



ST. MARY'S COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Meenakshi G. Brewster, MD, MPH - Health Officer

Administration, Records & Health Services: 301 – 475 – 4330

Environmental Health: 301 – 475 – 4321

Medical Assistance Transportation: 301 – 475 – 4296

Maryland Relay Service: 1 – 800 – 735 – 2258

Email: smchd.healthdept@maryland.gov

April 21, 2022

Dear St. Mary's County Community Partners,

St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is requesting letters of support from community organizations interested in implementing a youth mentoring program. SMCHD is writing a proposal for a funding opportunity through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services, the Title II Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant (JJAC). "The primary purpose of the program is to improve outcomes for children and youth within the juvenile justice system by increasing and strengthening community-based programs and services, expanding community-based alternatives to confinement, increasing diversion opportunities, and supporting positive youth development models. This funding correlates with the Children and Youth Division's goals of increasing the well-being of Maryland's children and youth by increasing trauma-informed care practices and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)."

The Violence, Injury, and Trauma (VIT) unit within SMCHD, currently works with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to receive referrals to our youth mentoring program ([Mentoring Connections](#)). We then connect the youth to local mentoring programs within St. Mary's County. In less than 6 months, our program has received over 40 referrals from DJS (and other community sources) and have successfully connected about half of those referrals to mentoring programs. We want to continue to grow and link youth with mentors but are in need of more local mentoring programs. With the Title II grant, we would like to propose funding for at least three community partners/organizations to implement a mentoring program.

If your organization/agency is interested in partnering with SMCHD on this effort and would consider writing a letter of support, contact Angela Cochran via email or phone, angela.cochran@maryland.gov, 240-925-2650. Please respond by Tuesday, April 26th.

Thank you for your consideration to help with this important initiative.

Respectfully,

Angela Cochran

Director, Health Promotion & Community Services