



Military Connected Students Mentoring

1. **Purpose:**

To provide mentoring and support for students from Military families, many of whom experience loss due to deployment or have unmet social-emotional needs.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Funds were provided to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington and Multicultural Hope Center to support student mentoring. Funds were used to create and sustain a mentor-mentee relationship, including tutoring, homework help, and general mentoring to improve quality of life and create best academic outcomes for Military students. In addition, contractors:

- Developed new and expand existing mentoring programming to specifically serve military-connected students
- Recruited and enroll mentors to support military-connected students
- Enrolled military-connected students in one-to-one mentoring
- Provided military culture training for mentors
- Matched volunteer mentors with military connected students
- Provided on-going match support to military-connected student mentoring matches
- Provided match closure support for military-connected student mentoring matches
- Collected demographic and outcome data on military student mentoring matches

In Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center's program, all mentors are similarly active duty or are Veterans from one or more branches of the military, which is advantageous since the mentor understands military culture, deployment, and is better able to understand the needs of the student.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Eligibility is determined based on age of student, residence in State of Washington, and verification of family as a bona fide Military family with at least one active-duty parent.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 17

Number of Schools: 38
Number of Students: 85
Other: 0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.0
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1.0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation: \$125,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY21) \$125,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

- No
 Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$125,000	\$125,000
FY20	\$125,000	\$125,000

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of school districts	Number of schools	Number of students
FY21	17	38	85
FY20	17	40	92

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

N/A

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Strength of Relationship Survey

87% of students say their Big has good ideas on how to solve problems.

93% of students say they feel close to their Big.

97% of students say that when something is bugging them, their Big listens while they talk about it.

97% of students say their relationship with their Big is important to them.

Mentor Strength of Relationship

70% of mentors say their Little has made improvements since they started meeting.

93% of mentors say they feel close to their Little.

97% of mentors say they and their Little are well-matched.

97% of mentors are enjoying the experience of being a mentor.

Youth Outcomes Survey Educational Expectations

78% of students say they think they will finish high school.

74% of students say that they feel good about themselves when they are at school.

83% of students say they work hard at school.

77% of students say doing well in school is important to them.

Social Acceptance and Competence:

62% of students say they can keep their feelings from getting out of control.

78% of students say they work well with other kids at school.

72% of students say they can make friends with other kids.

78% of students say they can stay friends with other kids.

78% of students say they get along well with their parents/guardians.

100% of students say they have a very important adult in their life.

100% of students say they want their parents to be proud of them.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Contractors worked hard to stay connected to youth due to COVID-19.

10. **Future opportunities:**

N/A

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092 Sec. 1518 (16) - \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for contracts with state-based nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to military-connected students exclusively through one-to-one volunteer mentoring. The goal of the mentoring is to build resiliency in military connected students and increase their ability to cope with the stress of parental deployment and frequent moves, which will help promote good decision-making by youth, help increase attachment and a positive attitude toward school, and develop positive peer relationships. An applicant requesting funding for these dollars must successfully demonstrate to the department that it currently provides direct one-to-one volunteer mentoring services to military connected elementary students in the state and has been providing military mentoring to students in the state for at least twenty-four months prior to application.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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