

85,000 NEW YORK CHILDREN HAVE A PARENT IN PRISON.

Why MentorCHIP?

One in 43 American children has a parent in prison. An estimated 7 to 10 million children in the U.S. have or have had a parent under some form of state or federal correctional supervision. A current Sentencing Project report states that 809,800 parents in 2007 were in a federal or state prison, up 91 percent since 1991.

MentorCHIP was created to offer site-based mentoring with an academic and asset-building focus to build the academic confidence and social skills of children ages 6–16 whose parents are incarcerated. By pairing passionate, committed volunteers with vulnerable young people, the MentorCHIP program hopes to break the cycle of recidivism and intergenerational poverty.

The Volunteer Experience

All CSS/RSVP Mentoring Initiatives are conducted in collaboration with partner organizations that already have mentoring programs in existence.

CSS/RSVP will:

- ❑ Provide mentorship training that equips volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to become mentors specializing in mentoring children whose parents are incarcerated
- ❑ Train volunteers/mentors to provide one-on-one academic support
- ❑ Work in collaboration with partners to match a mentor with mentees
- ❑ Integrate the development of a mentee portfolio as an activity in the mentoring relationship

Mentoring can make a difference in a child's life and yours.

Volunteers in the MentorCHIP program will meet with mentees on-site at one of our designated locations for a minimum of two hours weekly. The minimum monthly commitment is six hours per month, and the length of the mentoring commitment will be for one year.

Specific Requirements:

- ❑ Must go through and pass a criminal background check
- ❑ Enjoy working with children
- ❑ Be non-judgmental
- ❑ Have a sense of humor
- ❑ Have a high school diploma/GED or higher

Training:

- ❑ Volunteers must attend and complete an 18-hour CSS/RSVP mentoring training that addresses the role of a mentor, with a component that's specific to working with children whose parents are incarcerated. Volunteers will also receive training on asset building and portfolio design.

Key Contacts

Mary Anne Flanagan, Project Director
212.614.5555
mflanagan@cssny.org

Karen Brown, Community Development Specialist
(Team Leader)
212.614.5557
kbrown@cssny.org

Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents (MentorCHIP)

Our Partners:

Hour Children

36-30 12 Street or 36-11 11 Street
Long Island City, New York 11106

Hour Children is committed to the compassionate and loving care of incarcerated women. It was founded to serve the needs of children and families involved in the criminal justice system.

Services: Housing, advocacy, counseling, and community outreach and food pantry services. Also offers an infant and toddler program for working mothers that includes pre-school and day care. Their prison program provides transportation, visitation, and volunteer lawyers.

I Have A Dream Foundation

East Harlem Program at PS7
160 East 120th Street
New York, NY 10035

I Have A Dream Foundation is committed to empower children and families in the tri-states' underserved areas to reach their college and career goals. The program provides a dynamic, long-term mentor program of academic enrichment and tutoring with an assured opportunity for higher education.

Services: Academic support, homework help, reading and enrichment activities. The program works with Dreamers from early elementary school through High School. Upon High School graduation, each Dreamer receives tuition assistance for higher education.

Children of Promise, NYC

54 McDonough Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Children of Promise, NYC offers a mentoring program with a focus on academic and social needs to children in the Brooklyn community.

Services: Mentors encourage mentees participating in CPNYC's Project DREAM, by providing tools and support that allow a youth to succeed, and by giving guidance on the career path of the mentees interest.

Speaking Up About MentorCHIP:

"Kids need to know they can achieve.

I tell them, 'You can do this!' "

Richard W., Volunteer Mentor

"I wanted to use my free time to give back for the next generation. I can help young people; help build them up."

Cecilia C., Volunteer Mentor

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) draws on a 170-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity through research, advocacy, litigation, and innovative program models that strengthen and benefit all New Yorkers.

The **CSS/RSVP Mentoring Program** is part of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Community Service Society. RSVP is a nationally-acclaimed program that enlists adults ages 55 and older to strengthen their communities by serving as volunteers.