

Mentoring in Alberta Fact Sheet



Alberta Mentoring Partnership

The Alberta Mentoring Partnership (AMP) is co-led by the Government of Alberta (Children's Services and Education) and Boys

& Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters (BGCBigS) of Edmonton and Area. Created in 2008, the partnership now consists of 170+ school and agency members, including government ministries, government-funded organizations, community youth serving agencies, schools and school authorities, faith organizations, and service clubs. Together they work to:

- Help young people achieve success in school and develop job-ready skills.
- Increase awareness of the importance of mentoring and reduce the barriers to potential mentors becoming involved.
- Build the capacity of small mentoring programs to operate efficiently and effectively.
- Develop and deliver high quality mentoring resources province wide.
- Increase mentoring opportunities for priority youth populations (Indigenous, immigrant and refugee, youth in care, youth in rural/remote communities) including engaging natural supports.
- Grow opportunities for mentors to give back to their community through volunteering or corporate mentoring partnerships.

Alignment with Government Priorities

AMP:

- Grows quality formal mentoring programs with a clear and demonstrable return on investment.
- Is an innovative, efficient and proven effective model that streamlines mentoring programs, reduces duplication and coordinates across the youth serving sector.
- Uses a collective impact model to harness the power of civil society and is able to expand civil society efforts.

Youth Mentoring Programs:

- Help reduce youth involvement with the justice system, reduces recidivism, and promotes resiliency.
- Help young people obtain an education that will equip them intellectually, socially, and with job-ready skills for life.
- Support safe and caring schools that protect against discrimination and bullying¹.
- Supports young people in learning practical job skills that meet the demands of the labour market and help them succeed and build prosperity for all Albertans.

AMP Accomplishments

Youth mentoring has increased 250% since AMP was established².

2,501 new mentors referred to partner agencies in 2019/20.

Updated online mentorship training - 19,500+ Albertans trained to date, including 1,333 in the past year.

Over 172,693 visits to AMP's website - 43,012 of those from unique users.

Created specialized resources to expand and enhance mentoring programs that have been downloaded or viewed 4,802 times in the past year.

Hosted 10 webinars in the past year with 541 registrants and 3,011 listens to podcasts.

Supported Alberta Education's development of five one-credit Career and Technology Studies CTS High School Teen Mentoring courses in the Alberta Education program of studies. To date, over 34,000 credits directly related to mentoring have been earned by Alberta students.

Co-hosted National Mentoring Symposium in 2013 and 2016 and hosted two regional Alberta conferences in spring 2018 and 2019, providing developmental training to hundreds of school and agency professionals, creating a network of schools and agencies who are offering or interested in starting teen mentoring in schools.

¹ p.57, Making Life Better for Students, Parents, and Teachers: Renewing Education

² Data source: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. Non-inclusive of other mentoring programs AMP is partnered with.

Proven Impact of Mentoring Across North America



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Mentoring
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Your Mentoring Resource
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The Mentoring Impact on Children & Youth

- Children and youth with mentors are less likely to be absent from school, use drugs or alcohol, or demonstrate violent behavior³.
- Youth in care with mentoring relationships have higher educational attainment, less suicidal risk, less physical aggression, improved general health, and lower risk of contracting an STI⁴.
- Youth with a mentor are more likely to complete high school or a High School Equivalency Diploma than those without a mentor⁵.
- Mentored youth report more positive mental health, fewer depressive symptoms, greater acceptance by their peers, more positive beliefs about their ability to succeed in school, and better grades in school⁶.

The Mentoring Impact on Mentors and Employers⁷

- Employers who hosted Corporate Youth Mentoring Program Partnerships described increased employee communication skills, workplace satisfaction, and employee engagement.

"(soft skills)...those are the things that are making and breaking careers. Everyone that comes through the door has the technical skills you are looking for, but it is those people that can work with other people from other departments and functions, that can lead other people, avoid sticky situations without getting into conflict...those are the people that are successful. If you are looking to develop those skills, then this Corporate youth mentoring partnership is for you". - Loren Jacula, Corporate Partner (ZNP Composites)"

- When employers support youth mentoring, 73% of employees report strong career satisfaction⁸.
- Mentoring has been identified as the number one form of skill-based volunteerism companies offer for their employees⁹.
- Employees involved in mentoring develop a better understanding of customer and community needs and a deeper appreciation for the cultural, ethnic and racial diversity of both the youth they served and their coworkers¹⁰.

Mentoring Social Return on Investment

2013 Boston Consulting Group study shows

- Children in Canada with a Big Brother or Big Sister will earn \$315,000 more than children of similar family and economic backgrounds without a Big Brother or Big Sister (on average, over a lifetime).
- The social return on investment of mentoring is \$18 for every dollar spent - in terms of additional tax revenue, higher consumption, additional volunteering, and increased charitable giving of children who have been mentored.
- For the least economically advantaged group the SROI increases to \$23 for every dollar spent.
- Overall results show Big Brothers Big Sisters as a transformational program for young people, providing a lifetime of mentorship; with clear correlation between matches and general well-being outcomes of happiness, ability to make positive choices, confidence, and strong support network.

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3 Tierney, J.P., Grossman, J.B., and Resch, N.L., 1995

4 Ahrens, Dubois, Richardson, Fan & Lozano 2008

5 Collins, M.E., Spencer, R., & Ward, R., 2010

6 Herrera, DuBois & Grossman, 2013

7AMP Phase II Evaluation Report

8 www.mentoring.org, The Power of Relationships Report

9 J. Lawson Ed., "A Billion + Change Story". 2013.

10 Ibid.