

No Cost Consulting (Technical Assistance) for Mentoring Programs/Organizations



Context:

TA through MENTOR Colorado is available to existing mentoring programs or organizations interested in starting a mentoring program. are some key points to know:

- The consultation is paid for by the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and operated by the National Mentoring Resource Center (NMRC) in partnership with MENTOR.
- The no cost consulting is considered (by OJJDP/NMRC) to fall under the category of Training and Technical Assistance (TTA). You will most commonly hear it referred to as “TA.”¹
- All TA work is done in alignment with MENTOR’s cornerstone publication, the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™*, details research-informed and practitioner-approved Standards for creating and sustaining quality youth mentoring programs and consequently, impactful mentoring relationships.

A few considerations:

- 1) Your organization is eligible for approved applications from 10/1-9/30 each year. The second application for consulting (TA) is contingent on a successful completion of the first and so on
- 2) Any projects that get approved/created from the application you submitted must be finished 6 months from the start of the project.
- 3) While these services are free to you, it does cost your time. You should anticipate 15-20 hours of work on your end for each project responding to the TA provider, providing them with information, answering their questions, reviewing their work product, and handling administrative steps, etc.

¹ There is a glossary at the end of this document that covers the acronyms and various definitions.

What consulting do we offer?

Consulting for mentoring programs, most commonly falls into the categories of either a) starting a new mentoring program or b) improving existing mentoring operations (Recruitment, Screening, Training, Matching, Monitoring & Support, Closure). However, because of built-in flexibility and broad expertise, we can provide capacity building consulting in almost any area (evaluation, staff training, board engagement, strategic planning, mergers & acquisitions, marketing, etc.). A single application may address several areas at once, but we recommend limiting applications to 1-3 “project areas” per application (depending on the depth/sophistication of each area). For example, if an organization wanted MENTOR Colorado to create a 3–6-hour custom training module for their mentors and train their staff to facilitate that module; that might occupy a single application. On the other hand, if you are a new program, you could apply to receive basic help on establishing a basic recruitment plan, screening methodology and matching procedure all in one application (though specificity/customization of these areas will be limited. Below are a few examples of TA projects to support your program that you may not have considered.

Examples of TA Project Applications:

- Auditing your evaluation practices
- Updating your policies and procedures
- Learning more about mentoring innovations
- Analyzing your mentor recruitment and retention
- Refreshing your mentor training
- Adding a mentee training component
- Exploring new partnerships
- Collaborating with other service providers
- Review and update of matching policy
- Convening Stakeholders
- On-boarding new staff
- Equity Audits/DEI
- Improving your recruitment pitch
- Analyzing your screening practices
- Troubleshooting your monitoring and support practices
- Diversifying your board
- Supporting strategic planning
- Learning about software solutions for your organization
- And more...

Who is MENTOR Colorado?

MENTOR Colorado is a nonprofit state affiliate of MENTOR the National Mentoring Partnership. While we are based in Colorado, we have TA providers in other states, and we currently serve programs/organizations in several other states. We have several consultants and staff members with a variety of experience who provide customized Training and Technical Assistance to existing or new mentoring programs or those who wish to bring a "mentoring-focus" to their current work (e.g., schools, coaches, employers, summer internship programs, etc.). You will be matched to a consultant or staff member based on your organization’s needs, the timing of your request, and any specific requests you have about the background/experience of your provider.

Learn more about MENTOR Colorado and TA [here](#)

Instructions on applying for TA:

(shouldn't take you more than 20 minutes or so).

- [CLICK THIS LINK](#) to access the OJJDP TTA360 site and create an account/login information.
- Pages 1-3 of the attached “NMRC TA Requester Guide” contain useful reminders when applying (as is this helpful [VIDEO](#))
- The application asks questions about your program and what you'd like help on.
- Here are answers/options to select based on some of the more confusing sections:
 - TTA Provider: **National Mentoring Resource Center**
 - Type of TTA: See table 1 below. Pick one of the categories that best-fits your organization's/program's needs: (e.g. **Planning & Development**)
 - Target Audience: **Mentoring Professionals**
 - Request Topics: **Mentoring**
 - Request Summary: **Feel free to use your own words here but in short you're applying for NMRC TTA to get support with...**
 - Previous Efforts - **tell them if you've received or provided TA before. You may want to include a few sentences about your program's scope/size/format and history of the program/org (but don't go crazy).**
 - Goals and Outcomes: **Feel free to use your own words here but in short you're applying for NMRC TTA to get support with...**
 - Resources/Consultants: **National Mentoring Resource Center and Mentor Colorado.**

TABLE 1: Type of TTA

Type of TA	Description (check this box if you want:)
Information Dissemination & Referral	Check this box if your org is exploring starting a brand-new program or an entirely new process. This type of TA works with you to assess & increase your understanding, explore needed resources. Type of projects: informal training, exploration, partnerships, cost-benefit-analyses, etc.
Conferences	N/A this TA are doesn't apply to our grant.
Training	Check this box if your org needs professional development for staff in ANY area of either program operations or management OR if you'd like TA providers to develop training content for either mentors, mentees or families.
Peer Sharing	Check this box if you know you'd like to learn from an existing program rather than a TA provider.
Assessment & Evaluation	Check this box if your org wants support in evaluating your programs processes or outcomes, or needs to develop these areas.
Planning & Development	Check this box if your org is beyond the exploration stage and is actively planning/developing new programming (or making major developments to an existing program.
Other	Check this box if you have another area you'd like developed. This is most commonly used for auditing your current program for alignment with best practices.

Glossary

TA: Technical Assistance (in other words: consulting)

TTA: Training & Technical Assistance (consulting and training of professionals)

NMRC: National Mentoring Resource Center: The clearinghouse for all information on mentoring programs, research, trends and organizations, etc.

OJJDP: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: A sub-office of the US Federal Department of Justice that has been the key/largest funder of mentoring programs/research across the country for the last 20 years. They fund the TA projects.

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership: The nation-wide organization who operates the NMRC and supports capacity building across the country. The parent organization of MENTOR Colorado (and all of the other state partnerships; which exist in about 30 states).

MENTOR Colorado: the state (and regional) affiliate of MENTOR National and the provider of consulting (TA) in Colorado and beyond.

TA Requester: The organization who is applying for free consulting about their mentoring program or organization.

TA Provider: the consultant (e.g. mentoring subject-matter expert) who helps the requester.

TA Providing Organization: the organization who the Provider works for (e.g. MENTOR Colorado)