



Ready by 21 Webinar Series: Introduction to Ready by 21

July 2010

In July, the Forum for Youth Investment hosted a webinar on the topic of an 'Introduction to Ready by 21'. The session, part of the Ready by 21 Webinar Series, featured an overview of the Ready by 21 Strategies and helped listeners understand the core concepts and how they apply to their work. The session focused on the importance of leadership change- specifically the need for leaders across the country to think differently, act differently, act together and track progress in order to change the odds for children and youth. The session also looked at the Ready by 21 National Partnership, a collection of the leading nonprofit organizations in a range of sectors that have come together in order to expand the reach and impact of Ready by 21.

Q & A

In response to questions submitted during the webinar, please find the following answers:

- **How do you identify "leaders"?**

We define leaders as those who:

- are change-makers who recognize the need for a new approach to address children and youth issues
- have the capacity (funds, expertise and time), motivation, authority and ability to engage other leaders
- work in all sectors: business, government, nonprofit, education, advocacy, philanthropy, research, and in the community, including children and youth
- work at all levels: setting policy, managing work, doing work

- **Checks and Balances: How can we make sure that there is 'equity resource distribution' at school districts?**

One resource that advocates for 'equity resource distribution' may want to consider is a Children, Youth and Families Resource Map as a means of communicating need to school district leadership. Children, Youth and Families resource maps can help decision makers get a birds-eye view of how much is being spent across departments and programs. Though CYF maps come in many forms, and target various different audiences, a quality CYF map can help decision makers and community leaders gain a better understanding of how dollars are spent on the outcomes that we would like to see for children and youth. More information about CYF resource maps can be found on the Forum's website at:

<http://forumfyi.org/content/adding-it-brochure-rationale-and-guide-mapping-public-resources-children-youth-families>

- **How can local communities participate with RB21? AND When can we bring you to our community to help facilitate this with our community leaders? We are in the process of pre-planning stages on workforce development and improving graduation rate and reducing dropout rate!**

There are a range of options for communities looking for ways to improve the odds that all youth will be ready for college, work, and life. These opportunities range from attending a Ready by 21 Institute to participating in distance coaching to on-site options for structured facilitation, keynote presentations, and Ready by 21 'Primer' Days. Please contact Ian Faigley, Senior Manager, at ian@forumfyi.org for more information about these options.

- **Do you train leaders to facilitate collaborative efforts/exercises to achieve this type of community effort?**

We provide various levels of assistance for leaders facilitating collaborative efforts in their community. One opportunity is the Ready by 21 Institute, which is a two day training offered 2-4 times per year. If you are interested in attending an upcoming Institute, please contact Kiley Bednar at kiley@forumfyi.org.

- **The discussion of fragmentation and the image of overlapping/conflicting/inaccessible services really resonated with me. Are there any resources that you can share that will help communities with the strategic planning process required to address this issue?**

We do offer consulting related to Strategic Planning. One initial resource is a one-pager on “What Makes an Action Plan a Ready by 21 Action Plan”. If you are interested in this resource please contact Kiley Bednar at kiley@forumfyi.org.

- **Is there a national United Way initiative about the RB21 program that our local UW's would have been made aware of?**

United Way Worldwide is the signature partner in the Ready by 21 National Partnership. In that role, UWW has convened a learning group and offered a range of technical assistance opportunities to local United Ways. If your United Way would like more information on resources and technical assistance available specifically to the United Way community, please refer them to Ayeola Fortune, Director of Education Partnerships, Education Team, United Way Worldwide, at Ayeola.Fortune@uww.unitedway.org.