

California Mentoring: A Lifeline for Communities During COVID

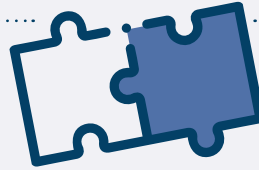
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1 MENTORING DURING COVID



16%

reported an increase in the total youth served in their program during COVID, but **63%** of programs reported that their numbers decreased.



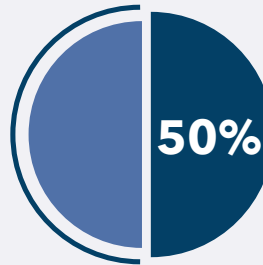
Yet, **21%**

of programs reported an increase in youth waiting to be matched with mentors.



36%

of programs reported an increase in mentored youth that received supportive services during COVID. Most common services included academic support (50%) and positive youth development programming (59%).



Over half of the programs surveyed tailored services for special youth populations.

- 55% served foster youth
- 39% served LGBT youth

2 IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES



- **82%** reported increased barriers to education (schools) and community resources.
- **51%** reported that some of the families in their programs experienced homelessness.
 - **96%** provided food access
 - **89%** provided access to technology
 - **71%** provided eviction protection and rental assistance
- **100%** reported a shift in program services to support mental and physical health care needs.

COVID represented an additional stress to families who participated in mentoring

- **50%** reported a change to the parent/child relationship, notably that they were less close.
- **53%** reported that parents relied on mentors more for roles they used to perform.
- **63%** of programs saw an increase in collaboration between mentors and parents.



3 MENTORING PROGRAM RESPONSE TO CHANGING NEEDS

For youth who were isolated and stressed, or had lost access to education and community life, **mentoring relationships may have been important in lessening the impact of these issues.**

Mentoring programs shifted to address needs.



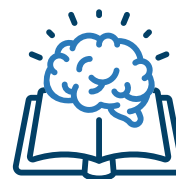
74%

reported support for their mentee's school involvement



52%

supported basic needs (food and shelter)



71%

programs adapted programming to include **social-emotional educational curriculum** and strategies during covid

Mentoring programs learned of, and helped to address, needs of families that otherwise would have fallen through the cracks.

23% reported that mentees shared needs with program staff and mentors.

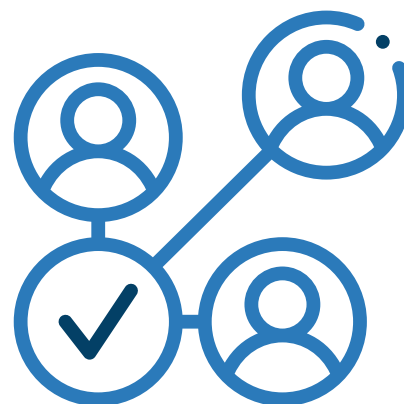
The face of mentoring programs has perhaps forever changed in the wake of COVID

Impacts of COVID on program access

- Programs provided services virtually, while acknowledging the impact of in-person. Mentoring programs will likely continue to provide hybrid programming.
- The digital divide will continue to be a resource challenge past the pandemic for hybrid services.

Impacts of COVID on program staff

- Staff stress and burnout
- Increased demands on staff and support for mentor/mentee matches



4 WHAT DOES THE MENTORING FIELD NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL MOVING FORWARD?



Address digital divide and improve technology access across California



Increase staffing and cost per match

How can you help?



Become a mentor and help recruit



Funds for increased staffing



Funds and in-kind for tech access



Support CMP to provide training and TA to support changes and improvements



Support ongoing research for California mentoring programs and services



California Mentoring Partnership
camentoringpartnership.org

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