

Mission

The MENTOR Program is an initiative of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania that seeks to interrupt the cycle of recidivism by providing a holistic and supportive reentry experience through mentoring and case management, thereby reducing recidivism rates.

Vision

A society in which individuals involved in the justice system are empowered to live successful, healthy, crime-free and high quality lives post-conviction.



www.courts.phila.gov/mentor



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THE MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentors Empowering Now to Overcome
Recidivism



MENTOR participant working with our partner,
the Mural Arts Program (The Guild).

For more information, please visit
www.courts.phila.gov/mentor

Who We Are



The MENTOR Working Group is comprised of representatives from the First Judicial District, the Philadelphia District

Attorney's Office, the Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department, Community Legal Services, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, and Correctional Chaplaincy and Victim Advocacy affiliates.

Partner Organizations Include:

- BENEPhilly
- Community Legal Services
- Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity
- Pennsylvania CareerLink
- The Center for Carceral Communities
- Mayor's Project RISE
- Philadelphia FIGHT
- Philadelphia Mural Arts Program
- The Center for Returning Citizens
- The University of Pennsylvania

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What We Do

MENTOR is a court-based program coordinated by Judge Michael Erdos and Judge Lisa Rau that matches individuals serving non-violent county sentences with volunteer mentors to create healthier communities and families, and decrease the various human and financial costs associated with crime, prosecution, and incarceration.

Over the course of the one-year program term, mentors provide:

- Practical assistance to overcome the traditional barriers to successful reentry
- Emotional support
- Encouragement
- Referrals to additional resources through our network of community-based partner organizations

Mentors and participants meet twice monthly, communicate twice weekly, and attend monthly court status hearings to assess progress and address challenges. Educational programming is provided at each status hearing on topics such as job readiness, life skills, and emotional health.

When a participant successfully completes the MENTOR Program, they receive a substantial reduction in the remaining term of court supervision.



Active volunteer and Steering Committee member

www.courts.phila.gov/mentor

Get Involved

MENTOR is recruiting volunteers! Mentors are:

- At least 21 years old
- Willing to commit to their participant for 18 months
- Dedicated to helping support and empower individuals involved in the criminal justice system



MENTOR participants at University of Pennsylvania event

APPLY TODAY!
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