



# *Vermont Mentors!*

## *Matching Funds for Mentoring*

### **2009 Application Guidelines**

#### **Deadline: 5:00 p.m., October 17, 2008**

Vermont Mentors! is a creative partnership of the Vermont Agency of Human Services and The Permanent Fund for the Well-Being of Vermont Children, made possible by the commitment of Governor Douglas and the Legislature to mentoring. Vermont Mentors! is a grantmaking initiative designed to support existing Vermont mentoring programs in developing *new* mentoring matches, enhancing the quality of matches, and increasing their fundraising capacity and the sustainability of their programs.

These guidelines, the required application cover sheet, and the *new* core standards are all available online at [www.permanentfund.org](http://www.permanentfund.org). The *Core Standards* are based on the National Mentoring Partnership's *Elements of Effective Practice* and are the minimal standards required for funding; they do not replace the research-based elements of effective practices to which we highly encourage all programs to aspire.

#### **Vermont Mentors! is Seeking to Fund:**

- ✓ ***Existing mentoring programs*** in Vermont that support one-to-one, adult-to-child matches (college students are considered adults).
- ✓ ***Net new mentoring matches.*** We want to fund mentoring programs that commit to grow their *total* number of matches.  
To be clear, “net new matches” means the increase in matches beyond the number of matches you had last year. For instance, if you had 20 matches last year, and you have 25 this year, then you have 5 net new matches. Even if you lost 4 matches, and therefore had to recruit 9 mentors to attain 25 total matches, your net new total is still 5. 2007-2008 VM! grantees are eligible to apply and must commit to net new matches in addition to the matches recruited last year.
- ✓ ***Mentoring programs committed to quality and safety*** by meeting the *Core Standards* and planning to implement the National Mentoring Partnership's *Elements of Effective Practice*.
- ✓ ***Sustainable mentoring programs.*** We are invested in your financial sustainability, and know that raising private funds is a key component.
  - We ask that you commit to raising 50 cents in private, non-government matching funds for every dollar provided through Vermont Mentors!
  - We want to fund mentoring programs interested in improving their fundraising skills! As a benefit to grantees, we will design a workshop jam-packed with tips and tools to increase the amount of private money you raise for mentoring. Your organization will be encouraged to bring up to 5 staff and/or board members who are ready to get inspired to raise more money for your mentoring program.

#### **To Apply**

Please email the Vermont Mentors! 2009 Application Cover Sheet with a brief letter proposal (no longer than two pages). Follow-up visits or phone calls will be part of the application process for programs that meet basic funding criteria so there will be an opportunity to discuss your program and plans in detail.

In your proposal, please discuss how you plan to:

- ✓ Use Vermont Mentors! grant funds to strengthen your mentoring program, including increasing program quality and growing your matches;



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- ✓ Enhance your program's long-term financial sustainability by raising more non-government, non-foundation funds;
- ✓ Collaborate with other mentoring programs.

For guidance on writing short letter proposals, check these resources:

- ✓ <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/tutorials/shortcourse/letter.html>
- ✓ [http://www.npguides.org/guide/pre\\_proposal.htm](http://www.npguides.org/guide/pre_proposal.htm)

### **Criteria:**

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To ensure grant funds are achieving the priorities of Vermont Mentors! as efficiently as possible, the Permanent Fund is departing from our previous practice of capping grant requests at \$10,000. Instead, requests will be considered in an amount **up to one-third (33%) of your total mentoring budget.**

Since we anticipate the requests from qualified applicants will exceed the \$250,000 in available funds, the following criteria will be considered in determining awards:

- ✓ The sustainability of your mentoring program: the diversity of revenue sources and overall stability of the program.
- ✓ The quality of program practices: alignment with the National Mentoring Partnership's *Elements of Effective Practice*.
- ✓ Past Vermont Mentors! funding, and outcomes achieved.
- ✓ Plans and capacity for growth (e.g. staff-to-match ratio, etc.), including the net new matches goal.
- ✓ Mentor and mentee retention rates.

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by December 31, 2008.

### **Submitting Your Proposal**

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The Permanent Fund is partnering with Mobius and Mentor Connector to support grantmaking in Chittenden and Rutland Counties. If your mentoring program serves:

- ✓ **Chittenden County**, email your application to Mobius: [andrea@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:andrea@mobiusmentors.org).
- ✓ **Rutland County**, email your application to Mentor Connector: [mentorconnector@verizon.net](mailto:mentorconnector@verizon.net).
- ✓ **All other Vermont counties and statewide programs**, email your application to [VTmentoring@gmail.com](mailto:VTmentoring@gmail.com).

Your emailed application must contain the following attachments:

- ✓ Vermont Mentors! 2009 Application Cover Sheet, and
- ✓ A letter proposal

### **Deadline & Questions**

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Your proposal must be received via email by **5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2008**. Late proposals will not be considered. Questions? Contact the Permanent Fund:

- ✓ Paula Francis: 802-279-4092 or [VTmentoring@gmail.com](mailto:VTmentoring@gmail.com)
- ✓ Christine Zachai: 802-498-5157 or [Christine@permanentfund.org](mailto:Christine@permanentfund.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!