

Our Mission

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services is a non-profit agency that has been serving individuals and families for more than 40 years. Our agency responds to the needs of the community and focuses on social and emotional challenges of our members.

Our mission is to support Worcester County students by providing a positive role model in each student's life and increasing community involvement.



Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services

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Benefits of Mentoring for Young People

- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Improved interpersonal skills
- Increased social acceptance, academic attitudes, and grades
- Decreased symptoms of depression
- Increased graduation rates
- Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices
- Higher college enrollment rates

Benefits of Mentoring for Young People. youth.gov

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Become A Mentor Today!



WORCESTER CONNECTS
MENTORING PROGRAM

A Worcester Youth and Family Services Program

Helping Families Since 1975

Worcester Connects

Who We Are

“Worcester Connects” is a youth mentoring program designed to help students who need a positive role model in their lives. Students in Worcester County grades 1 – 12 can be matched with a volunteer mentor and participate in both individual and group mentor meetings. The focus is on each student’s strengths to help them build self-esteem, be successful in school, and learn how to make positive connections with others.

Eligibility

Students can be referred by parents, schools, and any agency that works with children. The program is designed to help those who are struggling with school, have special needs, are living in poverty, or who are struggling socially.



Volunteer Mentors

Mentors are asked to commit to the program for at least **one year** and will meet with their mentee at least **twice per month**. Mentors will be asked to provide one-on-one guidance, coaching and friendship to their mentee and maintain communication with the child’s parents or guardians on progress.

Mentors are not required to hold any special or advanced degrees in education or social services and are only asked to be supportive of the children enrolled in the program.

Mentors can volunteer as an individual or group mentor and provide mentorship to a small group of students with common interests.

Mentors must pass a screening interview, criminal background check, have a valid driver’s license, reliable transportation, and participate in 2 hours of training.

Common Questions

Who can be a mentor?

Community members interested in working with children to help them achieve better outcomes.

Will I receive training?

Volunteers will receive specific training focused on mentor/mentee dynamics. Volunteers are not expected to tutor or provide other professional services to their mentee, as program staff will make referrals for those services.

How are the mentors paired?

Mentees and mentors are paired based on common interest and need. Once paired, a match meeting will be arranged with the mentor, mentee, and the student’s parents/guardian. A positive relationship with the mentor and the family will be established. Communication about progress is essential.

What will a mentor/mentee relationship be like?

Mentors will need to develop trusting relationships with their mentees. This will help them understand the unique challenges of their students and develop ways to assist them in being successful.

How can I refer a student?

Parents and caregivers can refer a student by calling Worcester Youth and Family and speaking to our staff. Community partners are able to refer students using our referral form.