



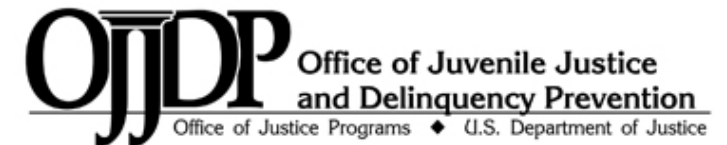
NATIONAL  
**MENTORING**  
RESOURCE CENTER  
A Program of **OJJDP**

# The Credible Messenger Model: A Transformative Approach to Mentoring

September 26th 2023

# National Mentoring Resource Center & Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- This project is funded through a cooperative agreement from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, & the U.S. Department of Justice.
- The NMRC builds on OJJDP's history, leadership, and investments in quality youth mentoring.



# National Mentoring Resource Center Overview

## Key Components:

- National Mentoring Resource Center Website
  - Practitioner Focused Blog
  - Grantee Dedicated Part of Site
  - Numerous Research-Based Resources
  - Evidence Reviews on Programs, Models, and Populations
- Research Board
- Training and Technical Assistance!
  - No-Cost Assistance For Your Mentoring Program

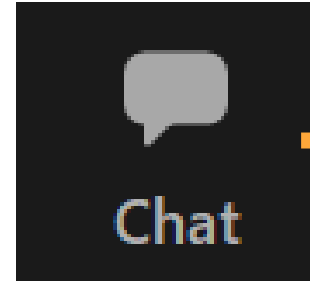


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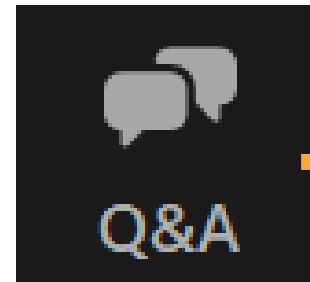
# Remember!

- Please take **3-4 minutes to complete the anonymous survey** to let us know how we did at the end of the webinar.

- In a few days, you will receive an email with information on how to download the **slides, recording, and resources** on the OJJDP NMRC website, at [www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org)



- Introduce yourself!
- Talk with one another
- Share resources
- Respond to presenters



- Ask the presenters questions
- Upvote questions you'd like to see answered

# Who's in the room?

## Answer the poll!

What is your role in the mentoring field? (staff, mentor, program director, etc.)



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# Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Audience Polls
3. Definitions & History
4. Challenges & Opportunities

5. Panel Discussion
6. Audience Q&A
7. Closing



# Panelists



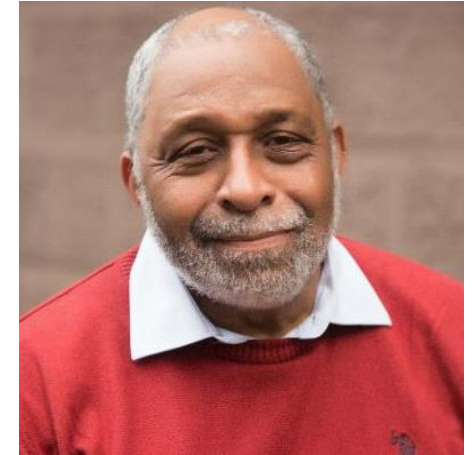
**Tiffany Branch**  
Credible Messenger  
Mentor Consultant and  
Regional Director for WE  
RISE Together with Career  
Resources



**Abdul Malik**  
F.U.S.E.D, Executive  
Director



**Robert David**  
City of Danville, Violence  
Prevention Manager,  
Consultant & Life Coach



**Dr. John Ducksworth**  
Center for Children's  
Advocacy, Director  
Restorative Justice Project



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# Credible Messengers Webinar

## DEFINITION:

1. SOMEONE WITH DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CARCERAL SYSTEM.
2. SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN GANG OR STREET ASSOCIATED.
3. SOMEONE INDIRECTLY IMPACTED WITH A FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE LEGAL OR OTHER SYSTEMS.
4. LIVED EXPERIENCES IN OTHER SYSTEMS (i.e. FOSTER CARE, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION).

# Credible Messengers Webinar

## Historical Development:

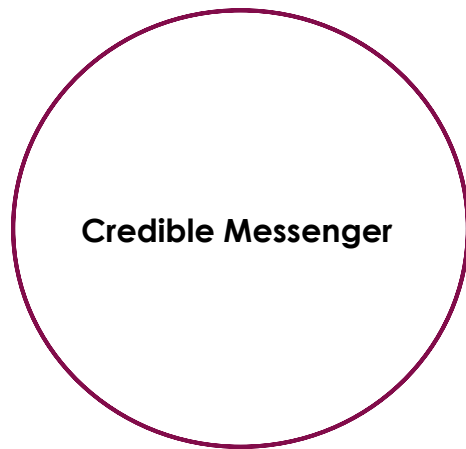
NYC – Arches Transformative Mentoring Program (2011),  
AIM Advocate Mentoring Program (2012),  
Next STEPS Mentoring (2013), (NYCHA Centered)  
ICM Mentoring PLUS ( 2018 )  
Summer NeON Program (2020)

Today-

Atlanta, GA., Oakland, CA., Washington, DC, Camden & Newark, NJ., Milwaukee, WIS., Waterbury and Bridgeport, Ct., Harris County, Texas, Chicago, Ill. , Jackson, Miss, and many other cities

# Credible Messengers Webinar

What Makes Up a Credible Messenger?



**Lived Experience**

**Personal transformation**

**Community Credibility**

**Strong Communication/Listening skills**

**Mentoring experience,  
community  
commitment**

# Credible Messengers Webinar

## Goals/Objectives of Credible Messenger Work:

- Reduce harm, violence, and crime.
- Reduce criminal legal system contact.
- Increase youth engagement in positive community involvement.
- Change the narrative regarding formerly incarcerated.
- Increase community participation in the justice system.
- Move from “beneficiary of services” to “stewards of services”

# Credible Messengers Webinar

## Challenges:

- All the challenges that People of Color and marginalized people face day-to-day in the workforce (i.e. salary, credentialing, work space, glass ceilings, etc. )
- Stigma (formerly incarceration)
- Lived experiences versus Credentials and/or Social Capital.
- Pre-established “glass ceilings” within organizations.
- Data benchmarks (i.e. recidivism, violations versus quality of life indicators).
- Bridging the gap between systems and community

# Credible Messengers Webinar

## Scope of Work

- Reduces crime, violence, and harms committed by youth.
- Reduces cost legal system, correctional and probation systems.
- Promotes education and pathways into mainstream society.
- Provides alternative pathways from the streets and non prosocial activities.
- Changing local Communities and larger society.

# Credible Messengers Webinar

## Future

- Continue National and International Expansions
- Continue to Educate, Advocate, and promote Community Reinvestment
- Expand work with Courts and Correctional systems
- Provide direct services
- Further research, fact-finding, and learning new benchmarks

# Credible Messengers Webinar

“Those people who are closest to the problem are usually those persons closest to the solution, however they are usually those furthest from the resources and decision making.”

**Anonymous**

# Audience Q&A



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# Disclaimer

**Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention**

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# OJJDP

**The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.**



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**Thank you!**



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