
	<h2>LiGHT Grant Application 2023</h2>	
	<p>2023 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines</p>	

Name of individual, group or organization: Family Centered Services

Contact name(s): Dawn Fowler

Address: 1515 N Sutton Circle, Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone number: 260-824-8574 Email Address: dfowler@fcs-inc.net

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: Mentor Moms

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: The grant will serve moms in our Community who struggles with motherhood life skills. Our goal is to serve 20 moms.

Dollar amount requested: \$3,000.00

Would the program be offered if only a *partial* grant from LiGHT is made? Yes, the program would continue.

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested:

➤ May be utilized for part of the presentation.

The Mentor Mom program has a rich history of supporting young moms through one of the most challenging times of their lives – motherhood. Our moms come from various backgrounds – some good and some not so good. However, they crave peer relationships. The requested funds would allow coverage of miscellaneous program expenses that support programming needs for the monthly meetings.

Complete all requested items below:

- 1) This Cover Form
- 2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:
 - What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
 - What do you want to do?
 - What is your timeline?
 - What results do you expect?
 - If partnering with other organizations, please list.
 - Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
 - Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.
- 3) Detailed budget

PARENT ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

PRESENTED BY FAMILY CENTERED SERVICES



KNOWLEDGE, FAMILY BONDS,
PEER SUPPORT, RESILIENCY, RELATIONSHIPS

MENTOR MOM | PARENT CAFE



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Community Need

There are currently 28,103 people living in Wells County: of those people, there are 2,867 single moms, 534 single fathers, and 1,827 cohabitating parents¹. This information tells me there is an opportunity to continue something unique in our community by offering more peer-to-peer support systems for single parents in our community. The Mentor Mom program pairs seasoned moms who have been journeying along the motherhood path for a while with new moms who lack a support system in their lives. 92% of past participants reported an increase in parenting skills over the last year². During this timeframe, Family Centered Services had 17 participants with 34 children receiving social, economic, and peer support services. How amazing would it be if we could reach 1% more single parents to join the support system of the Mentor Mom program? That would be 53 people that would reap the benefits of the Parent Engagement Services offered through Family Centered Services.

Program Goals

The Mentor Mom program has room for improvement. Mentor Moms began with a goal to match new, young mothers (ages 16 – late 20s) with another mom who had some experience raising children and running a household. But what about the moms who are still struggling after having a traumatic event happen in their lives and the world that they knew changed? Mentor Moms envisions a group of women who have faced parenting dilemmas and survived the process paired up with women facing similar dilemmas so they can build a peer-to-peer relationship. The Mentor Mom program is the bridge for struggling moms in our community.

The Mentor Mom program introduces moms to local resources that can help parents through tough situations and gives the organizations an opportunity to connect with moms and share their specialized resources available to parents in the community. The Mentor Mom program models how to encourage women to come together and build strong relationships through the bond of motherhood.

Like many programs, word of mouth is huge in growing a program. The Mentor Mom program encourages women to invite other moms in their personal circles to attend a monthly meeting, so they can decide for themselves if the Mentor Mom program is right for them. The Mentor Mom program

¹ Indiana Youth Institute (2023, September 5). *IYI County Dashboard*. Retrieved September 5, 2023, from <https://www.iyi.org/county-dashboard/>

² Jennings, R. (2022). Wells County Mentor Mom. *2022 Program Evaluation*. <https://doi.org/1>

builds self-esteem, improves family dynamics, and builds relationships through support and hope. “Mentor Mom has given me a sense of belonging to something bigger than myself. I also get an opportunity to help others.” - Mentee³

The Mentor Mom program builds confidence in our participants. The Mentor Mom program teaches moms how to survive the rough patches of motherhood. The Mentor Mom program is an example for other communities seeking a program dedicated to their moms in need of support systems.

Timeline and Outcomes

The Mentor Mom program is continuous and meets on a monthly basis.

The Mentor Mom program has a goal to match the current participants with one another and educate them on how to support each other in their journeys of motherhood. The participants will be asked to track their times of interaction with each other outside of the monthly meeting – which will generate data points to monitor peer support growth. After a period of twelve months, the participants will be encouraged to invite others to attend and commit to the program and learn how to support each other along the way.

Partner List

- United Way of Wells County
- Wells County Commissioners
- 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union Foundation
- Private donors
- Fundraising

³ Jennings, R. (2022). Wells County Mentor Mom. *2022 Program Evaluation*. <https://doi.org/1>

Program Overview

The Parent Engagement Services is the umbrella for parenting programs offered by Family Centered Services. Teen pregnancy was a concern in the late 1980s and Family Centered Services stood up in the community and created the Mentor Mom program. Mentor Mom began as a mentoring program designed to pair seasoned moms in the community with new, teen moms that lacked support systems. The seasoned moms would meet with their mentee weekly and offer support – active listening, conversations, tips, and techniques – for the new mom.

As teen pregnancies have dropped and the number of new moms dropped, the need to support moms was still a community need. Family Centered Services continued to offer mentoring support but added community resources and a monthly gathering for the moms involved with the program. Today, Mentor Mom has a loyal group of moms who enjoy spending time together once a month to learn a new skill or to learn about a new resource for their family.

Mentor Mom is an ever-changing group that fluctuates with the moms of Wells County. Family Centered Services offers the moms of Wells County a safe place to learn new things, discuss difficult topics, and make lifelong friendships. Mentor Moms offers the moms of Wells County a place to build their hope.

Program Budget

INCOME	MENTOR MOM
UNITED WAY	\$ 4500.00
WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	\$ 7500.00
IDENTOGO – FINGERPRINTING	\$ 2000.00
3 Rivers Credit Union Foundation	\$ 2000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,000.00
LiGHT Grant 2023	\$ 3,000.00
BRAVE HEART FOUNDATION	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL POTENTIAL INCOME	\$ 8,000.00
GRAND TOTAL INCOME & POTENTIAL INCOME	\$ 24,000.00
EXPENSES	MENTOR MOM
SALARY	\$ 17,764.50
G&A SALARY	\$ 3,592.00
PAYROLL TAX	\$ 1,634.00
CAFETERIA PLAN	\$ 1,275.00
CAFETERIA PLAN G&A	\$ 237.50
403 B FEES	\$ 50.00
DUES-AGENCY	\$ 115.00
INSURANCE-GENERAL	\$ 421.00
MARKETING	\$ 300.00
GRANT WRITING	\$ 250.00
LEGAL & ACCOUNTANT	\$ 332.50
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 460.00
IT/WEBSITE	\$ 500.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$ 300.00
POSTAGE	\$ 137.50
UTILITIES	\$ 625.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$ 125.00
TRAINING	\$ 137.50
PHONE	\$ 54.50
TECH/CELL	\$ 300.00
TRAVEL	\$ 250.00
STAFF APPRECIATION	\$ 45.00
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION	\$ 150.00
DEPRECIATION	\$ 238.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 29,294.00

APPENDIX A: BOARD ENDORSEMENT

From: Family Centered Services
1515 N Sutton Circle
Bluffton, IN 46714

To: The Wells County Foundation, Inc.
222 West Market Street
Bluffton, IN 46714

September 6, 2023

To The Wells County Foundation, Inc.,

This letter is in support of continuing the Mentor Mom Program.

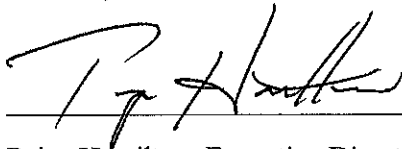
We believe the program will continue to educate the mothers in the Wells County community as they build strong relationships within their family and their communities.

The funds requested for the Mentor Mom Program will increase the program budget to better serve the participants of the community.

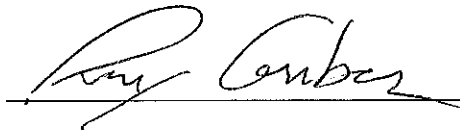
In conclusion, the Parent Engagement Services – Mentor Mom Program is supported by Family Centered Services Board of Directors.

Your support for this program is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Paige Hamilton, Executive Director



Perry Gerber, Board President