

Community-Based Mentoring

This project is testing an innovative, research-based strategy to empower a local community with a significant population of justice involved youth to build a strong mentoring model that diverts youth from the justice system and builds enduring, pro social connections in the youth’s neighborhood. Combining an evidence-based mentoring model with a close to home ethic and community-building strategies, this project brings together several threads of promising practice in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Bronx, New York.

Project Title	South Bronx Community Connections Program
Grantee	Community Connections for Youth
Implementing Agency	Community Connections for Youth
Target Population	Middle-school aged youth in the South Bronx
Description	This project's goal is to build Mott Haven's will and capacity to actively participate in diverting its early offending youth from further criminal justice involvement. The intervention engages and supports faith and neighborhood based partners in creating networks for outreach, recruitment, selection and support of community coaches and mentors who work with youth referred by Bronx Family Court and the Corporation Counsel. Through participation with pro-social adults in community service projects and other activities, youth are linked to stable, long-term social networks that provide support, accountability and connection to resources. The project also establishes a family support network for the parents of participating youth.