

COACH FOR SUCCESS MENTOR

APPLICATION OPENS MARCH 18TH | DEADLINE MAY 23RD

What is Coach for Success?

Coach for Success (CFS) pairs students who are alumni of our Take the Lead program with professional mentors who help students navigate high school, while also building their academic and professional skills for post-secondary education and career opportunities. Coach for Success accomplishes this through three primary program components:

Monthly Skill-Building Sessions: During monthly sessions, mentors and mentees engage in activities and discussions that cultivate professional and academic skills like problem solving, collaboration, social awareness, personal mindset, and communication.

Strategic Partnerships: Urban Initiatives recruits other experienced youth development organizations in Chicago to help facilitate workshops for UI students during monthly skill building sessions. These organizations frequently host students in their space to expose students to new work environments.

Summer Job Opportunities: Through a partnership with After School Matters, Coach for Success participants have the opportunity to work at an Urban Initiatives summer camp, serving K-8th grade students at a Chicago Public School. This is a great opportunity for students to apply the skills that they've learned throughout the year.



Mentors and mentees often get opportunities to engage in unique bonding experiences like attending a Bulls game together!

"I have full confidence that my mentee will continue to impact her community and school in amazing ways."

Get Involved & Serve as a Mentor

Get involved and serve as a professional mentor for an Urban Initiatives' Coach for Success 9th-12th grade mentee. Mentorship is a critical component of the program as mentors help participants navigate all aspects of the CFS program as well as the challenges of high school. Mentors will attend each Coach for Success monthly meeting, engage in skill-building activities, and build a strong mentoring relationship with their CFS student.

Mentor Candidate Qualifications

- Ability to attend one CFS meeting per month, connect with mentee weekly via phone or text and spend time in person with mentee at least once per month outside of CFS meetings.
- Willingness to provide a high school student academic, social-emotional, and professional support. Mentors will be trained in best practices throughout the year.
- Strong active listeners and conversationalists
- Patience with yourself and your mentee
- Willingness to learn and grow

Candidates of diverse backgrounds, identities, and education or career pathways are strongly encouraged to apply.

Mentors will be notified of whether or not they have been matched with a high school mentee by June 24th. Urban Initiatives selects mentors based on the qualifications above and pairs mentors with mentees who share common interests and experiences. If you are not paired with a mentee this year, then UI will connect you with a different volunteer opportunity.