



Public Official Outreach & Advocacy

ENGAGING ELECTED OFFICIALS

This National Mentoring Month, turn up your impact as a mentoring advocate and help elected officials celebrate the power of relationships. Developing relationships with your local elected leaders and their staff can result in actions that expand mentoring opportunities for young people, and we've made advocacy easy with tools, templates, and resources!

Presenting elected officials with a variety of ways to engage - from an "easy lift" (such as celebrating National Mentoring Month on their social media platforms) to more substantive actions (such as releasing a formal proclamation honoring the contributions of mentors) - increases the likelihood that these leaders will find a way to comfortably participate and respond to your advocacy. Use this fun and important campaign as a reason to reach out!

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS DURING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Members of Congress

Support Public Funding for Mentoring: Use the mentoring talking points resource to encourage your representative's support for federal funding for mentoring. Advocate this message with tactics such as:

- Meeting virtually with the staff of a Member of Congress to talk about your program and needs in your community while using [MENTOR's legislative platform](#) to encourage their support of specific policies.
- Use [MENTOR's Action Center](#) to write to and tweet at your Members of Congress and advocate for their support for public funding for mentoring.

Support the National Mentoring Month

Resolution: Contact the office of your Members of Congress and encourage them to sign on to the annual National Mentoring Month Resolution.

Engage on Social Media: Tag the handle of your Members of Congress in a tweet or social media post thanking them for their support of mentoring or advocating for additional resources ([see sample messaging](#)).

TIP: Follow them on social media if you don't already and like or share relevant and positive posts.

RESOURCES FOR ENGAGING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

- **Guide:** [Scheduling a Virtual Meeting with a Member of Congress](#)
- **Guide:** [Hosting a Virtual Site Visit with a Member of Congress.](#)
- **Resource:** [MENTOR's Legislative Platform](#)
- **Resource:** [MENTOR's Action Center](#)
- **Resource:** [About MENTOR and our Affiliates](#)
- **Resource:** [Tips for Successful Virtual Meetings](#)
- **Resource:** [Mentoring Talking Points](#)
- **Resource:** [Town Hall Sample Questions and Tips](#)
- **Sample:** [Social Media Messages](#)
- **Training:** [MENTOR's Advocate Academy](#)



Governors & Mayors

Make a Proclamation: Request your governor and/or mayor issue a [proclamation](#) honoring National Mentoring Month in your state. A proclamation is a formal recognition and declaration from elected officials for special events and occasions being honored.

TIP: Submit this request in December and follow up early in January. Please share it with MENTOR so we can amplify your success!

Support Public Funding for Mentoring: Use the mentoring talking points resource to encourage your governor and/or mayor to support state funding for mentoring. Amplify this message with tactics such as direct communication, meetings with the governor/mayor's staff, or a social media campaign.

Share Mentoring Stories: Ask your governor and/or mayor to participate in Thank Your Mentor Day by posting a thank you message to their mentor on social media on **Thursday, January 26, 2023** using hashtag #ThankYourMentor.

TIP: Provide an example - sample social media can be found in our social media messages resource!

Extend Paid Leave Time to Mentor: Are state employees eligible for paid volunteer leave time in your state? National Mentoring Month presents a great time to encourage your governor, mayor, or other state officials to allow employees who serve as volunteer mentors to utilize paid volunteer leave. Make the case to reduce your state's mentee waitlists and increase mentor recruitment efforts.

TIP: Check out [How Elected Leaders Can Support Youth Mentoring](#) for additional ways that governors/mayors can support youth mentoring in your state.

Nominate a Mayor for Mentoring: Does your mayor already celebrate and support youth mentoring? [Nominate them](#) to be a Mayor for Mentoring, a national campaign to celebrate the efforts of mayors to expand the quality and quantity of mentoring opportunities for young people in their communities.

Participate in Events: Invite mayors to keynote and/or present awards and recognitions at any celebration events you're hosting in January.

TIP: If they've done work on mentoring, it's a great time to honor and recognize their efforts at your event by celebrating their nomination to be a [Mayor for Mentoring](#).

Partner on Recruitment: Work with your mayor's office to host a local mentor recruitment campaign.

TIP: This is an excellent way to encourage mayors to use their convening prowess!

RESOURCES FOR ENGAGING GOVERNORS & MAYORS

- [Template:](#) Proclamation Draft for Governors or Other Elected Officials
- [Resource:](#) Mentoring Talking Points
- [Template:](#) Proclamation Press Release
- [Sample:](#) Social Media Messages
- [Sample:](#) Recommended Paid Leave for City/ State Employees to Serve as Volunteer Mentors
- [Resource:](#) How Elected Leaders Can Support Youth Mentoring
- [Resource:](#) About MENTOR National and our Affiliates
- [Training:](#) MENTOR's Advocate Academy

If you have any questions about engaging elected officials, please contact [Caden Fabbri](#), Policy Manager or [Abbie Evans](#), Sr. Director of Government Relations at MENTOR.

