



Better Communities.
Bigger Dreams. Brighter Futures.

BILL SNYDER, CO-CHAIR

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Kansas Mentors Announces Grant Recipients

Funds will aid mentoring programs to ensure safe mentoring relationships

TOPEKA, Kan.– Kansas Mentors (KM) is pleased to announce more than \$27,000 in funding to seventeen mentoring programs to help offset the costs of background checks conducted through the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI).

During 2012-2013, Kansas Mentors was awarded \$100,000 from Volunteer Kansas to distribute funds to Kansas mentoring programs conducting KBI background checks on mentors. This year, KM will be distributing almost \$35,000 in background check grant funding. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until all money has been allotted.

“Kansas’ mentoring programs are reporting significant declines in funding while an increase in the need for services,” Coach Bill Snyder, chair of Kansas Mentors said. “These funds are a strategic investment to ensure more young Kansans have access to a safe and caring adult role model.”

Background checks are an essential component of the screening process to help ensure the safety of youth involved in mentoring programs. The cost of criminal background checks, however, is substantial considering every mentor should complete and pass a check before they can begin mentoring. This can be a huge funding barrier that potentially limits the number of young people a program serves, or even worse, put youth in danger should a mentoring program forgo the background check because of the cost. This grant serves as an avenue to bridge the gap and encourage mentoring programs to continue doing important checks on potential volunteer mentors.

Kansas Mentors Grant Recipients

County	Program	Grant Award
Harper	Anthony-Harper USD 458- Runner Buddies	\$300
Leavenworth	Basehor-Linwood USD 458- Mentors & CareCats	\$1,200
Chase, Coffey, Lyon & Morris	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Flint Hills	\$1,300
Saline	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina	\$3,200
Wyandotte	Bonner Springs/Edwardsville- Mentor Volunteer Program	\$1,000
Butler	Butler County Department on Aging- Foster Grandparents	\$500
Sedgwick & Sumner	MHASCK- Compeer Mentoring	\$500
Riley	HandsOn Kansas State- Academic Mentoring	\$600
Statewide	Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$10,000
Kiowa, Pratt & Ford	MATCH: Mentor a Teen; Create Hope	\$900
Reno	Reno County Communities that Care Mentors	\$1,000
Riley	RSVP of the Flint Hills- Schools of Hope	\$1,000
Johnson	Shawnee Mission School District- My Volunteer Pal	\$3,990
Shawnee	Topeka Youth Project Mentoring Program	\$300
Shawnee	Women Empowerment, Inc.	\$240
Sedgwick	Youth Horizons	\$600
Shawnee	YWCA- Girls on the Run of Topeka	\$700



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Kansas Mentors is currently partnered with more than 175 mentoring programs serving all 105 Kansas counties. The organization is committed to providing every young Kansan access to a caring and quality mentor through recruitment, awareness, and training efforts. Funding is still available for this grant. Mentoring programs interested in applying for funding can visit Kansas Mentors at www.KansasMentors.org.

The mission of Volunteer Kansas is to connect potential volunteers with organizations that need help. Based in Wichita, Kan., Volunteer Kansas has an extensive and diverse network of individual, corporate and nonprofit contacts, making it uniquely suited to take on the vision of Kansas as the top volunteer state in the nation. To learn more, please visit www.volunteerkansas.org or contact Nola Brown at 316.260.3353.

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