

# MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## COMMISSIONERS APPROVE \$90,000 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX MENTORING PROGRAM

Kennewick, WA – The Board of Commissioners approved funding in the amount of \$90,000 from the Public Safety Sales Tax for the FORGE Youth Mentoring Program.

### **\$90,000 FOR FORGE YOUTH MENTORING**

FORGE Youth Mentoring will serve young people ages 8-18 in Benton County to provide a one-to-one mentoring relationship that will help youth identify purpose, resilience, basic life and social skills, and create stronger academic and job preparedness. According to FORGE Youth Mentoring, these programs provide a safe and effective setting for kids' growth and adults to serve. Programs that follow the national proven standards of the Effective Elements of Practice are shown to make a significant difference in the lives of young people. Kids regularly meeting with an adult mentor for an average of one hour a week are: 52% less likely to skip school, 46% less likely to begin using drugs, 32% less violent crimes, 27% less likely to begin using alcohol (BBBS Making a Difference, 1995). Other studies show further impact on the lives of students in regard to emotional health, school work, relationship to adults, etc. Funding will support resources for community development and training, quality assurance and evaluation, marketing and promotion of the program, staffing, and program supplies.

### **ABOUT BENTON COUNTY**

Benton County is located in south-central Washington. The county seat is located in Prosser, and its largest city is Kennewick. Benton County was created on March 8, 1905 and was named after U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Benton County operates under the plural executive form of government with three commissioners and seven other elected officials. Benton County has offices located in Prosser, Kennewick, and Richland. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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