

**PROJECT NAME:** 2 Connect—Mentoring Children of Prisoners

**PROJECT LEAD:** Mike Taylor  
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**TIMELINE:** 2010-2013

**CONTENT AREA:** Youth Development, Prevention, Re entry

**FUNDER:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families

**CLIENT:** Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri -- Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Family Court

**AUDIENCE:** Youth service providers, community based service providers, state agencies, re entry agencies

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:** Qualitative

**OVERVIEW:**

The Jackson County Family Courts’ programs and services are numerous. Residential services include secure and non-secure detention facilities, secure and non-secure residential programs, residential program for male sex offenders, and an intermediate sanctions program. The Court’s Field Services division includes probation, intensive supervision services, home detention, and after school supervision and education program, and prevention and diversion.

The Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri -- Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Family Court 2 Connect program will provide a community based mentoring program for children aged 4-18 who have and incarcerated parent. 2 Connect will pair carefully screened and trained adult mentors and community youth in a relationship/friendship based, non-curriculum based one on one mentoring program. Mentors must commit to meeting with mentees at least one hour per week. During year one of the program 100 mentor and mentee pairs will be matched based on mutual interests, commitment, and the mentors ability to meet and have activities within the youths home community.

2 Connect will actively engage a full array of community partners to ensure services are available and utilized including: Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission, Storytellers, Inc., member organizations and individuals of the Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, Jackson County Department of Corrections, Missouri Department of Social Services, and Kansas City Missouri Police Department. These partners will provide training and support for mentors, referral sources for needed services for mentee families, confirmation of incarcerated parent status, mentee and mentor referrals, and assist in the gathering of critical data.

Resource Development Institute will provide on-going program evaluation services to measure program fidelity and provide process information that will inform partners of program challenges and strengths.

Data will be generated through interviews with key stakeholders, surveys, record review, direct observation of 2 Connect processes, and a final report will be delivered to Family Court at the completion of the grant cycle.

**LINKS:**

Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri -- Sixteenth Judicial Circuit  
Family Court <http://www.16thcircuit.org/>