



## Mentor Resource Guide

*The purpose of the Mentor Resource Guide is to provide resources, information, and opportunities for mentors to best support their mentees. Please use the index to navigate the guide. If you find that any of the links or information needs to be updated, or you have additional resources to add, please contact Program Director Dana Staley at [dana@bestkids.org](mailto:dana@bestkids.org).*

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## Scholarships and College Access

### [DC Opportunity Scholarship Program](#)

- DC OPS provides need-based annual scholarships that enable youth to attend private elementary, middle and high schools in the district. To qualify the youth and caregiver must be DC residents, the youth must be at least 5 years old by December 30th, and the household must currently receive SNAP benefits or meet income eligibility guidelines.

### [Maryland Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients](#)

- The Maryland Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients is available to foster care youth who are enrolled as a candidate for an associate, bachelor's degree or vocational certificate at a Maryland Public institution of higher education. The purpose of Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients is to provide financial assistance to foster care youth.

### [Foster Care to Success](#)

- Foster Care to Success scholarships are awarded based on a combination of merit and need, and funding levels are determined based on cost of attendance and availability of other resources. Awards range from \$1,500 to \$6,000 per academic year, and are renewable for up to five years if a student remains eligible.
- Foster Care to Success provides Education Training Vouchers (ETV) grants in nine states and the District of Columbia. As with the scholarship programs, they offer a full spectrum of support to students, including one-on-one mentoring, care packages, internship opportunities and academic coaching. The Education Training Voucher (ETV) program awards grants to current and former foster youth to help pay for college or specialized education. ETV grants are funded by the federal government and administered by the states. In most states, eligible students may receive grants of up to \$5,000 per academic year.



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## [Horatio Alger Association](#)

- As one of the nation's largest need-based college scholarship programs in the country, the Horatio Alger Scholarship Programs specifically assist high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. While many programs are directed primarily to recognizing academic achievement or leadership potential, the Horatio Alger Association seeks students who have exhibited determination, integrity, and perseverance in overcoming adversity, as well as have critical financial need.

## [Community for Accredited Online Schools](#)

- Community for Accredited Online Schools is a comprehensive accreditation resource that provides prospective students and families with the tools needed to make well-informed decisions about their education. Find out about getting to college and how to stay in college when times are hard, financing and scholarship options, and success tips for those ready to make the next step.

## [Affordable Colleges Online](#)

- Affordable Colleges Online is an online resource that takes into account which schools provide the most programs, financial aid options with lower rates and services necessary for online students while also keeping tuition and fees at a reasonable level. When searching for online learning options, doing so by subject helps students more easily find opportunities in line with their career goals and within the fields that interest them.

## [Project Discovery](#)

- Project Discovery is exclusive to Virginia, and offers programs that help students graduate from high school as well as transition into secondary education. The organization aims to end poverty by promoting education, and focuses its services on youth from low-income families. To see if a student's school offers Project Discovery programs contact a high school counselor, or check this list.

## [District of Columbia College Access Program \(DC-CAP\)](#)

- DC-CAP's mission is to encourage and enable public high school students to go to college. Several of DC's public schools have DC-CAP advisers who focus on helping students apply for financial aid, fill out college applications, and take classes and participate in extra-curricular programs that will help them get into college. Additionally, the DC-CAP website provides lists of rec courses that college-tracked students should take, as well as timelines on when students should start looking at colleges, and what they should be doing during each year of high school. The website also provides overviews of how to apply for financial aid. To see if your mentee's school has a DC-CAP adviser, check out this list.

## [Prospect College](#)

- Located in Washington, D.C., Prospect College is a vocational school proudly offering programs in allied health fields such as: Medical Assistant, Medical Office Administration, and PC Specialist. At Prospect College, they encourage high attendance rates through laptop incentives and a transportation reimbursement policy. For more in-depth information about their programs, please feel free to go to <http://prospectcollege.edu>.



## Tutoring

### Homework Help for Kids: Online Tutoring

- The DC Public library offers free, online homework help every day from 2 p.m. to midnight.

### Latin American Youth Center – SES Tutoring Services

- The Latin-American Youth Center (LAYC) provides several services to low-income youth throughout the District. At select schools, LAYC offers after-school tutoring services focused on improving academic performance and motivating students to participate in school. To see if your mentee’s school is an LAYC target school, check under the “Requirements for Students” subheading.

### Communities in Schools

- Communities in Schools (CIS) is a drop-out prevention program that serves schools in Wards 1 and 8. Their Whole School Intervention program organizes food drives, museum trips, college tours and other group activities aimed towards keeping students in school and focused on their future careers. For individual students, CIS offers a Sustained Intervention program that provides 1 on 1 tutoring to students at risk of dropping out. CIS also coordinates a Parent Engagement program, in which Site Coordinators offer workshops advising parents on how to be involved in their child’s education, a variety workshops, family dinners, and opportunities for parents to discuss they challenges they are facing with their children at school and at home. The following schools offer CIS programs: Garfield Elementary, Johnson MS, Kramer MS, Ferebee Hope ES, Hart MS, Cardozo Senior HS, and Shaw MS.

### For Love of Children – Neighborhood Tutoring Program & Scholars Program

- This program helps students in grades 1-12 achieve grade-level competency in reading and math through one-on-one attention and a structured, step-by-step curriculum. Frequent tests help ensure that a student has mastered the material in one lesson before moving on to the next. When students are guided at their own pace and engaged through fun and interesting activities, they gain academic skills and confidence in their ability to learn.

## After School and Summer Programs

### Latin-American Youth Center –Rita Bright Family and Youth Center

- LAYC’s Teen Center provides a drug-free, alcohol-free environment that engages youth in various activities after the school day has ended.
- It is open year-round offering educational and recreational programming to DC youth ages 6-18. Safe, fun, enriching programs are available to young people representing the diversity of the neighborhood it serves and is open to all DC youth and families.
- Location: Rita Bright Family and Youth Center, 2500 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20003
- Contact: John Holmes, Site Director, holmes@layc-dc.org, (202) 670-5949.

### Sports on the Hill

- Sports on the Hill (SOTH) is a volunteer youth sports organizations in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, DC. It offers youth sports programs for soccer, baseball, softball, touch football, basketball, wrestling, lacrosse, and field hockey.



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- Full scholarships are available on a self-declared need basis, no questions asked. Ages & practice locations vary depending on the sport.
- Contact: Larry Kaufer, President, 202-543-3929, [lakaufer@yahoo.com](mailto:lakaufer@yahoo.com)
- Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/soth4444/home>

## **SashaBruce Youthwork – Ballou High School, Maya Angelou PCS, & Johnson Middle School**

- If your mentee attends any of the schools listed above, he or she can participate in SashaBruce Youthwork's Teen Outreach Program (TOP). TOP is a uniquely effective youth development program because of the community service component. Community service project(s) are a meaningful application of the discussions held within the TOP sessions. Through positive adult guidance, community service, and weekly group meetings based on the TOP curriculum, TOP assists youth in achieving life skills, healthy behaviors, and aides in their understanding of their sense of purpose through our discussions on how to improve their quality of life.
- Contact: [cgibbs@sashabruce.org](mailto:cgibbs@sashabruce.org)

## **MetroBall**

- Metroball Youth Outreach is a Leader in Youth Basketball Programs & Development in the Washington DC area. The areas of focus are an after-school skills clinic program, amateur athletic union teams, college and career preparation, and sports journalism. The program is for youth in elementary to high school.
- Contact: [metroballDC@yahoo.com](mailto:metroballDC@yahoo.com) or visit [www.metroball.org](http://www.metroball.org)

## **DC SCORES**

- DC SCORES runs the only consistent elementary and middle public school soccer leagues for both boys and girls in the District of Columbia. Additionally, beginning in the fall of 2016, DC SCORES is running the DC SCORES City League, a District-wide recreation center soccer league run in partnership with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. Along with soccer, there is also a program focus on poetry and service-learning.
- Visit [www.dcscores.org](http://www.dcscores.org) for more information.

## **DC Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Sports**

- The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Youth Sports offer athletic and competitive opportunities for District youth regardless of their age, skill level or athletic interests. Programs are offered year round.
- Visit [www.dcpr.gov](http://www.dcpr.gov) for more information.

## **City Kids**

- City Kids Wilderness Project is a non-profit organization founded on the belief that providing enriching life experiences for DC children can enhance their lives, the lives of their families and the greater community. City Kids currently operates school year and summer programs for 130 DC youth, enrolling new youth in the sixth grade and providing program support through middle school and high school. The program is based around three core principles: long-term youth engagement, experiential education programming with a focus on overcoming challenges, and goal setting with a focus on future planning.
- Visit [www.citykidsdc.org](http://www.citykidsdc.org) or 202-525-4930 for more information.



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## Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

- SYEP is a locally funded program that provides youth ages 14-21 with summer jobs and work readiness experience. To qualify, applicants must be DC residents, eligible to work in the US, and have an email address and valid Social Security number. To apply, youth need access to a computer with a working internet connection.
- Call 202-698-3492 for support or visit <https://does.dc.gov/service/mayor-marion-s-barry-summer-youth-employment-program>

## DC Sail

- DC Sail's mission is to promote and sustain affordable educational, recreational and competitive sailing programs for all ages in a fun and safe environment. DC Sail empowers its participants to develop self-respect and sportsmanship, foster teamwork, and cultivate sailing skills and an appreciation for maritime-related activities. There is also a youth scholarship for youth who cannot afford the program.
- To learn more, visit <https://dcsail.org/>

## YMCA Camps

- YMCA hosts a variety of summer camps so there is something for everyone!
- Visit <https://www.ymcadc.org/summercamp/> to find the nearest YMCA.

## Rock Creek Park Camps

- Camps for ages 7-12 include Astronomy camp, Civil War camp, Junior Ranger camp, and Art in the Park camp.

## Summer Engineering Experience for Kids' Program (SEEK)

- The Summer Engineering Experience for Kids' program, (SEEK), is the National Society of Black Engineers' (NSBE) premiere solution to the under-representation of African American students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. The free, three week program is a STEM pipeline designed to expose African American children to STEM fields. The program is for 3rd - 5th graders in DC.

# Obtaining a High School Diploma or GED

## National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program

- The mission of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is to intervene in the lives of 16-18 year old high school drop outs and get their lives back on track. The goal of the program is for the youth to grow into young adults and graduate from the program with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed. Applicants must be volunteers between 16 and 18 years old, not in trouble with the law, drug free, unemployed, and high school drop outs.

## STRIVE DC – Strive for Success

- STRIVE DC's Strive for Success program offers GED classes to youth aged 16-25. Each session lasts seven weeks, and students must be available to attend classes for 30 hours a week. STRIVE has a unique program that teaches each subject – reading, social studies, etc – around a specific theme. You can read more about the program here. STRIVE also offers a job readiness program that teaches job skills and helps place people with jobs. Participants must be at least 16.



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- <http://samaritanministry.org/contact>

## Academy of Hope

- The Academy of Hope provides a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of adult learners. Their Education Programs focus on the following:
  - Adult Basic Education (ABE)
  - General Educational Development (GED)
  - External Diploma Program (EDP)
  - Pathways to College Success

## District of Columbia Alternative High Schools

There are several alternative high schools in the district that focus specifically on helping students who have been held back, have dropped-out, or are at-risk complete school or attain a GED. To look through the alternative options that DC provides, check out the list here.

## **Food, Clothing, and Furniture Assistance**

### Bread for the City

- Bread for the City is a non-profit that provides comprehensive social services, including medical and legal clinics, a clothing room, case management, and a food program. Members of the food program can pick up food from Bread's food pantry once a month, and they amount of food they receive depends on the size of the individual's family. To qualify, individuals must meet one of three requirements: He/she has children, is over 60, and has a disability (for proof, bring a doctor's note or proof of SSI/SSDI).
- To become part of the food program families need to bring Bread "proof of children." This could be anything that shows that the child lives at the same address of the parent, such as a letter from the child's school, or a lease. Bread will also ask to see a DC ID, proof of DC residency, and proof of income, unless the individual does not have an income.
- Bread can also refer families to other food pantries, so if the food pantry is far away from their home Bread can find one that is closer.

### Capitol Area Food Bank

- Capitol Area Food Bank distributes food to food pantries and food assistance programs in the Washington metro area. They also provide a Hunger Lifeline which refers callers to food assistance programs in DC, Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Northern Virginia. The number for the lifeline is: (202) 644-9807.

### Martha's Table

- To be eligible for Martha's Table's Emergency Food Service applicants do need a referral. However, on the last Thursday of the month – known as "Pantry Day" – Martha's Table distributes groceries bags to anyone. The giveaway lasts from 12PM to 1PM. Martha's Table also provides a mobile soup kitchen called McKenna's Wagon that serves soup and sandwiches to those in need 7 days a week. Check out the website to find the schedule.



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- Martha's Outfitters both functions as a thrift store for paying customers and provides free clothing to families and individuals in need. They also accept small furniture items, small appliances, books, and bed linens.

## Catholic Charities

- Catholic Charities offers a number of services including DC Food Finder, an interactive map of food resources in DC. You can find the closest grocery store, nearby resources for free food, or search to find the cheapest sources for groceries. On the Catholic Charities website you can also find a list of food pantries located in Southern Maryland and details on how to participate in the SHARE Food Network, a program that distributes low-cost grocery packages and includes a mobile market.

## No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Program

- On June 3, 2014, No Kid Hungry launched a summer meals texting campaign where families can text FOOD to 877-877 to find their closest summer meals site. When you text the number, they will ask for your address, and then you will get a list back of all of the sites near your house, the times meals are served, and which meals they can get (breakfast and lunch, lunch and a snack, etc.).

## A Wider Circle

- A Wider Circle's mission is to help children and adults lift themselves out of poverty. They provide several services, including an outreach program for teen mothers, a wellness program for individuals living in public housing, and Neighbor to Neighbor: a program that provides furniture to families who are living without basic needs. Families can contact A Wider Circle with a list of what they need and the program will find the furniture, then set up an appointment for pick-up. Call A Wider Circle at 301-608-3504.

## Mission of Love

- Mission of Love is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping underprivileged families and individuals meet their immediate needs. They are based in Prince George's County, but also serve DC and Northern Virginia. MoL's Basic Needs program provides free household amenities to families in need. Contact Mission of Love at 301-333-4440.

## The National Center for Children and Families

- NCCF is a child and family welfare agency that provides services including emergency shelters, transitional housing for homeless families, teen parent services and more. Call 202-396-9300 to inquire about furniture donations.