

JANELLE NEWBOLD
FREELANCE WRITER | NONPROFIT STORYTELLING &
STRATEGIC CONTENT

Building Tomorrow: Mentorship Expansion Proposal

Sample Grant Writing

janelleleenewbold@gmail.com
www.janellenewbold.journoportfollio.com

Building Tomorrow: Mentorship Expansion Proposal

Executive Summary

On a rainy Tuesday last fall, a 14-year-old named Jordan walked into our mentorship program for the first time. His mother had been searching for a safe space where her son could build confidence and stay engaged in school. By the end of the year, Jordan was tutoring younger participants, captaining his school basketball team, and planning to apply to college — the first in his family to do so.

Jordan's transformation is at the heart of Building Tomorrow's mission: to ensure every young person has the guidance, resources, and belief in themselves to succeed.

With support from [Funder's Name], we will expand our mentorship program to reach 50 additional underserved youth in Scarborough over the next 12 months. This expansion will deliver one-on-one mentoring, monthly skill-building workshops, and youth-led community projects — all designed to improve academic performance, foster leadership, and increase future career readiness.

Scarborough is home to vibrant, diverse communities, yet many young people face barriers such as limited access to role models, economic hardship, and systemic inequities in education. By addressing these challenges, our program directly advances [Funder's Name]'s commitment to [insert exact priority language from funder's mission].

By year-end, we expect at least 75% of new participants to improve academic performance, 90% to report increased confidence, and every youth to identify at least one trusted adult they can rely on. With your investment, we can transform potential into lasting impact — one young person at a time.

Statement of Need

Scarborough is home to vibrant, diverse communities — yet many youth here face barriers that limit their potential. Economic hardship, under-resourced schools, and systemic inequities leave too many young people without the guidance they need to thrive. In fact, nearly 1 in 4 local youth report having no trusted adult mentor, a factor closely linked to disengagement from school, increased risk of dropping out, and limited career opportunities.

The challenges are urgent:

- The youth unemployment rate in Scarborough is nearly double the national average.
- Only 78% of high school students in the region graduate within four years, compared to 89% province-wide.
- Local youth mental health referrals have risen 22% in the past three years, with isolation and lack of supportive relationships cited as major contributing factors.

Our mentorship program directly addresses these gaps. Last year, we served 75 youth — with 92% reporting improved academic performance and increased confidence. Demand, however, far exceeds our capacity. Each year, we are forced to turn away motivated young people who could thrive with the right support.

Jordan's story is just one example of what's possible when youth are given a safe space, a caring mentor, and the tools to lead. Without intervention, many others like him risk becoming disconnected from school, community, and future opportunities. With intervention, they can become leaders, role models, and change-makers in their communities.

This funding will allow us to say “yes” to 50 more young people — connecting them with mentors, building critical life skills, and unlocking pathways to education and employment that would otherwise remain out of reach.

Project Goals & Objectives

Goal

Increase access to high-quality mentorship for underserved youth in Scarborough, resulting in measurable gains in academic performance, leadership skills, mental well-being, and community engagement.

Objectives (12-month targets)

1. Recruit & Train Mentors

- Recruit and train 20 new volunteer mentors by Month 6, equipping them with skills in youth engagement, trauma-informed practices, and goal-setting.
- Outcome: Maintain a mentor-to-youth ratio of 1:3 to ensure personalized, consistent support.

2. Expand Program Reach

- Enroll 50 additional youth into the mentorship program by Month 9, prioritizing those with limited access to supportive adult relationships.
- Outcome: By year-end, at least 75% of new participants will show measurable improvement in academic performance.

3. Deliver Skills Development Workshops

- Facilitate 40 skill-building workshops in leadership, financial literacy, mental health resilience, and career readiness.
- Outcome: 90% of participants will report increased confidence and readiness for post-secondary education or employment.

4. Foster Community Leadership

- Support youth-led projects that address local needs, engaging participants in planning, budgeting, and implementation.
- Outcome: 80% of participants will report increased civic engagement and leadership skills.

5. Ensure High Satisfaction & Retention

- Achieve a 90% satisfaction rate among participants and parents.
- Retain at least 85% of participants for the full program duration.

Evaluation Plan

We will measure impact through:

- Baseline & Post-Program Surveys: Tracking confidence, leadership, and belonging.
- Academic Progress: GPA, attendance, and engagement shifts.
- Mentor & Staff Feedback: Quarterly assessments of participant progress.
- Attendance & Retention Data: To identify participation patterns.
- Qualitative Case Studies: Capturing stories beyond the numbers.

Target Outcomes:

- 75% academic improvement.
- 90% increased confidence and leadership.
- 100% identifying at least one trusted adult.

Findings will be compiled into a year-end report, shared with stakeholders, and used to refine program delivery.

Budget Summary

Expense Category	Amount	Justification
Mentor Training Materials	\$4,000	Equip 20 mentors with curriculum and resource kits.
Program Supplies	\$6,000	Learning materials, technology access, project supplies.
Transportation Subsidies	\$3,500	Ensure travel is never a barrier to participation.
Workshop Facilitation Fees	\$8,000	Honoraria for 40 expert-led workshops.
Evaluation & Reporting	\$3,500	Tools, platforms, and staff time for impact tracking.
Total	\$25,000	—

Closing Statement

When Jordan first stepped into our mentorship program, he was quiet, uncertain, and unsure of his place in the world. Twelve months later, he was tutoring younger students, leading his basketball team, and preparing to be the first in his family to apply to college. Jordan's story is not an exception; it is what happens when young people are given a safe space, a trusted mentor, and the belief that they can achieve more than they imagined. For every Jordan who thrives, there are dozens still waiting for someone to open that door.

Your investment in Building Tomorrow will give 50 more youth in Scarborough that chance — the chance to be seen, supported, and equipped to lead. Together, we can turn potential into possibility, and possibility into a lasting legacy of confident, capable, and community-minded young leaders.

The need is here. The solution is ready. And with your partnership, the transformation begins.

About & Contact

Janelle Newbold is a Toronto-based writer specializing in mission-driven storytelling for nonprofits, grassroots leaders, and changemakers. She blends empathy, strategy, and clarity to create writing that inspires action and builds trust.

janelleenewbold@gmail.com

www.janellenewbold.journopotfolio.com