



Please contact your State Senator TODAY and urge them to Cosponsor Amendment #664 to Fund Mentoring Matching Grants at \$1.8M in the final FY25 Senate Budget

The FY25 budget process is well underway! The Senate Ways and Means Committee released their draft of the budget last week and included **DECREASED funding of \$1.5M** for the Mentoring Matching Grants line-item compared to last year's \$1.8M allocation, which supports mentoring programs across the State. Our Senate legislative Champion Senator Brendan Crighton filed Amendment #664 on behalf of MMP requesting level funding of \$1.8M.

Now, we need your help to advocate for level-funding of \$1.8M for Mentoring Matching Grants in the final FY25 Senate budget!

Please call or email your State Senator today and ask them to sign onto Senate budget Amendment #664 supporting full funding of \$1.8M for Mentoring Grants!

We want to ensure that as many Senators as possible sign on to cosponsor our amendment. Senators can sign on up until MONDAY, May 20th.

Action Steps:

1. Call your State Senator

- ★ **Look up who your Senator is and call their office.** (You can find out who your state Senator is by heading to <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>). It is also fine to speak with staff. Ask to speak to the staffer who is dealing with budget amendments.
- ★ We recommend calling between 10am and 3pm, Monday-Thursday when folks are most likely to be in their office.
- ★ **What to say:**
 - I am calling on behalf of [your program/organization]. **As a [your role/position],** and your constituent, I am asking you to sign onto a Senate budget amendment that is very important to me and youth across the Commonwealth.

- **Please co-sponsor Amendment #664 filed by Senator Brendan Crighton which would provide \$1.8 million in funding for the Mentoring Matching Grants line-item in the final FY25 Senate budget.**
- This funding will support mentoring programs and the provision of crucial support systems for youth facing various challenges. The proposed funding by the Senate Ways and Means Committee would cut funding to these grants, which would result in reduced programming and support for our youth. I hope you will consider co-sponsoring the Mentoring Matching Grants amendment to support us in extending our reach to more young people in need of guidance and mentorship.

★ **Thank them for their time.** If they have any questions, and you are unsure of the answer, simply say you do not know but will call them back. Please contact the Director of Government Relations and Public Policy Nate Simms for Mass Mentoring Partnership at nsimms@massmentors.org for additional inquiries.

2. Email your State Senator

★ **Use the template below to contact your Senator and the website above to find out who they are.**

Subject Line: Please CO-SPONSOR Mentoring Matching Grants FY25 Budget Amendment #664

Dear Senator ,

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support of **Senate budget Amendment #664** which would allocate **\$1.8 million in funding for Mentoring Matching Grants line-item (7061-9634)**, filed by Senator Crighton. As a [your role/position], and your constituent, this funding is very important to me, and I believe it provides essential support to youth across the Commonwealth.

Each year, our state line-item funding enables MMP to provide grants to youth-serving organizations to establish mentoring relationships as a valuable support system for youth amid the stresses of everyday life. Last year's funding allowed MMP to fund and train 48 mentoring programs, which collectively serve 6,459 young people, of whom 80% are low-income. 84% of those mentored are youth of color, with the majority being Hispanic/Latinx and African American/Black. Moreover, nearly 30% of the youth in mentoring relationships are youth with disabilities and more than 10% of the youth mentees are unstably housed. Increased funding enables MMP and our partner mentoring organizations to decrease the number of young people on waiting lists to receive mentoring matches.

In an era where young people are at increased risk of behavioral health disorders like anxiety and depression, MMP's goal of connection-centered support reduces feelings of social isolation and loneliness through a concentrated development of care, support, and partnership. Mentoring has proven to be an innovative strategy to engage youth that yields positive outcomes in education, mental health, and workforce opportunities. Mentoring is one of the few prevention and intervention strategies that can effectively address multiple risk and protective factors simultaneously. It has also been shown to catalyze economic mobility while also increasing feelings of belonging. It often encourages mentees to, in turn, become mentors themselves and give back to their communities.

[Insert any additional information regarding your program's successes or funding needs, or your personal experience that speaks to the need for this funding]

I hope you will consider cosponsoring amendment #664 to support the Mass Mentoring Partnership and mentoring programs across the state in our mission to provide youth with the resources and relationships they need to be successful and supported.

Should you have any questions I may be able to answer, please contact me by email at *(insert email)* or by phone at *(insert phone #)*.

With Gratitude,

Your Name,

Role/Position, Organization/Program

Thank you for your advocacy! Your support is ESSENTIAL to ensuring that Mentoring Matching Grants are level-funded by the state at \$1.8M for FY25.