

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

Summer Program Curbs Summer Learning Loss

For nearly 50 students in Ypsilanti, Mich., the first day back to school was not a shock to the system, thanks to an initiative shown to curb summer learning loss. The initiative, Bright Futures, is a non-traditional summer learning and enrichment experience that is backed by a federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant.



Response to the program has been overwhelming from students and educators alike, and the research is there to back up the enthusiasm. [Find out more](#) about the program and how effective it is.

YMCA Tells Stories about Program Quality and Impact

The Chicago YMCA's [annual report](#) (pages 5-11) shows the dedication of its staff to quality and program effectiveness through two very different stories.

The first describes the transformation that staff saw in one young girl after employing methods learned from a Youth Program Quality Intervention program. The second explains how the YMCA is raising the bar for the quality of youth programming throughout Chicago.



Afterschool Network Boosts Youth Leadership Skills

How can afterschool providers boost youth leadership skills? The Nashville After Zone Alliance provided a spark recently with a Youth Leadership Retreat for 100 middle schoolers. The youth leaders took part in workshops (such as Networking 101, Creating a Vision and Event Planning) and team-building activities.

[See local newspaper coverage here.](#)



Presentations

Youth Driven Spaces and Summer Learning PQA at Bridge Conference

Training Coordinator Ravi Ramaswamy presented two sessions at the 11th annual Bridge Conference that featured Weikart Center work.



The conference focuses on ensuring that all youth (ages 5-18) are accessing quality services both in and out of school to help them succeed in school and in life. The key lies in creating strong partnerships between schools and afterschool and youth development programs.

When & Where: Seattle, Wash., October 21-22

[Learn more >>](#)

Technical Assistance for Wallace Foundation Grantees

The Weikart Center has been included as a technical assistance provider for the Wallace Initiative. At Wallace Foundation meetings this month, Charles Smith, Weikart's executive director, spoke about relationships between quality and outcomes. He will continue to consult with several systems about measuring youth skills.



Calendar of Events

Coaching for Continuous Improvement

Learn how to improve supports, including how to maximize data-driven planning, for the 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 model as a way to deepen the Youth Program Quality Intervention.



When & Where: Ypsilanti, Mich., November 20-21

[Learn more >>](#)

[Register now >>](#)

Host the Next Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers!

The Weikart Center is looking for networks that are interested in hosting a Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers (TOT). If your network or organization plans on sending more than five people to a Methods TOT, you should consider hosting!



[Contact Ravi Ramaswamy for more information.](#)

Ready by 21 National Meeting

Every year, the Ready by 21 National Meeting brings together hundreds of leaders from around the country who are working to get all young people ready by 21 - for college, work and life.



Our Third Annual National Meeting will deliver a number of presentations from the Ready by 21 Expanded Learning Initiative, with special sessions for program evaluators and others interested in outcome measurement and evaluation. We will also present and request feedback on the Weikart Center's prototype for program quality certification, which is rooted in an evidence-based quality management standard.

Where & When: Northern Kentucky, April 22-24

[Learn more >>](#)

Opportunities

Chicago YMCA Program Quality Coordinator

The Chicago YMCA has an opening for a full-time Program Quality Coordinator whose primary responsibility would be continued rollout and project management of the Program Quality Intervention process throughout the Association.

[Official posting >>](#)

Reminder

The Weikart Center has Moved!

Our new address is:
The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality
301 W. Michigan Ave., Ste. 200
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Staff phone numbers and email addresses have remained the same.

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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.

