

Forming a Mentoring Advisory Committee

Mentoring advisory committees can be valuable assets to mentoring programs, but they are especially helpful for new programs or those operating inside an existing youth-serving organization. Mentoring advisory committees can:

- Provide guidance that helps YouthBuild staff members solve day-to-day problems
- Build community partnerships and support ongoing mentoring program sustainability
- Offer a forum for program partners and stakeholders to communicate opinions, share expertise, and coordinate services
- Support and represent the interests of a program within a larger agency

YouthBuild mentoring programs are encouraged to build an advisory committee early in the planning process. These committees should include:

- YouthBuild students and graduates
- YouthBuild staff members (both classroom and work site, perhaps even one representative from each of the core YouthBuild service components)
- Representatives from partner organizations
- Community champions
- Staff of other social service agencies
- Staff from any local or state mentoring partnerships

Although a mentoring advisory committee is not required, mentoring coordinators are encouraged to form and convene one so that the mentoring services have the support they need to be fully integrated into the YouthBuild program and to flourish over time. The advisory committee can be instrumental in working with the YouthBuild program's board of directors in crafting and approving policies and procedures that help with this integration.

You can learn more about forming advisory committees in the free publication *Building an Effective Advisory Committee* by the Mentoring Resource Center, downloadable at http://educationnorthwest.org/webfm_send/232.