

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL and/or FIRM

To design, implement and assess a large scale research project around the state of Mentoring in Canada by **mapping the mentoring experiences of young people** and **capturing the landscape of mentoring programs/ services** in Canada.

Project description

Mapping the Gap: As we work to improve the life outcomes for young people, their voices must guide our efforts. For this reason, the Canadian Mentoring Partnership (CMP) will conduct the first ever nationally-representative survey of young people's perspectives on mentoring in Canada. Core to our collective work is the fundamental belief that children and adolescents should receive the supports they need and deserve — including consistent and caring relationships with adults. A survey will be developed and administered to youth aged 18-30, through telephone, online and in-person interviews, that will include a research-based risk screen. Findings will then be applied to the 2016 Census to give an accurate picture of how the mentoring needs of young people are presently being met, while providing evidence of the gap.

Capturing the Landscape: In addition to the voices of young people this work will also be informed by a comprehensive literature and landscape review and will be shaped by conversations with a variety of representatives within the youth development field, researchers, as well as leaders in government, philanthropy and the private sector. To that end, CMP and their partners will develop a National Mentoring Program Survey to collect nation-wide data about mentorship activities through examination of the prevalence, practices and scope of youth mentoring programs across Canada. Marketing and promotional materials will be developed to assist in outreach.

Research Objectives

Mapping the Gap: This will provide new data to inform our collective work, adapt our approach accordingly and attract new partners and advocates to begin to close the mentoring gap. We believe this approach will provide the most accurate picture possible of how the mentoring needs of young people are currently being met through their perspective, highlight gaps that remain, and allow CMP and their partners to chart paths forward to create more caring adult relationships in the lives of children. By connecting young people to caring, consistent, and supportive adults, the nation can help young people achieve their dreams, and also strengthen communities, the economy, and our country.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Capturing the Landscape: The major goals of this exercise are to better understand the structure, services, and challenges of mentoring programs; identify who programs are serving and the groups/types of adults who are stepping up to mentor in these programs; and provide us with a baseline understanding of the field so that we can use that information to inform our strategy. This information will also be extremely helpful in the years to come in advocating for more public and private investment in mentoring, helping to identify gaps in services, and developing new training and tools that can support programs as we seek to expand and enhance mentoring in Canada.

Key Dates (to be confirmed)

Phase 1 (June -September 2019)

- Engage in discussions with key leaders in the youth development field, researchers as well as leaders in government, philanthropy and the private sector
- Identify members and convene a Research Advisory Committee to support the research professional(s) in the development and implementation of this research project.
- Conduct comprehensive literature and landscape review of the mentoring field Development of research plan(s)

Phase 2 (October 2019- March 2020)

- Implement research plan(s) that include:
 - Online Survey's
 - Focus groups
 - Representation and Canadian and International Mentoring conferences

Phase 3 (April - June 2020)

- Research report generated with baseline results and recommendations
- Plan for medium- long-term monitoring of results developed
- Knowledge mobilization plan designed/implemented

Skills and Expertise

Knowledge of or interest in child and youth development, mentoring, social justice, work, community development, public policy, educational policy studies, psychology, public health and preventative medicine.

Ideal candidates and/or firms will be Canadian based and have strong connections to Indigenous communities and both official language communities across Canada.

Submission guidelines

All submissions should include the following components: Cover Letter, Contact Information, Information about Consultant and/or Company, Proposed Work Plan, Relevant Project

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Experience, Three Customer References, and Detailed Financial Quote including travel related costs and taxes.

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 pm on Friday May 10, 2019 and should be sent via email to: Stacey Dakin, National Senior Director, Strategic Projects and Initiatives
1-800-263-9133 ext. 50, Stacey.dakin@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

Background

In November 2016, [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada](#) (BBBSC), in collaboration with the [Alberta Mentoring Partnership](#) (AMP) and the [Ontario Mentoring Coalition](#) (OMC), brought together youth serving organizations, mentoring leaders, funders and various Government representatives for a one-day Canadian Mentoring Leadership Summit held in Banff, Alberta. During this summit the foundation was laid for the development of the Canadian Mentoring Partnership (CMP), a coalition of organizations committed to expanding and improving the use of mentoring to help youth fulfill their potential.

The formation of the CMP also reflects the interest of government, provincial, regional, and local community agencies in working collaboratively to address gaps in mentoring for Canada's young people.

The Objectives of CMP are to:

- Discuss emergent trends, challenges, successes, innovative practices and collaborative opportunities with regards to mentoring;
- Expand the knowledge base about mentoring and the importance of supporting mentoring;
- Serve as a voice for the mentoring community across the country;
- Increase information, current research, emerging trends and accessibility to mentoring organizations as well as those organizations providing mentoring services;
- Share strategies, disseminate information and increase awareness of mentoring in Canada; and
- Develop and implement a strategic plan to enhance mentoring within Canada.