

# Frequently Asked Questions | CPY FAQs

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**Q: Who is Committed Partners for Youth (CPY)?**

A: Committed Partners for Youth is a non-profit agency that fosters and supports mentoring relationships between adult volunteers and youth (ages 7-17) who are most in need.

**Q: How is Committed Partners for Youth (CPY) similar to Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS)?**

A: CPY's referral sources come from counselors, teachers, probation officers, other social service agencies whereas BBBS referrals come from parents. Also, CPY serves a different age range from 7-17. CPY serves a population that tends to be disenfranchised and isn't familiar with mentoring services that are available.

**Q: Who selects youth to be in a CPY mentoring program?**

A: School teachers, counselors, probation officers, other community agencies, parents, relatives, caregivers etc.

**Q: Why are youth selected to be in a CPY mentoring program?**

A: School staff, parents, probation officers select youth because they felt s/he could benefit from the extra support of a mentoring program to maximize his/her potential for a successful transition to high school, success in their academic pursuits, and success in building healthy relationships with their peers.

**Q: What is the role of a mentor?**

A: A mentor's role is to be a guide, a friend, a listener, a coach, and a caring responsive adult. Mentors also inspire the development of personal identity and healthy relationships, while connecting youth to meaningful opportunities in their communities.

**Q: How do you screen your volunteer mentors?**

A: We have face-to-face interviews, application, references, national background checks, DMV checks, confirm auto insurance (if mentor drives), 5 hours of initial training and on-going support every month in the form of a mentor support meeting.

**Q: Why is the relationship set up for a year commitment?**

A: The relationship is set up for a year because research has shown that working with at-risk populations the most positive outcomes from a mentoring relationship came when the mentor youth pair were together for a year. Furthermore, if the relationship fails within the first 6 months, it can actually do harm to the youth.

**Q: How do you make the mentor youth match?**

A: Interests, activities, and characteristics expressed by a youth and mentor are considered. Both go through an application process where some of the above information is gathered. In addition, geographic proximity, culture, age, etc. is considered in making the best and appropriate match.

**Q: How do you support the mentor youth relationship throughout the year?**

A: Program Managers (PM) check in with the mentors, youth and families at least once a month via phone calls, emails and/or face-to-face meetings. In addition, CPY provides a mentor support meeting once a month for mentors to check in with their PM and to connect with other mentors to hear ideas and strategies about being a mentor. Additionally, CPY offers a once a month family dinner to provide a support network for parents, caregivers and foster parents to connect with one another as well as time to check in with CPY staff. Furthermore, CPY provides activity resources for mentor youth pairs in the form of donated tickets to athletic events, cultural events, musical performances, and community service opportunities.

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**Q: What is the process to become a mentor?**

A: The first step is to have an informational session with a staff member where a potential volunteer will learn about the different programs, the commitment, and the application process. Once the volunteer has completed the application and background checks, the next step is to attend a 2 part general mentor training totaling 5 hours. Once the trainings are completed, the program manager will look for the best and appropriate match and be in touch with the mentor, youth and family. *Now you're on your way to making a difference!*

**Q: How many mentor youth pairs do you serve each year?**

A: Committed Partners for Youth serves approximately 75 youth, families, and mentors every year. We are currently building sustainable partnerships with businesses and individuals to allow us to increase these numbers.

**Q: What are the effects of CPY mentored youth?**

A: CPY's own evaluative research has shown that mentored youth:

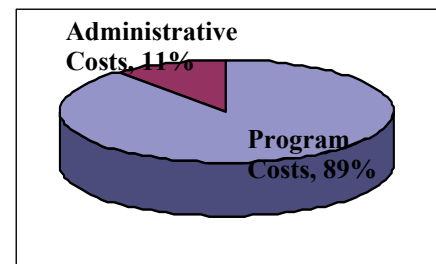
- ◆ 65% Decrease their drug and alcohol use
- ◆ 58% Increase their school attendance
- ◆ 52% Increase their sense of self-worth in establishing new relationships
- ◆ 58% Avoided use of guns and knives
- ◆ 52% Increase their trust in parental relationships
- ◆ 72% of CPY youth in the juvenile court system have avoided committing new crimes

*(Sources: CPY Program Evaluation for the office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention – 1999 & 2002 Lane County Department of Youth Services)*

**Q: How do you fund your programs?**

A: The breakdown is below:

- ◆ Grants (federal and foundation) (65%)
- ◆ Individual Donors (5%)
- ◆ Business Donors (2%)
- ◆ United Way (8%)
- ◆ Fundraising Events (20%)
  - Truffle Shuffle (Feb)
  - Spring Fundraising & Ambassador Luncheon (May)
  - Annual Wine Tasting & Auction (Oct)



**Q: What percentage of donations go towards program costs?**

A: The breakdown is show graphically →

