

GROWING INSIGHTS AND INNOVATIONS

A Research Agenda for the Modern Youth Mentoring Movement

To meet emerging needs of the mentoring field and inform funders and policymakers about how together we can strengthen the mentoring movement, MENTOR has developed a Research Agenda outlining four key areas for future mentoring research. Many researchers, practitioners, and thought-leaders collaborated on this agenda, providing expertise and insight into ways we can inform and strengthen mentoring. Below are the key priorities and action items we have identified as areas of focus; [click here for the full agenda](#). For questions or more information, please contact MENTOR's Director of Research and Evaluation [Mike Garringer](#).

RESEARCH PRIORITY 1: Increase research on the role of mentoring in supporting youth identity development and combating loneliness & isolation

- **ACTION:** Prioritize Identity-Related Outcomes and Build Understanding of How Mentors Support the Identity Development of Young People Facing Adversities and Experiencing Marginalization
- **ACTION:** Examine the Impact of Mentors on Youth Isolation and Sense of Belonging

RESEARCH PRIORITY 2: Study innovative strategies to expand the opportunities for mentoring relationships that occur naturally within systems & institutions

- **ACTION:** Evaluate Efforts to Strengthen Schools and Other Institutions as Key Relationship Hubs
- **ACTION:** Prioritize Research on Emerging and Innovative Strategies for Expanding Mentoring that Occurs Naturally

RESEARCH PRIORITY 3: Increase actionable research on mentoring that occurs in diverse programmatic settings

- **ACTION:** Invest in Research on Group Mentoring Models
- **ACTION:** Grow Knowledge and Application of Effective Virtual Mentoring Strategies
- **ACTION:** Expand Understanding and Adoption of Targeted Mentoring Strategies

RESEARCH PRIORITY 4: Invest in more research on the societal-level changes that are produced by mentoring relationships

- **ACTION:** Increase Research on Mentoring and Civic Engagement and Social Justice
- **ACTION:** Grow the Investment in Longitudinal Mentoring Research
- **ACTION:** Listen to the Voices of Young People