

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

Collaboration Aims to Eliminate Educational Disparities in St. Paul, Minn.

The [Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation](#) is one of six organizations partnering with Greater Twin Cities United Way and Generation Next to help eliminate educational disparities in the Twin Cities.



The partnering organizations, which includes the Center for Applied Research and Education Improvement and Child Trends, will implement a quasi-experimental design to determine the impact [Tutoring Partnership](#) (a collaborative collective impact initiative that provides intentional academic interventions) has on math and reading achievement for students.

Since research has consistently demonstrated the importance of program quality in achieving student outcomes, a key component of the partnership's capacity-building work is the [YPQI](#), a continuous quality improvement model for out-of-school time programs developed and validated by the Weikart Center. The evaluation will demonstrate how capacity-building affects program quality and student outcomes. While there is relatively strong evidence on the impact of tutoring in the field, there is limited research around capacity building efforts focused on program improvement. The study of the Tutoring Partnership will add to this body of research and provide a model that can then be replicated in other cities and networks if found to be effective.

[Read more >>](#)

SCE Announces the Social and Emotional Learning Challenge Partners

For the next 18 months, eight informal learning programs for teens—ranging from a wooden boat building program in Philadelphia to a performing arts/community action hub in New York City will join Susan Crown Exchange (SCE) as partners in the Social and Emotional Learning Challenge.



The initiative aims to elevate the importance of social and emotional learning through an intensive effort with an exceptional cohort of teen programs. The finalists were chosen from among 250 youth organizations, making this an impressive group of youth programs that have shown striking results in their work.

[Read more>>](#)

Reports and Guides

Strategies to Promote Non-Cognitive Skills

Until recently, the majority of child experts touted cognitive skills as the leading predictors of student achievement. Now, a growing number of researchers are raising the importance of non-cognitive skills in student success. *Strategies to Promote Non-Cognitive Skills: A Guide For Youth Developers*

& Educators furthers the dialogue by profiling resources that support youth in building skills in five key areas: academic behaviors, academic mindsets, academic perseverance, learning strategies, and social skills. The 16 strategies in the guide are grouped into three types: curricula, self-guided activities, and programmatic approaches. Further, they are presented in tiers based on strength of evidence, use with diverse populations, and applicability to different age groups.



[Read more >>](#)

Huffington Post Blogger

Karen Pittman

Karen Pittman, the Forum for Youth Investment's CEO, recently launched a new blog on the Huffington Post. Karen's blog will build on youth development research and best practices in the field to focus on how we can improve the odds for all children and youth to succeed. Her [first installment](#) talks about the need to help all kids by providing not just more time in school but more high-quality learning time in the many settings where young people learn. You can click the email and fan buttons [on her page](#) to be notified of future postings.

Presentations

What We Learned at the Ready by 21 National Meeting

"Inspiring."

That's how the third annual Ready by 21 National Meeting was summed up by one of the more than 300 leaders who came from around the country to share experiences, research and stories about working together to improve the odds for young people. Over the following weeks we will share what we learned through video clips and blogs, and keep the momentum going through follow-up opportunities - starting now.



[Link to materials >>](#)

Focus on Outcomes: Developing a Comprehensive Measurement Framework in Afterschool

Looking for ways to capture the student-level benefits of your afterschool program or system on the hard to measure skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and initiative? This webinar provided a concept for a comprehensive

measurement framework, highlighted tools that can help communities measure soft skills, and provided examples of systems that have undertaken this shift.

Panelists discussed the value of measuring soft skills, progress made in measuring those skills, and how communities have begun to embed those into a more comprehensive measurement system that can lead to program improvement.



American Youth
Policy Forum

Presenters:

- Charles Smith, executive director, [David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality](#)
- Patricia Nagelkirk, director, Community Impact, [United Way of Greater Cincinnati](#)
- Jocelyn Wiedow, youth community coordinator, [Sprockets Network Organizer, YWCA St Paul](#)
- Emily Centeio, teaching fellow, [Epiphany School](#), Boston

Read [this blog](#) about a report that analyzes tools to measure soft skills development in out-of-school time programs.

[Recording available here >>](#)

YPQI 101: Performance Management in Expanded Learning Time

Is it time to institute a quality improvement system (QIS) in your afterschool program? Learn how a QIS can improve the infrastructure of an out-of-school time network, institute performance-based accountability and build the skills of managers and frontline staff. The United Way of Greater Houston reflects on its implementation of the YPQI.



[Recording available here >>](#)

Calendar of Events

Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers - Save the Dates!

Want to learn how to train your afterschool staff to increase the quality of their work? The Weikart Center's Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers course 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.

The course consists of four weeks of distance learning, three days of live training, and one week of distance follow-up.

Where & When: Louisville, Ky., late Sept; Oakland, Calif., Nov 10-12; Seattle, Wash., Dec 10-12

Registration coming soon



Youth Work Management Training of Trainers - Save the Date!

This Training of Trainers is targeted at managers and site leaders who wish to support their sites throughout the quality improvement cycle. Graduates of the Management TOT can facilitate the Planning with Data and Quality Coaching workshops, as well as provide comprehensive logistical and professional development support to staff who are involved in the process.



The course consists of three weeks of distance learning, two days of live training and one week of distance follow-up.

Where & When: Seattle, Wash., Nov 13-14

Registration coming soon

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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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