



**MENTOR**  
NEBRASKA

*2023*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**





# About MENTOR NEBRASKA

We serve as a clearinghouse for training, resources, public awareness, and advocacy, providing the critical link between MENTOR National efforts and local Nebraska organizations. We ensure mentoring programs have access to research-informed and evidence-based practices, tools, and resources so young people in their programs are in supportive relationships that meet quality standards and are safe and effective.

Learn More 



## Our Mission

To increase both the quality and quantity of mentoring in Nebraska and close the mentoring gap for the one in three young people growing up without a mentor.

## Our Vision

For every young person to have the supportive relationships they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive and engaged adults.

## Our Work



**TRAINING**



**NO-COST CONSULTING**



**ADVOCACY**



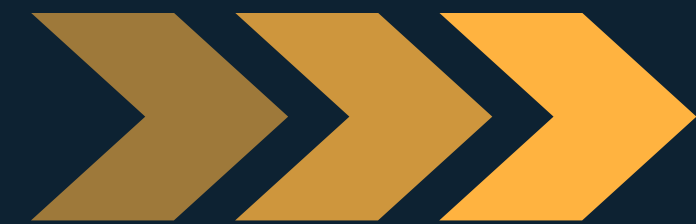
**MENTOR RECRUITMENT**





**MENTOR**  
NEBRASKA

*What's New*  
**IN 2023**





# NEW IN 2023: *Members*

We welcomed four new members and unveiled an updated membership structure which includes two membership levels:

- **CERTIFIED PARTNER** - This membership level, formerly Tier 1, offers benefits that recognize mentoring field leadership and commitment to adherence to nationally recognized best practice standards.
- **PARTNER** - This membership level, formerly Tier 2, is defined with benefits and requirements focused on capacity building.



**CERTIFIED PARTNER**  
Omaha, NE



**PARTNER**  
Omaha, NE



**PARTNER**  
Kearney, NE



**PARTNER**  
Lincoln, NE

[View Members](#) >







**LANE CARR**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY & STRAT INITIATIVES**  
**NEBRASKA DEPT. OF EDUCATION**

Our partnership with MENTOR Nebraska helped provide a common language and framework for building positive relationships in our schools. Equipped with the Mentoring Mindset, our educators can intentionally focus on creating relationship-centered schools.

# NEW IN 2023: *Training*

## LIFT EVERY VOICE: EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICE

We collaborated with young people to create a new training aimed at empowering mentors and youth-centric initiatives. This training is designed to equip youth-serving professionals and mentors with effective strategies for enhancing youth empowerment and autonomy. Central to the training is a panel of young voices, showcasing their innovative ideas on how adults can effectively support them and foster their leadership roles.

## MENTORING MINDSET

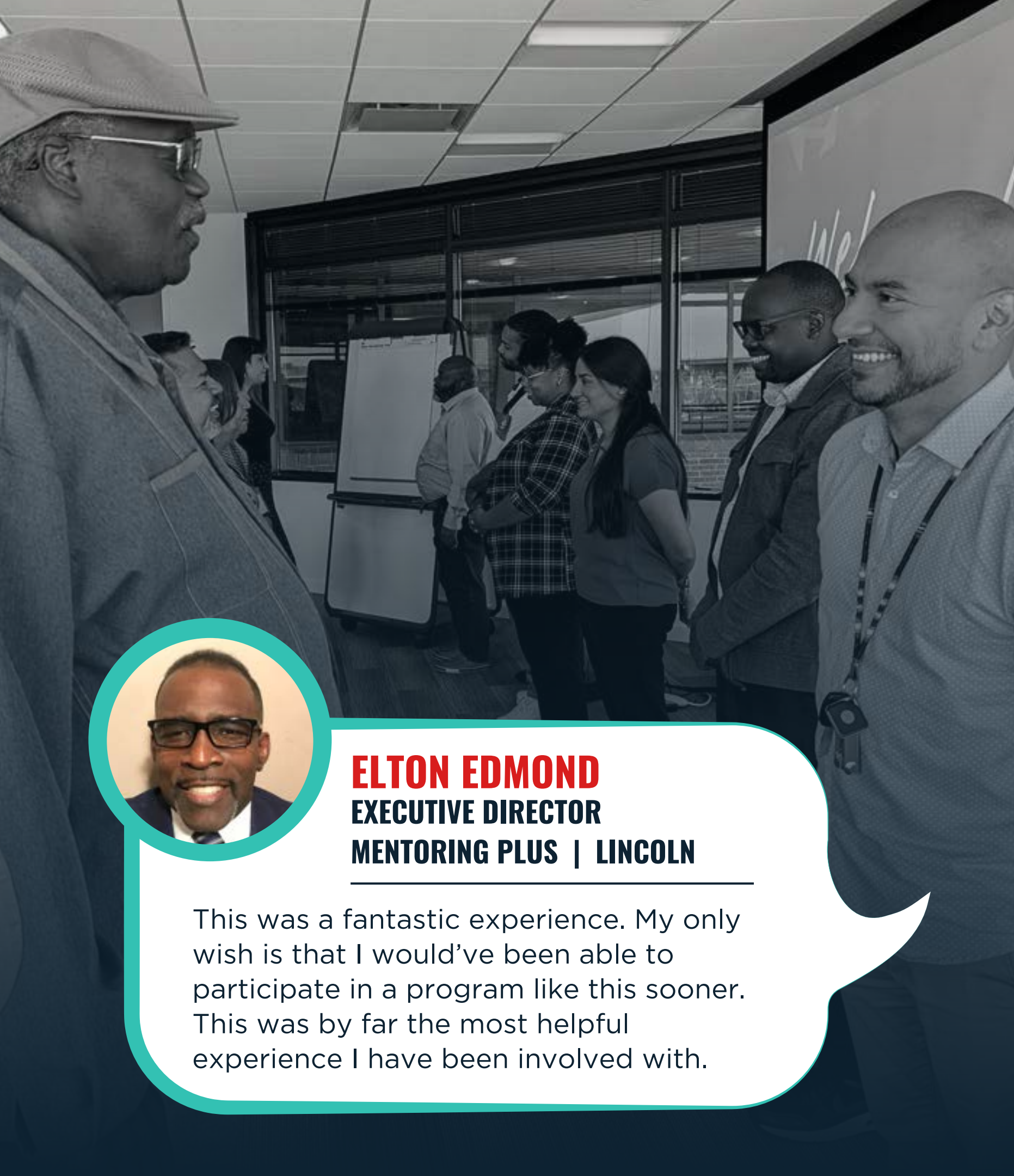
We introduced the Mentoring Mindset framework to Nebraska, training two staff members and three consultants to deliver this nationally recognized resource to youth-serving programs, schools, and workplaces.

In partnership with Nebraska's Department of Education, we launched this training during the 2023 Nebraska State Education Association University (NSEA U). Additionally, we delivered presentations at Nebraska Council of School Administrators' Days and the Greater Omaha Chamber's CODE Conference.

[View Trainings](#)







# NEW IN 2023: *EMLI*

## EMERGING MENTORING LEADERS INSTITUTE

We launched the Emerging Mentoring Leaders Institute, a professional development opportunity for mentoring leaders from new and grassroots programs serving BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ communities. This comprehensive training program provides mentoring leaders with the tools and resources needed to strengthen their organization so they can better support young people through a critical lens.

In the first year, we led two EMLI cohorts which included six emerging leaders from Lincoln and 13 from Omaha. We continue to support these mentoring programs with our no-cost consulting and training services.

Learn More



**ELTON EDMOND**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**MENTORING PLUS | LINCOLN**

This was a fantastic experience. My only wish is that I would've been able to participate in a program like this sooner. This was by far the most helpful experience I have been involved with.



**EMLI COHORT 1 - LINCOLN**



**EMLI COHORT 2 - OMAHA**



# NEW IN 2023: *Team Members*

To help expand MENTOR Nebraska's network and reach across Nebraska, we welcomed two new team members.

**NEW!**



**ALISA MOORE**

Associate Director of Education  
& Program Development

[View Profile](#) >

**NEW!**



**HAJI SALAD**

Program  
Coordinator

[View Profile](#) >







**MENTOR**  
NEBRASKA

*Impact*  
**IN 2023**





# IMPACT: *Training*

We facilitated 20+ best practice trainings, including:

- Amplifying the Voices of BIPOC Girls
- Becoming A Better Mentor
- Combatting White Saviorism
- Emerging Mentoring Leaders Institute
- Exploring Critical Mentoring Part 1 & Imploring Critical Mentoring Part 2
- Group Mentoring
- Intro to the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring
- Lift Every Voice
- Mentoring LGBTQIA2S+ Youth
- Mentoring Mindset
- Mentoring: Its Past, Present, and Future
- STRIVE Mentoring
- Success Mentors
- Supporting & Mentoring Refugee Youth

100%

Rated our training courses as either 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'

100%

Are likely to attend another one of our trainings

92%

Stated our trainings were interactive and engaging



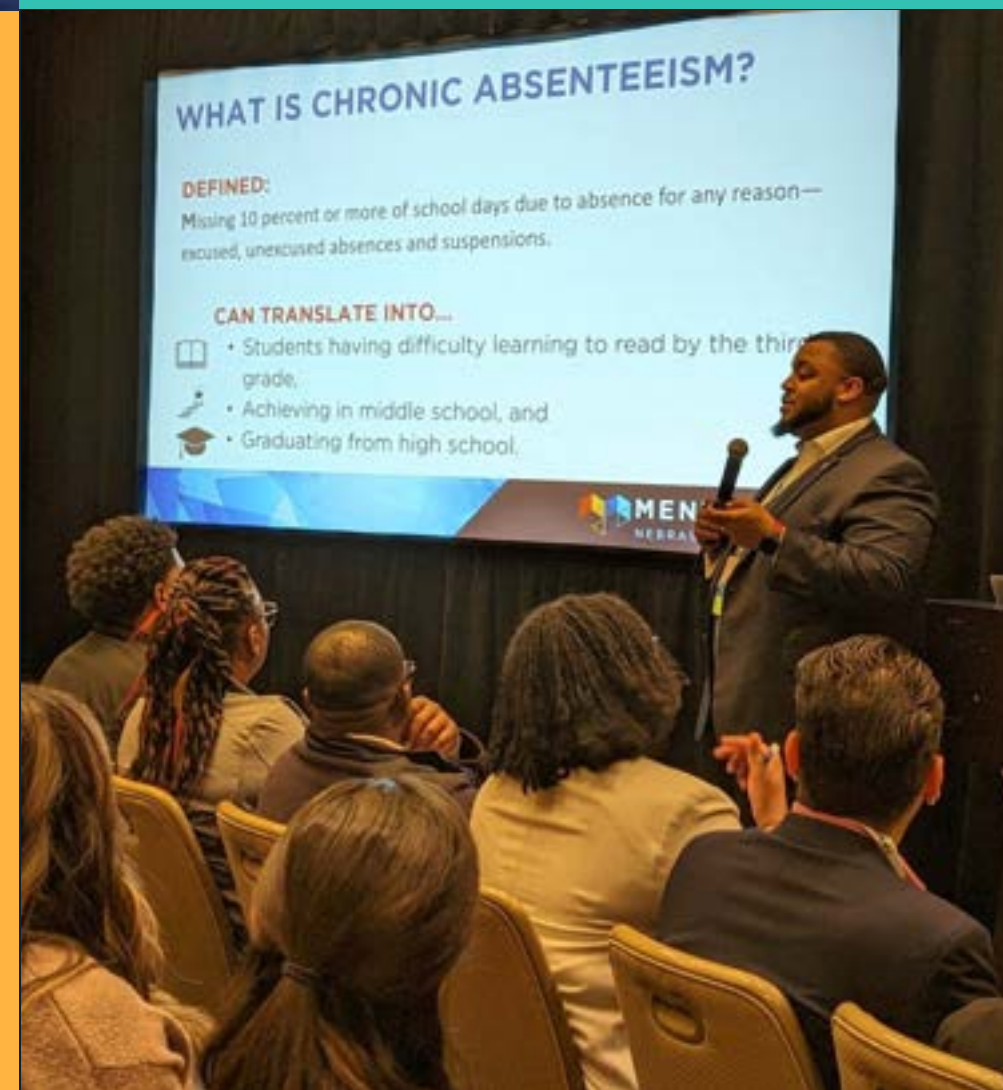
20+

**NO-COST TRAININGS**



334+

**MENTORS & YOUTH  
SERVING PROFESSIONALS  
TRAINED**



## WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

**DEFINED:**  
Missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions.

### CAN TRANSLATE INTO...

- Students having difficulty learning to read by the third grade.
- Achieving in middle school, and
- Graduating from high school.



# IMPACT: Consulting

Provided no-cost consulting to 25+ mentoring and youth-serving programs to increase the number, quality, and safety of mentoring relationships, including:

- 100 Black Men of Omaha
- Basic Hope Foundation
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands
- Big Pals Little Pals
- Centura Public Schools
- Engaged Leaders
- Everybody Gets a Chance
- Girls Inc. of Omaha
- Holmes2inspire U
- International Council for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.
- Keys Foundation
- Kids Can Community Center
- MentoringWorks
- O.NE Mentoring Academy
- Omaha Council for Refugee and Immigrant Service
- Omaha Skills Connection
- Omega Charitable Foundation of Omaha
- Omega Squires
- One Impact
- Our Dream Achievers
- Release Inc.
- Simple Foundation
- TeamMates Lincoln
- Urban League of Omaha
- Visionary Youth

## TOP AREAS OF SUPPORT REQUESTED BY PROGRAMS



Logic Models



Handbooks & Policies



Evaluation Procedures



Mentor Training & Orientation



53+

CUSTOM RESOURCES DEVELOPED



825+

HOURS OF NO-COST CONSULTING PROVIDED

## FEEDBACK FROM PROGRAMS

4.86

SATISFACTION

Overall Satisfaction

5.0

KNOWLEDGE

Provider Knowledge

4.93

EFFECTIVENESS

Provider Effectiveness



# IMPACT: *Advocacy*

## STATE LEVEL ADVOCACY

✓ **ADVOCATE ACADEMY**  
Localized MENTOR's Advocate Academy and enrolled partners in this professional development opportunity that trains individuals to advocate for mentoring policies

✓ **YRTC PILOT PROGRAM**  
Provided technical assistance to the Dept. of Health & Human Resources in the development of a pilot mentoring program aimed at serving young individuals in Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Centers

✓ **STATE EMPLOYEE MENTOR RECRUITMENT**  
Partnered with the Dept. of Administrative Services to launch a mentor recruitment campaign to help connect State employees to mentoring opportunities

Learn More



## FEDERAL LEVEL ADVOCACY

✓ **CAPITOL HILL DAY**  
Coordinated Capitol Hill Day, where we convened 6+ mentoring advocates from 4 Nebraska-based organizations to discuss mentoring legislation with Nebraska's State Representatives

✓ **MENTORING CHAMPION**  
Recognized Rep. Don Bacon with the Federal Public Service award at the 2023 National Mentoring Summit



**REP. DON BACON**  
U.S. CONGRESSMAN  
NEBRASKA - DISTRICT 2

As young Americans are exposed to greater challenges, the support of a mentor can serve as a pillar of strength and guidance for them.





# IMPACT: *Intentional Mentoring*

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



**\$175,815+**

**PASS THROUGH FUNDING TO  
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS**



## **SUCCESS MENTORS**

Supported 26 schools serving 234 students with a history of chronic absenteeism in:

- Grand Island Public Schools
- Millard Public Schools
- Omaha Public Schools



## **STRIVE REFUGEE MENTORING**

Served 138 newly arrived refugee students through seven partnerships:

- Grand Island Public Schools
- ICRI
- Lincoln Public Schools
- Omaha Public Schools
- TeamMates of Lincoln
- Millard Public Schools
- Engaged Leaders



## **YOUTH INITIATED MENTORING**

Developed a Youth Initiated Mentoring Toolkit to help programs across the country implement the YIM approach in their community

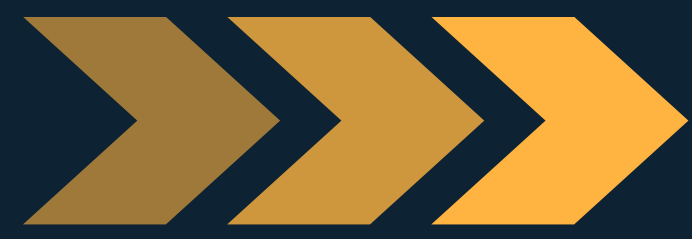




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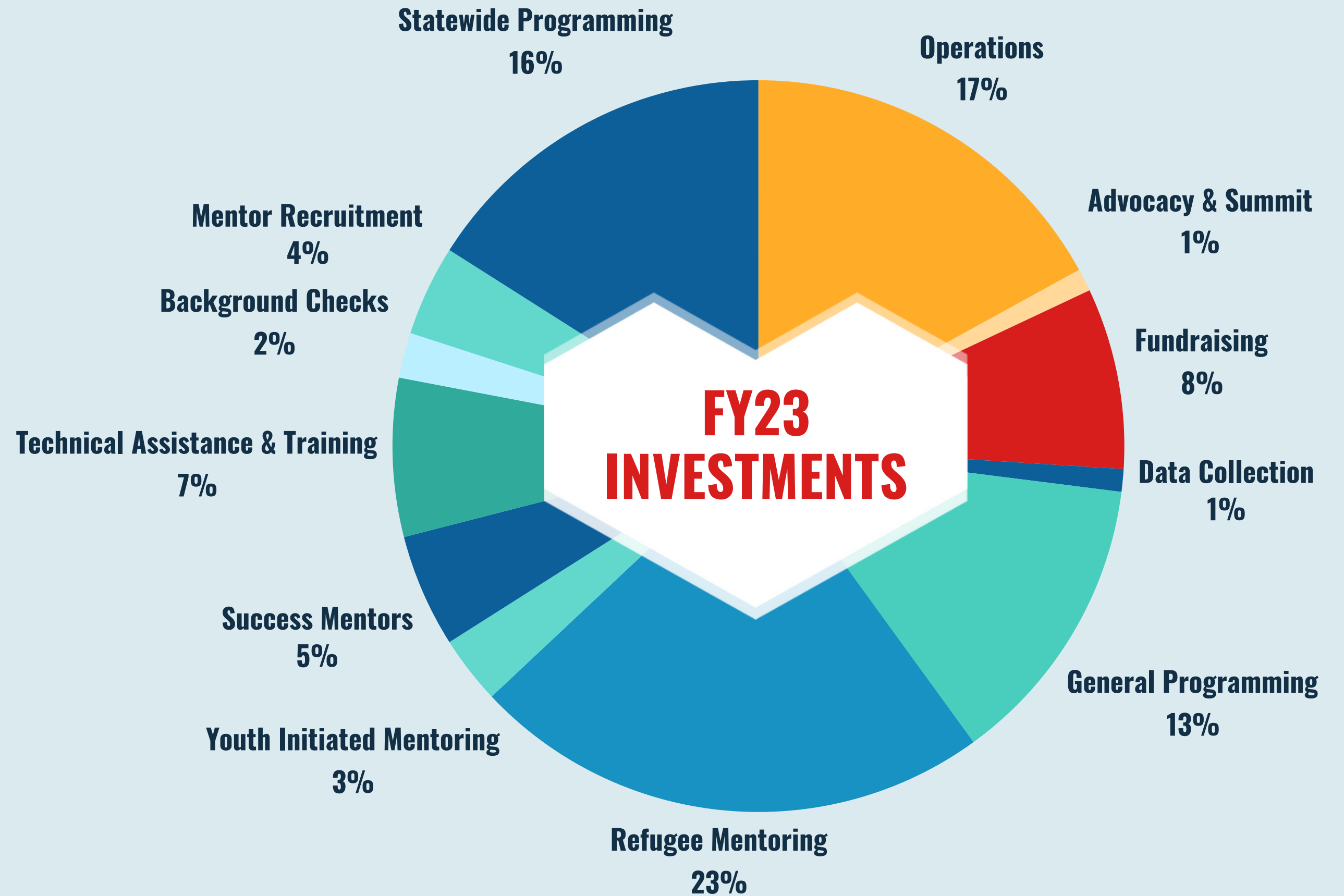
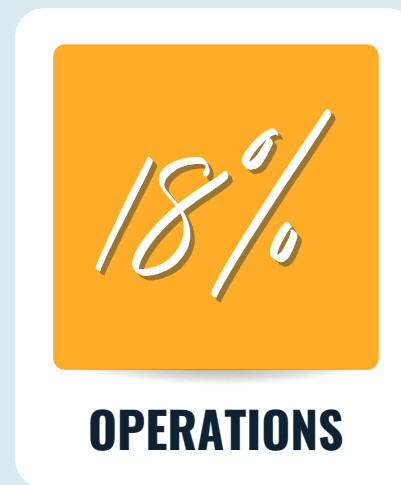
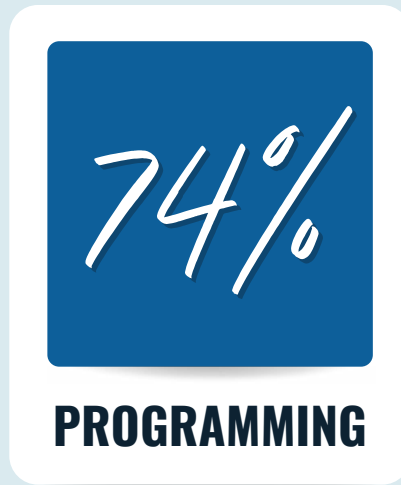
*Investments*

**IN 2023**





# INVESTMENTS: *Allocations*





# INVESTMENTS: *Donors*

## DONORS \$20K+

Cooper Foundation  
Holland Foundation  
Lozier Foundation  
MENTOR National  
Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Peter Kiewit Foundation  
ServeNebraska  
Sherwood Foundation  
Weitz Family Foundation  
William and Ruth Scott Foundation

## IN-KIND

Fun-Plex  
Rose Theater

## \$1K - \$19,999

Altria  
Baird Holm  
City of Omaha  
Matthew and Laura Enenbach  
FNBO  
Fraser Stryker  
Justin and Fran Frauendorfer  
David and Julie Hefflinger  
Valerie Houchin  
Kiewit Corporation  
Kutak Rock  
Lincoln Community Foundation  
Lutz  
McGrath North  
Metropolitan Utilities District  
Millard Foundation  
Mutual of Omaha  
National Partnership for Student Success Support Hub  
Omaha Public Power District  
Omaha Public Schools Foundation  
Omaha Public Schools  
One Source: The Background Check Company  
Kari Potts  
QuikTrip  
Carol and Rick Russell  
Schneider Electric  
Annette and Paul Smith  
Valmont  
VGA  
Woods Charitable Fund

## UP TO \$999

Ahmad Al-Absy  
Karima Al-Absy  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Moniki Cannon  
Nicky Clark  
Jeremy Christensen  
Dan Corcoran  
Scott Focht  
Greg Gonzalez  
Daniel Gutman  
Trevor L. Hansen  
Carson Hayden  
Lauren Kimball  
Joseph Kohout  
Madison Krzycki  
Kevin Langin  
Amanda Levos  
Kelly McGonagle  
Juan Padilla  
Physician's Mutual Printing  
Brigette Rech  
Patricia Reimer  
Chris Rodgers  
Alexandria J. Scheffler  
Elizabeth Seacrest  
Seacrest Foundation  
Shabel Solutions  
Share Good Omaha  
Teresa McAllister Tayler  
Jay Warren Teamer  
Betsy Vidlak





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*Leadership*  
**IN 2023**





# LEADERSHIP: *Team*



**MELISSA MAYO**

Executive Director

Learn More



**KARIMA AL-ABSY**

Associate Director of  
Advancement & Org Strategy



**TERESA RIESBERG**

Associate Director of  
Marketing & Communications



**ALISA MOORE**

Associate Director of Education  
& Program Development



**HAJI SALAD**

Program  
Coordinator



**SUSIE OWENS**

Director of  
Strategic Partnerships



**FRED WHITTED**

Associate Director of  
Outreach & Engagement



# LEADERSHIP: *Board*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**KARI O'NEILL POTTS, PRESIDENT**  
Valmont Industries

**DR. AMANDA LEVOS, VICE PRESIDENT**  
Grand Island Public Schools

**JUSTIN FRAUENDORFER, TREASURER**  
Bland & Associates

**DANIEL GUTMAN, SECRETARY**  
Law Office of Daniel Gutman

**MONIKI GUNN, AT-LARGE**  
Boys Town

**JUAN PADILLA, AT-LARGE**  
Canopy South

**MATTHEW ENENBACH, PAST PRESIDENT**  
Kutak Rock LLP

**JEREMY CHRISTENSEN**  
Baird Holm LLP

**SCOTT FOCHT**  
Omaha Public Power District

**CAROL RUSSELL**  
Community Volunteer

**ELIZABETH SEACREST**  
Nebraska Legislature

**BETSY VIDLAK**  
Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska

*Thank you for your service!*

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Greg Gonzalez, Kevin Langin, and Chris Rodgers as they conclude their tenure on the MENTOR Nebraska board.

## TRUSTEE EMERITUS BOARD

**JOSH BARTEE**

**JOHN EWING**

**JULIE HEFFLINGER**

**DANIEL PADILLA**

**ASHLEY ROBINSON**

**CHRIS RODGERS**

**RICK SPELLMAN**

**MIKE YANNEY**





# LEADERSHIP: *Members*

## CERTIFIED PARTNERS

- 100 Black Men of Omaha (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)
- Community Connections (North Platte)
- Girls Inc. of Omaha (Omaha)
- International Council for Refugees and Immigrants (Omaha)
- The Keys Foundation (Omaha)
- Kids Can Community Center (Omaha)
- MentoringWorks (Hastings)
- Partnership 4 Kids (Omaha)
- Release Inc. (Omaha)
- TeamMates of Lincoln (Lincoln)
- TeamMates of Millard (Millard)
- TeamMates of Omaha (Omaha)

## PARTNERS

- ACE Mentor Program (Omaha)
- Astute Coffee (Omaha)
- Engaged Leaders (Omaha)
- The Friends Program (Kearney)
- Visionary Youth (Lincoln)



**JAYNA SCHAAF**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Youth mentoring is such a beautiful way to support the growth and development of young people, and MENTOR Nebraska is our highly regarded go-to resource for implementing the most effective mentoring practices in our program.





**MENTOR**  
NEBRASKA

*Memories*  
**IN 2023**





# MEMORIES: Excellence in Mentoring Awards



*Young Leader  
of the Year*

**TATIANA  
TONSIL**

4-H Health Rocks



*Young Leader  
of the Year*

**BENJAMIN  
ALBERTS**

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Nebraska



*Mentoring Practitioner of the Year*

**MARQUIS HAYNES**

The Keys Foundation



*Mentor  
of the Year*

**SALLY  
HARMS**

TeamMates



*Advocate  
of the Year*

**JODY  
BLESSEN**

Ralston Public Schools





# MEMORIES: *Community Events*





# MEMORIES: *Partners*





# MEMORIES: *Team*







**MENTOR**  
NEBRASKA

*Connect with us!*

**MELISSA MAYO | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



[Melissa@mentornebraska.org](mailto:Melissa@mentornebraska.org)



402-715-4164



[MENTORNebraska.org](http://MENTORNebraska.org)



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