

# Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

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

## Feature

### Social and Emotional Learning in American Youth Social Circus Programs

The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality conducted a study commissioned by the American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO) to assess program quality and youth outcomes in the AYCO Social Circus Network in comparison to other youth programs and those known to promote social and emotional learning among participating adolescents. The study was conducted over nine months and eleven sites, with eight participating organizations, including [San Diego's Fern Street Circus](#). The study showed that youth in these social circus programs made progress in the development of social and emotional skills at the level of other exemplary youth development programs and well ahead of a nonselective group of afterschool youth programs.

[Read the full evaluation here.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Registration Open for the Ready by 21 National Meeting

Registration is open for the Ready by 21 National Meeting in Palm Beach County, Florida, on **April 18-20, 2018**. Join the Weikart Center staff and partners engaging in YPQI at the annual pre-meeting on April 18 from 1-5 PM.

The [National Meeting](#) brings together more than 500 local, state and national leaders who like you are committed to improving partnerships, policies and practices for children and youth. These leaders manage change at all levels - from state policy coordination and community-wide cradle-to-career efforts to out-of-school time systems, single-issue coalitions and neighborhood-based initiatives.

The Forum for Youth Investment and the Weikart Center hope to see you there!

[Follow this link to register.](#)

### Leadership Development: *Authentic Leadership: Shifting Your Leadership and Facilitation Norms*

Three of the Weikart Center's highly skilled Field Consultants have teamed up to provide a leadership development opportunity to help you grow, thrive and challenge the status quo! Monica Marie Jones, Nikki Hale and bob McNeil invite you to attend **Authentic Leadership: Shifting Your Leadership and Facilitation Norms** in Chicago, May 3-5. We are often thrust into leadership positions without the skills, training or support needed to lead our teams effectively. This three day intensive experience will inspire you with insight and infuse you with skills and strategies to help shift your leadership to the next level. Come as you are. Leave as a dynamic facilitator and a more authentic leader.

[Follow this link to register.](#) Discount tickets are available for the Action Takers (early birds), until March 15.

## Capacity Building

Are you a manager or site leader who wants to support your program sites through the Quality Improvement Cycle? Are you interested in building your capacity to offer professional development opportunities to your program staff?

Upcoming Training of Trainers:

- Ann Arbor, MI Management TOT: April 12-13, 2018 - [Register here.](#)
- Houston, TX Methods TOT: April 25-27, 2018 - [Register here.](#)

Upcoming Summer Learning PQI Assessor Coach Training:

- Ann Arbor, MI: April 9-11, 2018 - [Register Here.](#) For more information, view the [flyer.](#)

If you are interested in attending a Capacity Building training, [please fill out this form](#) so we can contact you when opportunities are available. TOT trainings will continue to be added throughout the year.

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

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## Opportunities

### David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

#### Capacity Building Training Specialist

The Capacity Building Training Specialist will manage the delivery of training and technical assistance to the Weikart Center's national client base of out-of-school time (OST) systems. Key responsibilities will include: managing all aspects - from project design to logistics to delivery – of the Weikart Center's core capacity-building curricula (e.g., Training of Trainers (TOT) courses) and other routine trainings; facilitating the development of an active national learning community organized around the Weikart Center's quality improvement content and training methods; supporting the development of new and ongoing improvement of existing training and technical assistance products and services and delivering training for strategic projects or clients. The position will be based in the Weikart Center's Ypsilanti, Mich. office.

[View complete position description here.](#)

#### Research Assistant

The Research Assistant will support the research team in providing performance information and data products to clients. Primary focus will be on the quality of client experience with Weikart Center online technologies for data collection and reporting. The ideal candidate will combine strong customer service skills with basic research understanding and a comfort teaching others how to use on-line platforms and software. The position will be based in the Weikart Center's Ypsilanti, Mich. office.

[View the complete position description here.](#)

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