

# Amachi Mentoring – Rider 50

## General Description:

The purpose of the Amachi Mentoring Program is to provide one-to-one mentoring for youth ages 6 – 14 whose parents or family members are incarcerated or recently released from the prison system.

Youth are engaged in mentoring relationships established primarily through partnerships with school districts, faith-based organizations, non-profit partnerships, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Prison Fellowship and re-entry programs across Texas.

## Authority:

General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 50, 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, 2017

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan

## Eligibility:

Rider 50 appropriated funding to Amachi Texas Program to be administered by Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star.

## Funding:

Source: GAA, Article III, Rider 50, 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, 2017  
The GAA authorizes a portion of TANF funds to TEA for this purpose

## 2016-2017 School Year\*

Participating youth were served through eight regional BBBS sub-contractors across Texas. During 2016-2017:

- 1,405 students were mentored; 968 of those mentor matches were still open at the end of the program year
- 90% of new eligible matches were mentored for six months or more
- 86% of matches since September 2015 were sustained for six months or more.
- 57% of the matches since September 2013 were sustained for twelve months or more
- Of 641 youth surveyed who were mentored for six months or more:
  - 9 (1.4%) were referred to the juvenile justice system
  - 18 (2.8%) were referred to an alternative education placement
  - 98.8% were promoted to the next grade

\*2017-2018 data is due to TEA in October 2018

Fiscal Year	Project Time Period	Amount
FY 2014	September 1, 2013- August 31, 2014	\$1,250,000
FY 2015	September 1, 2014- August 31, 2015	\$1,250,000
FY 2016	September 1, 2015- August 31, 2016	\$1,250,000
FY 2017	September 1, 2016- August 31, 2017	\$1,250,000
FY 2018	September 1, 2017- August 31, 2018	\$650,000
FY 2019	September 1, 2018-August 31, 2019	\$650,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,300,000</b>

## Evaluation:

The United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention published *Mentoring Children Affected by Incarceration: An Evaluation of the Amachi Texas Program*. Published in 2011, this evaluation concluded that the presence of a caring, supportive adult mentor improves short-term outcomes for children affected by family incarceration; the impact of one-to-one mentoring on child-family relationships and child well-being outcomes is sustained over time and improves as the duration of the mentoring relationship increases; mentoring improves attitudes toward school, increases literacy, and reduces alternative education/disciplinary referrals; and the robust process evaluation identifies critical elements of effective practice, informs the further development of a best-in-class program, and increases satisfaction to advance the field of mentoring.