

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.

Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week: *Preparing Youth to Thrive* Giveaway!

Next week, April 24-28, we celebrate Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week. It's important we take time to appreciate and honor those who dedicate their careers to serving youth in out-of-school time settings. The Weikart Center is celebrating by giving away five copies of our [SEL field guide](#), *Preparing Youth to Thrive: Promising Practices for Social & Emotional Learning*. [Enter to win!](#)

For more information on how to join the effort or ideas to help celebrate afterschool professionals, visit the [National Afterschool Association's website](#).



The Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality Reaffirms Support for Out-of-School Time and Investments in Youth

The current administration recently released a [budget blueprint](#) that outlines extensive cuts for a wide range of programs and departments. This blueprint signals a shift away from supporting working families and low-income children as many afterschool programs, school lunch programs and teacher-training initiatives are recommended to be curbed in favor of expanded charter schools and private-school vouchers. YouthBuild, Americorps and other supports for opportunity youth are being completely eliminated in this new budget proposal.

The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, a division of the Forum for Youth Investment, empowers education and human service leaders to adapt, implement, and scale best-in-class, research validated quality improvement systems to advance child and youth development. The Weikart Center is committed to helping programs enhance the experiences they provide for youth and therefore strongly disagree with an approach that involves dismantling the progress that has been made to date. We will work tirelessly to protect and promote the programs and opportunities that assist children and youth to reach their potential.

Program Quality Learning Brief from the Oregon Community Foundation

The K-12 Student Success: Out-of-School Time Initiative is focused on boosting student success among Oregon's middle school students. Their latest publication, [in a series of learning briefs](#), is on Program Quality. [The learning brief](#) summarizes findings from the Initiative grantees' out-of-school time programs in Oregon, including their experience with the Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) and the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA).

Resource Highlight: Making Quality Count

The Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiative provided leaders and intermediaries from cities and states across the country with a bold challenge of improving the quality and reach of OST programming, a suite of technical assistance supports and an infusion of national and local momentum. The initiative began in 2010, and while the field has evolved in the past seven years and research has advanced significantly to address new opportunities and challenges, the findings and lessons learned from this study continue to be relevant. [Revisit the lessons learned from this key resource](#), Making Quality Count: Lessons Learned from the Ready by 21 Quality Counts Initiative.

Calendar

[Weikart Center Capacity Building Opportunities](#)

Check out the upcoming course offering, and contact Jennifer@cypq.org with any questions.



Youth Work Methods Training-of-Trainers
June 5-7 - Ann Arbor, Mich. - [Register by April 28](#)

[Click here for more information on capacity building training.](#)

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