

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF COASTAL & NORTHERN NEW JERSEY**

**COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM CHILD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey Community Based mentoring program through a child must:

1. Be between 6-17 years of age. Once matched, a child can remain in the program until they turn 18 years old, or they finish high school.
2. Live in Bergen, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, or Warren counties and plan to stay in the area for the next year.
3. Be in need of additional adult supervision and guidance.
4. Have all child custody issues clearly resolved.
5. Want to participate in the program.
6. Have a custodial parent[s] or guardian[s] willing and capable of supporting a match in agreement with and abiding by all agency ground rules.
7. Reside in a one-parent/guardian home or, under certain situations they can reside in a two-parent home where there is a demonstrated need for an additional adult role model.
8. Have demonstrated need for service in one or more of the following areas:
  - a. is culturally and/or economically disadvantaged
  - b. exhibits poor social skills
  - c. has few friends their own age
  - d. lacks adequate support and attention of a stable adult
  - e. is underachieving in school
  - f. is overly dependent
  - g. has a sibling(s) with significant challenges that have affected the child
  - h. is insecure with and untrusting of adults
  - i. has low self-confidence
9. The child cannot currently be exhibiting severe anti-social behaviors (i.e. stealing, violence, or drug abuse) that would make a Community Based match an inappropriate placement for either the child or the volunteer.

***If the child you are referring to our program does not meet these criteria,  
please inquire about other programs offered in the counties we serve.***