

[Organization Letterhead]

[Date]

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Re: Letter of Support for Title II Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant (JJAC)

Dear Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services,

[Insert organization name] is committed to working collaboratively with the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) on the work proposed for the FY 2023 Title II Formula (JJAC) / Juvenile State Match Requirement (JSMR) Grant Program from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

Evidence suggests that mentoring and after-school approaches can benefit youth in a number of ways, including reducing their risk for involvement in crime and violence. Our agency/team understands that ACEs - such as experiencing abuse, neglect and witnessing household dysfunction, violence and substance use - can alter childhood brain development and result in negative effects on learning, behavior and health. Childhood adversity may lead to trauma and toxic stress; trauma and toxic stress in turn may lead to the kind of developmental damage that contributes to violence and injury.

[Organization name] is committed to implementing a youth mentoring program in St. Mary's County and expanding the access to much needed youth programming in our community. Our mentoring program will [feel free to add specific details about your current or proposed mentoring program].

The potential consequences of ACEs cut across professional disciplines, personal relationships, and all socioeconomic demographics. Creating trauma-informed agencies and disciplines to work in collaboration will give us a better chance of improving child and family safety overall. [Organization name] recognizes that through youth mentoring/connecting youth to caring adults and activities and ACE prevention and mitigation efforts, we as a community can improve outcomes related to violence, public safety, health, and education.

Sincerely,