

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.

FEATURES

Youth Driven Spaces Pilot Launched in Atlanta, Ga.

How can youth programs help turn teens into leaders? Staff from out-of-school time programs in Atlanta gathered at a two-day training last month to learn new strategies for building leadership skills in middle school and high school youth.



The Youth Driven Spaces Coaches training, delivered by the Weikart Center in partnership with the Neutral Zone, focused on increasing leadership opportunities that boost youth engagement and skill development. Seventeen staff from providers affiliated with United Way Worldwide and the Boys & Girls Club of Atlanta were exposed to new strategies and tools to build their capacity as coaches who: support youth engagement efforts by staff, foster youth-adult partnerships, support teen advisory councils and sustain youth driven spaces, where adults and youth share responsibility and leadership. These organizational coaches will receive ongoing technical assistance as they work with their sites.

Find out more about the Youth Driven Spaces Intervention.

Thank you, Youth Workers!

On May 2, communities, organizations and caring people from around the globe joined together for an international day of celebrating and honoring youth workers. The Weikart Center wishes to personally say "thank you" to youth workers who are such a valuable and often unsung force in their communities.

According to the National Collaboration for Youth, a youth worker is an individual who works with or on behalf of youth to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and place in society as they make the transition from dependence to independence.

For more information about Thank a Youth Worker Day, please visit the TAYWD website.



REPORTS AND GUIDES

Building Public Support for Afterschool Programs

Afterschool providers who wonder how to get out the message about the importance of high-quality programming might want to watch Reggie Moore's latest effort in Milwaukee. The Center for Youth Engagement created a two-minute video of images, text and music that Moore (the center's founder) says "captures the need for quality afterschool opportunities that are coordinated and reflective of young people's needs and interests."



The center works with stakeholders throughout the city to improve access to and the impact of afterschool services "through the building of a coordinated out-of-school time system," Moore says. He uses the video as an introduction in presentations to business, government and community leaders. Watch it [here](#).

PRESENTATIONS

Making a Case for Quality, Palm Beach, Fla.

Weikart Center Executive Director Charles Smith presented at Prime Time Palm Beach County's Afterschool Symposium on "System-building and quality: What's at stake?" Other sessions included ways to: create solid organizational frameworks, offer challenging learning experiences, promote family outreach and involvement, and professionalize the afterschool field.



When & Where: May 9-10, West Palm Beach, Fla.
[Learn more here](#)

CALENDAR

Coaching for Continuous Improvement Training

Learn how to improve supports, including how to maximize data-driven planning for out-of-school time programs 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.



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



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

