

Erie County Youth Mentor Program Overview

Program Title and Location	Target Population	Purpose and Delivery Method	Mentor Qualifications and Requirements	Mentor Commitment	Mentee Commitment	Outcomes	Contact Information
Big Brothers Big Sisters - Family Services of NWP	Ages 6 -13	The program provides adult role models to children in Erie and Western Crawford Counties. Volunteers are matched through common interests in hopes that the volunteer can enhance the child's life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 18 years old. Reliable transportation, a valid driver's license, and car insurance (must carry \$100,000/\$300,000 Bodily Injury Coverage). Commitment of at least one year as a volunteer. Complete application, assessment and training process in a timely manner. Successfully obtain criminal background and child safety clearances. 	Generally, the mentors (Bigs) are asked to see their Littles at least 4-6 hours a month and that they commit to being a Big for at least one year.	Willing to work with a volunteer, able to keep commitment of a year minimum, family and Little willing to complete routine match support contacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 164 children served in Erie and Crawford Counties 64 children waiting to be matched 10,807 service hours provided by volunteers 24+ group activities offered to support matches 100% of littles avoided drug use 95% of littles avoided delinquency 	Daniel Stone (814) 866-4505 dstone@fsnwp.org
North Star Mentoring Program -Family Services of NWP and Bethesda Lutheran Services	Ages 14-23 in the Independent Living Program	<p>North Star Mentoring of the Independent Living Program helps young people with a history of foster care and/or out of home placement to make permanent connections with positive adult role models.</p> <p><i>The Erie County Independent Living Program is a contractual and collaborative arrangement between Family Services of NW PA, Bethesda Lutheran Services, and the Erie County Office of Children and Youth (OCY). OCY contracts with both Family Services of NW PA and Bethesda to provide jointly the direct services of the Erie County Independent Living Program (ECILP) to youth aged 14-23.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 24 years of age. Child Abuse and Criminal record clearances Cost is covered by program FBI fingerprinting check Agree to driving record check If you own a car Proof of car ownership Insurance coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 1 Year commitment At least 4 hours each month Attend professional trainings 3 hours initially and others as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1-year commitment to the match. Must be active and remain active with the Erie County Independent Living Program (ECILP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentored young people are 46% less likely to get involved with drugs (source BBBS). 59% improved their grades (source Career Beginnings) 86% went to higher education (source Proctor & Gamble) 80% of youth involved in the juvenile detention system who received a mentor did not return to that system (source Prison Fellowship) 	<p>Kellie Tate Mentoring Specialist Family Services of NWP Erie County Independent Living Program (814) 812-1777 ktate@fsnwp.org</p> <p>Brenda Martin Mentoring Specialist Bethesda Lutheran Services Erie County Independent Living Program (814) 724-7510 ext. 427 bmartin@bethesda1919.org</p>
The Mentor Project - Penn State Behrend CORE	Middle school students	The Mentor Project at Behrend creates an intergenerational group mentoring program in which college students and community members mentor Erie youth.	Mentors must have all clearances (ACT 33 PA Child Abuse, Act 34 PA Criminal History, FBI Criminal History, PSU Reporting Child Abuse Training). They also fill out an application and participate in an interview to ensure they are a good fit for a program. They must complete a mentor training led by CORE staff. Mentors are also supervised by CORE staff.	Mentor sessions are unique for each participating site and take between 1-3 hours weekly. Mentors are trained in curriculum and develop/participate in weekly practice sessions.	1-3 hours a week during school time or immediately after school.	After participating in TMP, 76% of students self-reported having a higher confidence level. Over 90% of students reported a grateful attitude for the people in their life, and 75% of students reported having hope in the face of poor circumstances. When asked if students felt their lives had purpose and value, 88% and 83%, respectively, strongly agreed. Finally, data from The Mentor Project suggests that 77% of students felt a sense of belonging in their school, and 94% of students strongly agreed they have an adult who cares about them.	Kristin Hesch, Acting Associate Director of Community Outreach (814) 898-6653 khesch@psu.edu

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Positive Youth Development – Penn State Behrend CORE	Youth in Erie County	PYD utilizes the 40 Developmental Asset Framework (Search Institute) to empower youth to become successful adults. This framework focuses on formal and informal relationship building between youth and adults.	To be a PYD mentor, we require a commitment to consistently building positive, informal mentoring relationships with youth. Inside a school or youth program setting, we require a commitment to building assets in the youth and helping young people build assets in their peers. This commitment looks like goal setting and implementation.	School and community youth group mentor commitment is at least one school year.	PYD's mentees are youth in our community (birth to 18 living in Erie County). In a school or community youth group setting, youth are selected for PYD groups by the mentors. Mentees are asked to commit to the PYD group for one school year.	Students receiving PYD programming report a greater number of Developmental Assets over time, and statistical analyses reveal that this change predicts better academic performance and more consistent attendance in school.	Abbe Biebel PYD Coordinator (814) 898-6297 aln110@psu.edu
GO College – Gannon University	High School Full-time Outreach. Middle School Part-Time Outreach.	GO College is housed, all day at Erie High School and Collegiate Academy with a part-time presence at Strong Vincent Middle School. Our mission is to assist students in successfully finishing high school by providing tutoring and academic advising, and to help them access college by providing campus visits, SAT/ACT preparation, college application support, career exploration, dual enrollment classes at Gannon, financial aid/FAFSA assistance, and skill building workshops.	Tutors – Gannon University students – vetted through interviewing process, trained through annual tutor/mentor training and orientation. Mentors – Gannon University Psych majors – seniors. Vetted by professors, interviewed by the GOCO team of advisors, trained through orientation and annual tutor/mentor training. Peer Mentors – upper classmen GO College students. Interviewed and trained through a mentoring orientation and training program.	Tutors – minimum of one-year commitment, 5 hours per week minimum. Mentors – minimum one-year commitment, 6 hours per week minimum. Peer Mentors – duration of the peer mentor project. (Afterschool mentoring at SVMS – six weeks) Summer mentors – two month commitments which will extend into the upcoming academic year.	Each mentee will access their tutor as per need, twice per semester. Summer mentees – commitment is for the summer and extended into the new academic year.	ERIE HIGH SCHOOL ONLY Outcomes of tutoring are increased grades, academic interest, better attendance and 100% graduation. GO College students enjoy a GPA which is usually 1 full point higher (on a four-point scale compared to non-served students). 90% of GOCO students enroll in college as compared to 32% of whole school. Aggregate SAT scores average at 994 (critical reading and math) compared to 758 non-served. ACT – GO College – 17 average. Non GOCO is 14.75. GOCO student's absenteeism is 8.7 days compared to 14.1 for non-served students	Barbara Priestap Gannon University GO College Director (814) 882-6493 priestap004@gannon.edu
YMCA Teen Center	12-18 years old	Addressing mental health awareness for at-risk youth through a variety of activities and programming.	Up to date clearances (ACT 33 PA Child Abuse, Act 34 PA Criminal History, FBI Criminal History) experience working with inner city kids, creative and engaging, CPR First Aid training provided by YMCA, and positive attitude.	7:30am-2:30pm remote learning, maintain a positive rapport with the teens, keeping up with lifestyle changes and shared family issues.	7 hours of schooling through remote learning and attend mandatory afterschool classes provided by the YMCA.	None available.	Joey Evans (814) 452-3261 Jevans@ymcaerie.org

Clearances

ACT 33 & 34 <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

FBI Criminal History <https://www.criminalbackgroundrecords.com/state-criminal-records-public-record/pa-pennsylvania-criminal-background-records-criminal-record-search.html>

*Due to COVID-19, some Youth Mentoring Programs adjusted their model and delivery method to continue offering services and meeting community needs.