



FY 2024 OJJDP Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative Grantee Profile

Common Grace

Program Overview and Background

The goal of Common Grace is to deter at-risk children in Hawai'i Public Schools from juvenile delinquency and crime. This is achieved through one-on-one mentoring with compassionate, trained, and committed teens and adults. Common Grace actively addresses the impact of chronic stressful life events on children in Hawai'i, events that are often the result of the pandemic, poverty, household instability, insufficient family resources, and low parental educational attainment. Additionally, we strive to enhance the social outcomes of children who are bullied, ostracized by peers, or lack a role model in their lives.



Program Services

Mālama Mentors are trained high school students who provide one-to-one mentorship to at-risk children in Hawaii's public elementary schools, while Mohala Mentors provide mentoring to disadvantaged middle school students in Hawaii public schools. Theoretically informed by a Positive Youth Development framework, the Common Grace mentoring program emphasizes each youth's unique strengths to build on existing capabilities to foster growth, resilience and self-confidence. Through mentoring, Common Grace seeks to empower at-risk youth with internal mechanisms and protective factors that enable them to cope with adversity and feel confident to make healthy choices in all aspects of life. The program consists of Partnership Coordinators, Common Grace paid, adult staff who lead mentor training and have experience with best practices in mentoring. These Partnership Coordinators have primary responsibility for sustaining partnerships with all schools within a specified geographic area. Responsible and Supervisor/Adults are the teachers, counselors or other educators at partnership schools who chaperone mentorship sessions. Trained Mentor Team Leaders (also called Co-Captains) are high-performing high school and college-aged mentor-leaders selected by each school to collect impact assessments and record program data (e.g., attendance records, mentorship sessions and completed activities), as well as deliver one-to-one mentoring to mentees

- Headquarters in Honolulu, HI
- Founded in 2002
- 110 Youth Served
- 1 Program Location

Grant: JJ FY24 Mentoring: Multi-State
Award Number: 15PJDP-24-GG-03825-MENT
Award Amount: \$983,615

Mentoring Model & Structure

- School-based
- One-to-one, School-based, Peer, Community-based
- Partnering with Schools, Faith-based Organizations, Corporate Sector
- Programs focus on School, Academics, Gang Prevention, College Readiness



Target Population

We aim to provide mentoring under this grant to young people with any one or more of the following:

- Academically Challenged
- Juvenile Justice Involvement
- Single Parent Household

Mentor Recruitment & Training

- 110 mentors recruited under this grant
- Peer Mentoring included in programming
- For mentor recruitment, we target Peers (Youth), College Students, Adult Volunteers
- Duration of program services: 1 school year
- Expected intensity of match contact: 1 hour
- Expected length of a match: 1 school year
- Expected frequency of match contact: Weekly
- Number of training hours required before a mentor is matched with a youth: 8 hours

Additional Program Information

We have witnessed incredible growth in our one-on-one mentoring program, especially through our youth peer school-based mentorship. It's truly inspiring to see mentees from seven years ago now in high school, stepping up to become mentors themselves. Their journey from mentees to mentors is a testament to the program's impact. Moreover, all of our mentees have stayed on a positive path, with none involved in any juvenile delinquency. This transformation highlights the power of mentorship in shaping bright futures and fostering a supportive community.

Additional Resources

- Common Grace Website: www.commongrace.org

this data is accurate as of January 2025.

For more information on our OJJDP grant:

Contact: Aries Jackson | Email: aries@commongrace.org | Phone: 808-783-1097