

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSES CUTS FOR MENTORING

Earlier this week, the President released his proposed FY2009 budget. This is the first step in the annual appropriations process that will determine funding levels for all federal agencies and programs. Unfortunately, the President's budget recommends major cuts to mentoring funding. Specifically:

- * The budget recommends eliminating the Mentoring Programs grants within the US Department of Education, a proposed cut of \$50 million. This is the third year in row that this program has been slated for major cuts or elimination. Fortunately, Congress has thus far continued to restore the program's funding.
- * The budget does preserve funding for the US Department of Health and Human Services' Mentoring for Children of Prisoners program, and recommends a small increase that restores minor cuts during the last few appropriations cycles. This increase would bring the program's funding level back to \$50 million funding.
- * The budget also recommends eliminating a new \$70 million pot of funding for youth mentoring within the Department of Justice (see the last news item, Forecast of 2008 Funding Opportunities for more detail on this funding stream.)

These cuts, which represent over \$100 million in federal funding for mentoring, would result in fewer mentoring programs and less mentors for America's young people. Over the next several months, Congress will hold hearings in the Appropriations Committee and work on developing their recommendations for funding levels. MENTOR will be working closely with leaders and grassroots supporters in the mentoring field to make the case for continuing the federal government's investment in mentoring.

ACT NOW!

We will be asking for your help over the coming year to let your Members of Congress know how important these federal grant programs are to the mentoring field. Stay tuned to the Mentoring Advocacy Network for more information.

With your help, MENTOR can continue to serve as an advocate for the expansion of mentoring for America's young people and a resource for mentors and mentoring initiatives nationwide. To join the network, please visit <http://www.mentoring.org/advocate> .

Visit the web address below to tell your friends about this.

<http://gal.org/join-forward.html?domain=omega&r=u1sNDQM1mAum>