



Grants Available to Expand Mentoring Programs

Part of President's Plan to Recruit and Train One Million New Mentors

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced that up to \$50 million in grants is available for "[Mentoring Children of Prisoners.](#)" This grant competition is an important part of fulfilling President Bush's vision to match more disadvantaged youth with caring mentors. In his [2003 State of the Union address](#), the President proposed a three-year, \$450 million initiative to recruit and train mentors for more than one million disadvantaged youth, with a special emphasis on matching children of prisoners with mentors.

[Click here](#) to visit the Department's website for complete details. Grant applications are due by April 23, 2004.



The Department of Education also received \$50 million to work with community and faith-based organizations and other groups to develop, expand, and strengthen school-based mentoring programs for disadvantaged middle school students. It is anticipated that the Department will announce its grant competition later this spring.

As stated by President Bush in his [Proclamation](#) declaring January 2004 as National Mentoring Month: "These efforts are an important part of our ongoing work to ensure that every child can realize the great promise of America. Every life has value and potential, and all deserve the opportunity to have a bright future. By supporting the individuals and organizations involved in mentoring and by encouraging more citizens to participate in their good works, we can transform America, one heart and one soul at a time."

President Bush recently met Tenisha Stevens upon arrival in New Orleans to thank her for her 14 years of active volunteer service with the Union Bethel AME Church, including mentoring at-risk grade school students.

White House Photo by Eric Draper

The USA Freedom Corps Welcomes its New Director

On March 15, Desiree T. Sayle was appointed Deputy Assistant to the President and the new Director of the USA Freedom Corps. Ms. Sayle has been with the Administration since President George W. Bush took office, first as Director of Correspondence for Mrs. Laura Bush and then most recently as Director of Presidential Correspondence. Previously, she worked for America's Promise and on Capitol Hill. Ms. Sayle is also an active volunteer in her community. She serves on the board of a local preschool, and has mentored elementary school children.

March Highlights

★ [USAFreedomCorps.gov](#)
Earlier this month, the USA Freedom Corps re-launched its website [usafreedomcorps.gov](#). The revamped website features a new design and search tools that make it easier to find information on USA Freedom Corps initiatives. We encourage you to visit our new website.

★ [Volunteer Management Capacity in America's Charities & Congregations](#)

Last month, the results of the first comprehensive study of volunteer management capacity in America's charities and congregations were released. On March 1, the Urban Institute, in coordination with the USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and The UPS Foundation launched a new website to receive comments on the significance of the results and the implications for organizations, policymakers, funders, and community leaders. To view the study and submit comments, please visit the Volunteer Management Capacity Survey Online Dialogue at [www.volunteeringinput.org](#)

★ [President's Volunteer Service Award](#)

National Volunteer Week, a 31-year tradition, is a time to recognize and celebrate the efforts of America's volunteers. This year's theme, "Volunteers Inspire by Example," reflects the power of volunteers to make a difference in their communities and to inspire others to volunteer.

Beginning this year, the President's Volunteer Service Award is available as a new way to recognize and thank Americans of all ages during National Volunteer Week (April 18-24) who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service. The award, an initiative of the President's Council for Service and Civic Participation, recognizes individuals, families, and groups for giving back to their communities. For more information, please visit [www.presidentialserviceawards.gov](#)