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COMMUNITY
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Mentor Me Program Creating Opportunity For Young Men of Color

Albuquerque, NM – Mentor Me, a project of Albuquerque Community Foundation and funded by My Brother's Keeper (MBK), is a unique grant program working to provide creative and innovative mentorship opportunities to benefit young men of color. (YMOC) Five winners of the program were announced today for a total of \$100,000. The five recipients each received a \$20,000 grant.

Research shows youth who are at risk for falling off track but have a mentor are 55% more likely to enroll in college, 78% more likely to volunteer regularly and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. The Mentor Me grants are focused on providing mentorships through education, the arts, juvenile justice system, job training and daily life.

- **Adelante (\$20,000):** DiverseIT, the technology training program at Adelante, in partnership with Cultivating Coders, will provide mentorship and job training for YMOC who are either enrolled or have completed a coding curriculum. A special focus is placed on mentorship for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Fathers NM (\$20,000):** Fathers NM collaborates with high schools and other partners to serve young men (under 25) who are expecting or parenting. Through the mentorship program, young fathers will have mentors to support them through education, employment and post-incarceration pathways.
- **Native American Community Academy Foundation (\$20,000):** The Hiyupo Boys Group provides 1:1 mentoring, college and career counseling and group activities grounded in Indigenous art and healing practices for 30 Native boys aged 12-19.
- **Together4Brothers (\$20,000):** T4B builds capacity of YMOC ages 12-14 to be leaders at all levels in their community. MentorMe will support three cohorts of young men leaders, ages 14-20 in 12-week leadership and mentoring programs with a focus on community connectivity in the International District.
- **NM Immigrant Law Center (\$20,000):** Funding for the Immigration Corps program, a mentorship and training program for YMOC at all stages of preparation for a legal career. The program matches YMOC with legal professionals (often prior mentees, themselves) and provides mentorship for new immigration attorneys and paralegals planning to apply to law school, as well as students interested in immigration law.

“Young men who have access to mentors are much more likely to succeed and be future leaders.” “said Joanna Colangelo, Community Impact Director at the Albuquerque Community Foundation. “Mentorship programs work. The grants made today will bring together young men of color and mentors from our community that can help them stay on track.”

MBK Alliance is an independent, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) born out of President Obama’s call to action to address persistent opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color and ensure all youth can reach their full potential. To learn more about MBK Alliance please visit: <https://www.mbkalliance.org/>.

The **Albuquerque Community Foundation** administers a permanent community endowment comprised of many gifts, large and small, and uses the earning from that endowment to make grants to other nonprofit organizations. Since its establishment in 1981, the Foundation has distributions of nearly \$52.5 million through its grant and scholarship programs.

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