. We will continue to intentionally add people who represent the communities we serve.

MONIKI GUNN
Board | Omaha

DR. AMANDA LEVOS
Board | Grand Island

SUSIE OWENS
Staff | Omaha

ELIZABETH SEACREST
Board | Lincoln

FRED WHITTED
Staff | Omaha

BETSY VIDLAK
Board | Scottsbluff
VISION
MENTOR Nebraska's vision is for every young person to have the supportive relationships they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive, and engaged adults.

MISSION
MENTOR Nebraska fuels the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships, strengthens collaboration, and advocates for mentoring.

OUR IMPACT
ADVOCACY
Led advocacy efforts for state and federal funding to serve more young people through mentoring

Coordinated Capitol Hill Day
30+ mentoring advocates from Nebraska met with Members of Congress to talk about the importance of mentoring and discuss key legislation to support Nebraska's youth
NO-COST TRAINING

Led 57 no-cost trainings

- Combatting White Saviorism
- Supporting Refugee Mentors
- Cultural Competency
- Creating Equitable Outcomes
- Increasing Youth Voice
- Social Emotional Learning
- Trauma Informed Care
- Screening Volunteers
- Best Practices of Mentoring
- Virtual Mentoring
- STRIVE Refugee Mentoring
- Success Mentors

Trained 734 youth-serving professionals and mentors

“MENTOR Nebraska has been a great asset to the 100 Black Men of Omaha. From trainings on ‘Virtual Mentoring’ to ‘Social & Emotional Learning,’ our staff has been equipped with the tools to continue mentoring our Youth with Promise in an impactful way.”

MARCUS BELL
100 Black Men of Omaha

“MENTOR Nebraska provides Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln with valuable resources to provide top-notch community-based mentoring to our community. MENTOR Nebraska offers an astounding amount of training opportunities for BBBSL staff as well as our mentors (Bigs) that assist in the areas of cultural competencies, trauma-informed care, and social-emotional learning, just to name a few.”

LAURA MATTHIAS
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lincoln
NO-COST CONSULTING

Provided 350+ hours of no-cost consultation to 15 youth-serving programs to increase the number, quality, and safety of mentoring relationships

- ABOTURIBO 1972 (Omaha)
- Banister Leadership Academy (Omaha)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska (Grand Island)
- East African Development Association of Nebraska (Omaha)
- iCare Youth Service Inc (TX)
- International Council for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc. (Omaha)
- The Keys Foundation (Omaha)
- Kids Can Community Center (Omaha)
- Looks Like Us (Omaha)
- Mentoring Plus (Lincoln)
- Muscogee Creek (OK)
- Partnership 4 Kids (Omaha)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha (Omaha)
- Volunteers for Youth (OK)
- Youth Emergency Services (Omaha)

OUR IMPACT

“MENTOR Nebraska provides great trainings and resources with the NQMS process to improve the quality of our mentoring program for staff and mentors. Through networking meetings, MENTOR Nebraska allows Kids Can to learn about other programs and their successes and (especially this past year during COVID) how other agencies were making changes to ensure their mentors and mentees could still meet in a safe environment.”

STEPHANIE STICKELS
Kids Can Community Center | Omaha
INTENTIONAL MENTORING

Brought innovation to the mentoring sector by continuing to support intentional mentoring to reach underserved youth

Success Mentors
Supported **three school districts** serving **267 students with a history of chronic absenteeism**
- Grand Island Public Schools
- Millard Public Schools
- Omaha Public Schools

Youth Initiated Mentoring
Connected young people involved in the juvenile justice system with mentors by building partnerships with **four new referral sources**
- Charles Drew Health Center
- Child Saving Institute
- Omaha Home for Boys
- Project Harmony

STRIVE Refugee Mentoring
Served **132 newly arrived refugee students** through **five partnerships**
- Grand Island Public Schools
- International Council for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.
- Lincoln Public Schools
- Omaha Public Schools
- TeamMates of Lincoln
“MENTOR Nebraska has been a wonderful tool for Big Pals-Little Pals. Because of our partnership with MENTOR Nebraska, we have implemented the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring. This has helped us build a strong foundation for our program and helped us implement new practices that ensure that our mentees are safe and receiving the maximum benefit from our program.”

KARMEN THOMPSON
Big Pals-Little Pals of Greater Columbus

“Community Connections Mentoring values our partnership with MENTOR Nebraska. Over the past year, MENTOR Nebraska has assisted us in completing the NQMS process to recognize that we are meeting the highest quality standards for a mentoring program in alignment with the Elements of Effective Practices for Mentoring. They have worked with us on continuous program improvements including the development of program recruitment materials, enabled us to upgrade our mentoring software to increase efficiency in monitoring and support, and provided many training opportunities for staff and mentors including Trauma and Recovery 101 and Combating White Saviorism trainings.”

ANGELA HIPP
Community Connections | North Platte
TIER I PARTNER MEMBERS

Partner Members have demonstrated they are utilizing research-based mentoring practices in their programs. They participate in statewide data collection efforts and complete the National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS). Partner Members receive the highest level of benefits including no-cost background checks for all mentors, a data collection and case management system, access to statewide recruitment activities, and opportunities for funding support.

100 BLACK MEN OF OMAHA – Young Men Mentoring Institute (Omaha)
ACE MENTOR PROGRAM (Omaha)
*BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA (Grand Island)
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS LINCOLN (Lincoln)
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE MIDLANDS (Omaha)
*BIG PALS LITTLE PALS (Columbus)
THE BIKE UNION – Mentoring Project (Omaha)
*COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Mentoring Program (North Platte)
GIRLS INC. OF OMAHA – Pathfinders (Omaha)
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS, INC. (Omaha)
*KIDS CAN COMMUNITY CENTER – Mentoring Program (Omaha)
MENTORINGWORKS (Hastings)
OLLIE WEBB CENTER, INC. – Just Friends (Omaha)
PARTNERSHIP 4 KIDS – Group Mentoring Program (Omaha)
RELEASE INC. – Mentoring Program (Omaha)
*YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES – Mentoring Program (Omaha)
* Program completed NQMS in FY21

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Partners in Education work alongside MENTOR Nebraska to implement intentional mentoring initiatives, including Success Mentors and STRIVE Refugee Mentoring.

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Success Mentors & STRIVE (Grand Island)
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS – STRIVE (Lincoln)
MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Success Mentors (Omaha)
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Success Mentors & STRIVE (Omaha)
## OUR DONORS

### DONORS $20,000+

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### DONORS $1,000 - $19,999

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### DONORS UP TO $999

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2021 YOUNG LEADER OF THE YEAR

ZACH BRISNEHAN
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska
Grand Island

NYANKOOR TIMOTHY
Community Learning Centers - Civic Nebraska
Lincoln

2021 MENTORING PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

DAMIEN CORAN
Partnership 4 Kids
Omaha

2021 MENTOR OF THE YEAR

ADRIAN FUENTES SANCHEZ
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands
Omaha

MAHATMA LARGAESPADA
Latino Center of the Midlands
Omaha

2021 MENTORING ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

DR. ANNE HOBBS
Juvenile Justice Institute, UNO
Omaha
OUR TEAM

MELISSA MAYO
Executive Director

TERESA RIESBERG
Associate Director of Marketing & Communications

KARIMA AL-ABSY
Advancement and Quality Assurance Manager

FRED WHITTED
Associate Director of Outreach & Engagement

SUSIE OWENS
Director of Strategic Partnerships

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Kutak Rock LLP

Kari O’Neill Potts, Board Vice President
Valmont Industries

Jeremy Christensen, Board Secretary
Baird Holm LLP

Justin Frauendorfer, Board Treasurer
Bland & Associates

Scott Focht, Member At-Large
Omaha Public Power District

Chris Rodgers, Past Board President
Douglas County & Creighton University

George Achola, Burlington Capital

Moniki Gunn, Boys Town

Greg Gonzalez, Omaha Police Department, Retired

Daniel Gutman, Law Office of Daniel Gutman

Kevin Langin, FNBO

Dr. Amanda Levos, Grand Island Public Schools

Dani McCawley, SilverStone Group, a HUB International company

Juan Padilla, Canopy South

Carol Russell, Community Volunteer

Elizabeth Seacrest, Nebraska Legislature

Betsy Vidlak, Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska

TRUSTEE EMERITUS MEMBERS

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John Ewing, Past Board Vice President

Julie Hefflinger, Past Board President

Daniel Padilla, Past Board President

Ashley Robinson, Past Board President

Rick Spellman, Past Board Member

Mike Yanney, Founder
MENTOR NEBRASKA
1111 N 13th Street #126
Omaha, NE 68102

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Executive Director
melissa@mentornebraska.org
402-715-4164