

NLC-RISC Mentor Program Description

Overview

The NLC-RISC Mentor Program pairs experienced member-pool staff mentors with first-time or newer member-pool staff from the same functional area. (Similar-level pairings are now available as well.) Participants meet virtually throughout the year, usually once a month, and also spend time together at in-person conferences and meetings when both are attending.

Goals

- Welcoming and supporting newer member-pool staff or those in a role that is new to them
- Fostering leadership development among experienced staff
- Enhancing engagement at the Staff Conference and throughout the year
- Building relationships and communication among member staff to strengthen the NLC-RISC member community
- Creating additional opportunities for NLC-RISC members to share information and work together toward common goals

Mentor Qualifications

- Support from your Pool Administrator
- Willing to commit 15-120 hours over the course of a year to meet with your mentee, attend scheduled program virtual events, and, if feasible for the pool, in-person NLC-RISC Staff Conference
- Experience in your functional area that will allow you to mentor newer staff and connect them to others in the functional area
- Willingness to learn from your mentees
- Understanding and willingness to share knowledge of NLC-RISC benefits and programs
- Desire to be a peer leader and relationship-builder

Mentee Qualifications

- Support from your Pool Administrator
- Willing to commit 15-20 hours over the course of a year to meet with your mentor, attend scheduled program virtual events, and, if feasible for the pool, in-person NLC-RISC Staff Conference
- Willingness to learn and share information with your mentor and other program participants

Roles/Responsibilities of Taking Part in the Mentor Program

Roles/Responsibilities	Mentors	Mentees
General	Reach out to welcome the mentee, give the mentee contact information, have a conversation, and answer questions	Provide contact information for mentor outreach and reciprocate contact
	Connect mentee to other people and to NLC-RISC resources (relevant online communities and roundtables, regional and local meetings, the RISC eNews, etc.)	Join relevant NLC-RISC online communities, and functional area roundtables and ask to receive the RISC eNews. Attend roundtables and other relevant events whenever possible.
	Meet regularly—we suggest once a month. We suggest having one of you send agenda items—questions or topics—a week or so before the meeting. We also suggest setting meeting dates in advance, at least at one meeting for the next.	Meet regularly—we suggest once a month. We suggest having one of you send agenda items—questions or topics—a week or so before the meeting. We also suggest setting meeting dates in advance, at least at one meeting for the next.
	Make yourself available to assist and mentor newer staff throughout the year	Respectfully contact mentor when you have questions or need support
Meetings/Conferences	Attend the NLC-RISC Staff conference and regional meetings, when feasible. Reach out in advance of the Staff Conference and regional meetings to welcome and connect with mentee (if not already done so) and greet the person onsite	Attend the NLC-RISC Staff conference and regional meetings, when feasible. Return mentor's email or call before the meeting and look for mentor at the meeting
	Serve as hosts/points of contact with newer staff at conferences and meetings	Make one or more opportunities to connect with your mentor
	Attend Mentor Program meetings (up to 3 times a year) and possibly new-member events as host	Attend Mentor Program meetings (up to 3 times a year) and attend new-member events

Benefits of Taking Part in the Mentor Program

Benefits	For Mentors	For Mentees
General	Leadership/Mentorship experience and development	Support and mentorship in addition to what is received in one's own pool
	Chance to develop relationships across pools	Chance to develop relationships across pools
	Increased knowledge of NLC-RISC programs and resources to support your own risk pool	Increased knowledge of NLC-RISC programs and resources to support your own risk pool
	Increased visibility amongst peers	Increased visibility amongst peers
Meetings/Conferences	Opportunity to be involved with the Mentor Program breakfast at the 2026 NLC-RISC Staff Conference, if you wish	Familiar person to introduce you to others at events including the Staff Conference