



# Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance

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## Sonoma County Upstream Investments Resolution of Alignment

### Aligning Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance with the Sonoma County Upstream Investments Initiative

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Gary Nelson  
Tim Wallace  
Jeff Walter  
Joan Weill

**Non-profit ID**  
**#68-0429128**

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a community-wide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following **mission**: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments **vision** for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following **factors**:

#### Social and economic factors

Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities  
Community conditions  
Public opinion, public policy, and laws

#### Family and individual factors

Family dysfunction  
Negative peer influences  
Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community **goals**:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand **funding** for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote **organizational practices** that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of **outcomes-based practices** including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

WHEREAS, the following 26 **indicators of success** will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

1. Reduced child maltreatment
2. Reduced youth binge drinking
3. Reduced youth drug/alcohol use
4. Reduced youth depression
5. Reduced youth tobacco use
6. Reduced teen births
7. Reduced childhood obesity
8. Improved pre-school attendance
9. Improved 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading
10. Improved 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math
11. Improved high school completion
12. Improved higher education
13. Improved housing affordability
14. Reduced homelessness
15. Reduced juvenile arrests
16. Reduced adult arrests
17. Reduced domestic violence
18. Reduced gang membership
19. Improved youth connectedness
20. Reduced poverty
21. Reduced unemployment
22. Improved health insurance coverage
23. Improved fruit and vegetable consumption
24. Improved physical activity
25. Improved dental visits
26. Decreased hip fractures

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance shares the Upstream Investments **mission, goals, commitment to improving the indicators of success, and vision** and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

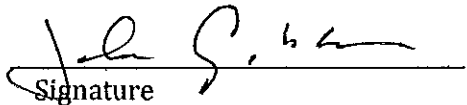
1. The mission of the Sonoma Valley "Stand By Me" Mentoring Alliance is to invest in the future of the community by creating and supervising one-on-one long-term relationships between caring adults and at-risk school children in need of academic and social support. Together, they build a trusting friendship, based on mutual respect, in a safe and supportive environment. When an individual adult mentors a child, the benefits to that child and to our communities are significant. A national study indicates that youth involved in formal, high quality relationships attend school more regularly, have better attitudes and behaviors at school, and are more likely to pursue post-secondary education. The study also discovered that mentored youth are 46% less likely to initiate drug use; 27% less likely to initiate alcohol use; and 32% less likely to hit someone than un-mentored youth.
2. Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance's school-based mentoring program positively impacts the following Upstream Investments indicators of success:
  - a. Reduced youth drug use
  - b. Reduced youth depression
  - c. Reduced youth tobacco use
  - d. Improved 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading
  - e. Improved 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math
  - f. Improved high school completion
  - g. Reduced juvenile arrests
  - h. Reduced gang membership
  - i. Improved youth connectedness
  - j. Reduced poverty
3. Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance is committed to submitting its School-Based Mentoring Program to the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.
4. Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance dedicates 100% of its funding to providing programming that supports the Sonoma County Upstream Investments community goals.
5. Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance's planning practices, organizational policies, budgeting, resource deployment, and contracting all reflect the Upstream Investments mission and vision.

6. Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance collaborates with Sonoma County Cradle to Career in a partnership that promotes Upstream Investments.
7. Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance promotes community-wide knowledge and understanding of Upstream Investments by linking to SonomaUpstream.org, including our alignment with Upstream Investments in our organizational publications; mentioning our Upstream Investments alignment in presentations to community organizations; and sharing our Upstream Investments alignment with our staff, mentors, parents, and the school personnel with whom we interact.

Approved and adopted the 26<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 2013.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance.

Following Roll Call Vote:      Ayes:      14  
   Nos:      0  
   Abstains:      0

  
Signature

John Gibbons, President, Board of Directors  
Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance