

Participant Eligibility

Best Practice Resources – Program Operations

Sample Participant Eligibility Policy

At *(insert name of mentoring program)*, we believe that selecting both adult and youth participants best positioned for our program model leads to stronger program outcomes. For this reason, we have identified eligibility requirements for both youth participants and adult volunteers that relate to our program goals and specific program model. For example: our mentoring program works with youth who've been involved in foster care to help them build leadership skills and achieve higher education. If a youth or adult does not clearly meet the defined eligibility criteria, he or she can only be approved for participation by the program director.

Sample Youth Eligibility *(Insert criteria relevant to your program model):*

- Either currently or previously involved in foster care
- Age 14-18
- Live in *(insert geographic region)*
- Demonstrate an interest in the program and a desire to achieve higher education
- Agree to a one-year commitment to the program
- Commit to spending a minimum of 6 hours a month with their mentor for at least one year
- Complete all screening procedures
- Obtain guardian consent for participation
- Agree to attend youth circles as required
- Be willing and able to communicate regularly with program staff
- Agree to follow program participation guidelines

Sample Mentor Eligibility *(Insert criteria relevant to your program model):*

- Experience working with *(fill in population served)*, or personal life experience related to homelessness
- At least 21 years old
- Reside in program area *(fill in geographic region)*
- Have a positive perspective of young people
- Be willing to adhere to all program policies and procedures
- Be willing to complete the application and screening process
- Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments
- Be available to commit to meeting with a youth for *(fill in program expectations related to meeting frequency and duration of the volunteer commitment; i.e. at least two hours per week, one year)*.
- Attend mentor training sessions, as required
- Be willing to communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information, and take constructive feedback regarding mentoring activities
- Have a clean driving record, access to an automobile, up-to-date auto insurance, liability coverage
- Have a clean criminal history
- Not use illicit drugs, and not use of alcohol or controlled substances in an inappropriate manner
- Not currently in treatment for substance abuse and have a non-addictive period of at least five years

- Not currently in treatment for a mental disorder or hospitalized for such in the past three years