

# IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING UNMET CAREER/SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS NEEDS OF PEDIATRIC & YOUNG ADULT ONCOLOGY PATIENTS DURING TREATMENT AND SURVIVORSHIP

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- There are career/school preparedness and psychosocial needs of pediatric and young adult oncology patients that are not being met and should be addressed.
- A needs assessment has been developed to identify the unmet career/school preparedness and psychosocial needs pediatric and young adult oncology patients between the ages of 12 and 30.
- A career-based mentorship program can serve as a tool to address the unmet needs and serve as a resource for hospital educators, academic liaisons, social workers, psychologists, and other members of the care team.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY

The Needs Assessment & Service Bridge (Haines et al., 2021) was adapted by removing items not relevant to the program's outcomes and by adding items related to school preparedness and career exploration. The 38-item survey is administered to AYAs at the beginning of each mentorship and 6 months into the mentorship to illustrate how the program addressed their needs .

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Connecting Champions is a career-based mentorship program that identifies and addresses unmet needs of AYAs ages 12–30. Participants are asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and paired with a mentor in that field to help them achieve a brighter future.

## OUTCOMES

### Needs Assessments - Initial (58 Participants)

- 57% female, 78% White and an average age of 19.7 (SD=3.6)
- Participants reported an average of 17 needs out of a possible 38 that they needed more help with.

The most commonly reported needs were all career or school related:

- career experience (84%)
- networking opportunities (78%)
- job options/career planning/internships (all 75%±2)

### Needs Assessments - Follow-up (16 Participants)

- 61% Female, 83% White and an average age of 19.4 (SD=3.6)
- Participants reported that the program helped them with an average of 27 needs out of 38.



For more information on Connecting Champions scan the QR Code to visit our website!

