



# National Quality Mentoring System

## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL QUALITY MENTORING SYSTEM?

The **National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS)** helps programs adopt evidence-based mentoring standards and procedures through a **guided self-assessment and coaching process**. MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership and its affiliates developed the NQMS to **raise the quality of youth mentoring programming** in the United States through a structured, systematic approach.



## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF NQMS?

The goal of NQMS is to help programs **demonstrate or improve their quality** through a customized assessment of current practices. NQMS **highlights the strengths of mentoring programs** and **builds a plan for continuous improvement**.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?



1. The mentoring program completes an online **Quality Assessment**, based on the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring* guidelines.
2. MENTOR Independence Region (MENTOR IR) evaluates the assessment and provides each program with a **customized action plan** with steps for **continuous improvement**.
3. Programs identified as **Quality Mentoring Programs** receive public recognition, priority listing in the national Mentoring Connector database, credibility and validation, and results to use in funding applications.
4. MENTOR IR re-engages with programs in 2-3 years for reassessment.

## HOW DOES NQMS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MENTORING?

Improves program practices



Improves quality of mentoring relationships for youth



Improves outcomes for kids

NQMS can also show increases in quality in the field of mentoring over time.

For more information about the NQMS, visit [www.mentoring.org/NQMS](http://www.mentoring.org/NQMS).



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## For Funders

### WHY IS QUALITY MENTORING IMPORTANT?

**High quality mentoring can be transformative in a child's life.** Mentoring done poorly can be even more harmful than never having a mentor at all. **When mentoring programs implement high quality practices, research indicates a higher likelihood of positive youth outcomes.**

However, tremendous growth in the youth mentoring field has resulted in an ever-expanding number of programs that provide choice, flexibility, and increased opportunities for young people who need mentors. The sheer number and variety of programs and approaches make it difficult for prospective mentors, parents, mentees, funders, and policymakers to know what constitutes a safe and effective mentoring program. **NQMS is the solution.**



### WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDERS?



- The NQMS helps funders **easily identify high quality mentoring programs.**
- **Use NQMS quality designations to guide funding decisions,** and engage funded programs in NQMS assessments.
- **Recognize the applicant program for its commitment to quality** and participation in the NQMS process to better its program and the field.
- Provide funding to programs and **help them achieve higher quality** in an area of weakness identified on the action plan.
- **Encourage employees to get involved** in mentoring through programs committed to quality.

### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MENTOR IR?

**MENTOR IR is your partner in increasing the likelihood that kids will have access to high quality mentoring programs.** MENTOR IR is an affiliate of MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership and facilitates the NQMS process in accordance with national standards. As an affiliate, **they evaluate and create an action plan for participating programs with steps for continuous improvement.** With MENTOR IR's guidance and open opportunities for achievement, **programs strengthen their practices, operations, and management.**

