

# Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Program Quality News connects education and human service leaders with research, case studies, tools and training to improve the quality of youth programs.

## FEATURE

### Leaders Gather to Celebrate & Elevate Their Work for Young People



### Ready by 21 NATIONAL MEETING

Afterschool leaders from around the country gathered in Atlanta this month to learn about the latest tools and concepts for improving program quality.

At the Ready by 21 National Meeting, hosted by the Weikart Center and the Forum for Youth Investment, we shared some of our newest thinking about how young people learn and how system-level supports can strengthen the Youth Program Quality Intervention. We also held a special gathering to celebrate 10 years of work in the afterschool field with our innovation partners - our clients who have invested in the development of supports for their systems.

Check out materials from each of our sessions below. You can see photos [here](#); see all presentation materials [here](#); and read more about upcoming Weikart Center events, webinars and new products [here](#). For a comprehensive listing of all that the Weikart Center has to offer, read more [here](#).

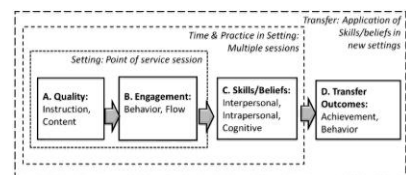
## NATIONAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

### The Ready by 21 Expanded Learning Initiative

#### Part 1 - Presentation:

The Ready by 21 Expanded Learning Initiative helps leaders increase alignment between schools and out-of-school time (OST) systems, and helps OST systems improve outcomes related to school success. This interactive presentation focused on positioning high-quality OST opportunities as a leading strategy for expanded learning and school reform.

[See materials](#)



#### Part 2 - Panel Discussion

In the follow-up to Part 1, we learned from leaders in Nashville, Palm Beach and Providence who are taking different approaches to aligning high-quality OST opportunities with the work of schools.

[See materials](#)

## Youth Driven Spaces: Engaging Youth in Your Community

The Youth Driven Spaces project guides out-of-school time programs in implementing structures and strategies that foster 21st Century skill-building and meaningful civic engagement for older youth. We discussed methods to support youth participation in governance, action planning and project-based learning, and saw how training, coaching and technical assistance can support the sustained development of engaging programs.



[See more information](#)

## Moving from Quality Improvement Findings to Quality Improvement Systems

Attendees learned about a process for developing program quality indicators and feeding the data back to both programs and funders. An evaluation of 21st Century Community Learning Center programs was used to demonstrate how indicators can be developed to: show areas of high program quality and illuminate areas for improvement; how data can be collected and entered with cost-effective technologies; and how results can be disseminated for use in program improvement and in advocacy and support efforts.

Context	Indicator	Data Source
Organizational Context	Staffing Model	Site Coordinator Staff Survey
	Continuous Improvement	Staff Survey
	Youth Governance	Site Coordinator Survey
Instructional Context	Exit Interview Policy	Staff Survey
	Academic Press	Youth Survey
	Engaging Instruction	Staff Survey Youth PQA
External Relationships	System Status	Site Coordinator Survey
	Family Engagement	Parent Survey
	School Alignment	Site Coordinator Staff Survey
Youth Characteristics	Community Resources	Site Coordinator Survey
	Socio-emotional Development	Youth Survey
	Academic Efficacy - Grades 4-12	Youth Survey
Family Satisfaction	Academic Efficacy	Parent Survey
	Family Satisfaction	Parent Survey

The Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) is a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. For more information on the tool, visit [www.cysp.org](http://www.cysp.org).

[See materials](#)

## Access, Coordination & More: Going beyond the Basics of Program Data

Have you ever yearned for data that could help you act with more intention about the experiences that you make available for children and youth in your community? This workshop provided an opportunity to consider how program data and program mapping can influence planning and decision making, and ultimately make a difference in young people's access to high-quality programming.

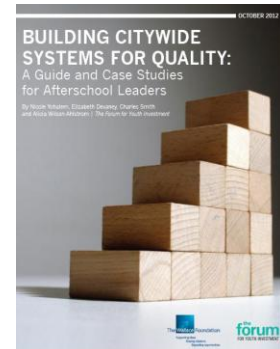


[See materials](#)

## Strengthening Out-Of-School Time Through Quality Improvement Systems: Lessons from the Field

Are you from an afterschool system that is implementing or ready to implement quality assessment and improvement processes system-wide? This discussion focused on building a culture of quality improvement, expanding and sustaining quality improvement strategies, and leveraging investments in quality improvement. Leaders from afterschool systems discussed how their focus on quality has evolved over time.

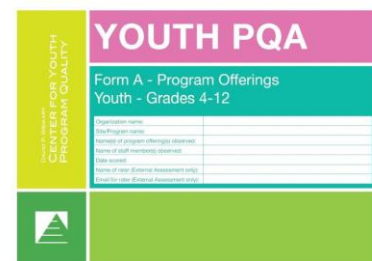
[See materials](#)



## Youth Program Quality Assessment 2.0

The Youth Program Quality Assessment is a validated instrument to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. It has been used in community organizations, schools, camps and other places where youth have fun, work and learn with adults. This session covered what the instrument measures, how leaders in the field use the data to build professional competencies, and exciting new adaptations of the Youth Program Quality Assessment.

[See more information](#)



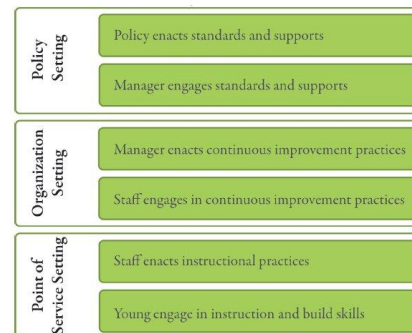
# CALENDAR

## What's Next? Series Webinar: From Quality to Outcomes

Afterschool providers have long believed that their programs make a difference in the lives of the young people they serve. This webinar presents the QuEST framework as a support for thinking about how individual youth change as a result of OST experience. Researchers from University of Pittsburgh, American Institutes for Research, Public Profit and the Weikart Center will present aligned evidence from several evaluation studies that measure both quality and outcomes.

Tuesday, March 26, 1 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)



## What's Next? Series Webinar: Program Quality Assessment Supplements: Applications in a Variety of Content Areas and Settings

Hear specifics about the Youth Program Quality Assessment - a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs - and about how it has been adapted for different settings, including STEM, health and wellness, camp and art.

Thursday, April 4, 1 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)



## Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers

Want to learn how to train your afterschool staff to increase the quality of their work? The Weikart Center is offering its Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers course. This session teaches staff how to deliver the Youth Work Methods courses, which empower direct staff with tools to increase the quality of their instruction which can lead to higher youth engagement.



Where & When: Chicago, Ill., June 12-14

Registration opens soon.

## Coaching for Continuous Improvement Training

Learn how to improve supports, including how to maximize data-driven planning for out-of-school-time programs that you serve. During this training, you'll examine the structure and philosophy of the Technical Assistance and Coaching Support Systems (TACSS) model as a way to deepen the Youth Program Quality Intervention.



Where & When: Ann Arbor, Mich., June 19-20

[Learn more](#)

[Register now](#) Registration ends May 24.

## Youth Work Methods Experience

Improve your ability to provide comprehensive support to staff to help them improve their practices. Explore the Active-Participatory Approach in-depth, experience three key Youth Work Methods and strengthen coaching and observational skills.



Where & When: Ypsilanti, Mich., July 22-23

[Learn more](#)

[Register now](#) Registration ends June 28.

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The Forum for Youth Investment is the proud parent company of The Ready by 21 National Partnership, the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, the Children's Cabinet Network and SparkAction.org.



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