

# The Unique Commitment of the Ready by 21 National Partners



The Ready by 21 National Partnership is committed to meeting leaders where they are – literally and conceptually. The Partnership is a unique collaboration between national organizations that represent business, education, government, nonprofit, advocacy and community change organizations and some of the leading research and technical assistance organizations that work with communities and states. Combined we reach over 650,000 state and local leaders who, in turn, influence the lives of more than 1 million children and youth.

We work with leaders who are just beginning to think about how better partnerships and clearer data can help them get where they are going, as well as those who have already formed a coalition and started aligning community or state efforts for children and youth. And, because of who we are, we understand and respect the range of perspectives and priorities that leaders bring to the table.

Each National Partner works to meet their members where they are. School administrators working to transform schools and improve student achievement. Nonprofit organizations facing increasing demand, shrinking budgets and

requests for greater accountability. Policy makers overwhelmed with competing proposals and budget deficits. Business leaders committed to developing a ready and able workforce.

Together, however, we challenge all leaders to do more. We help leaders get further faster by focusing on the fundamental leadership capacities needed to undergird any change effort and offering a range of information, tools and services free or at reduced costs.

Our assistance, however, comes with an ask. We need those who join the Ready by 21 Leadership Network to keep us honest, provide feedback on the value-add of our work and, most importantly, share their struggles and successes. Connecting you and your insights to your counterparts across the country is the most powerful action we can take to change the odds for all children and youth.

Are you ready to be engaged? If so, we're ready to:

*“Every day there are new people – youth and adults – at the table and the energy is magnificent and getting to work directly with youth in the coalition is both inspiring and incredibly fun. Thank you for making my life more joyful.”*  
– Local Coalition Leader

MEET <i>you where you are</i>		CHALLENGE <i>you to do what you know is really needed</i>	HELP <i>you get further faster with targeted tools &amp; capacity-building services that ensure that you can check YES on the Leadership Standards check-list below.</i>				ASK <i>you to be an active part of the solution</i>
<i>Understand what you want to change</i>	<i>...and how you have organized to do it.</i>	<i>See how thinking differently and acting differently can help you do more with what you have.</i>	<i>Build Broader Partnerships</i>	<i>Set Bigger Goals</i>	<i>Use Better Data and Information for Decision-making</i>	<i>Implement Bolder Strategies</i>	<i>Be a Champion for Change</i>
Which child and youth outcomes?	Major programs, policies or initiatives?	Have you stretched your goals to serve more, achieve more, expect more?	<input type="checkbox"/> Involved key stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/> Established goals for children & youth that really reflect what we know about how they develop and learn?	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted a data-driven decision-making process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Improved the quality, reach and coordination of programs, services and systems?	Are you ready to commit to a plan that links efforts to outcomes?
Which family, school, community supports?	Issue-specific or “big tent” coalitions or coordinating bodies?	Linked your efforts with others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthened, linked and aligned coalitions and networks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Defined the essential supports needed in order to establish clear goals for all families, settings and systems?	<input type="checkbox"/> Identified & filled information and data gaps and connected data across systems & levels?	<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged youth and families as change makers?	Connect to your colleagues & counterparts?
Whose commitments?	Galvanizing event or report?	Created shared visions, resources and agendas?	<input type="checkbox"/> Created or supported the development of an overarching leadership council?	<input type="checkbox"/> Brought the best information about what works into the decision-making process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Aligned policies and prioritized the use of resources?	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased public demand for quality supports and clear results?	Communicate successes and struggles?
Whose resource allocations?	Major planning process?	Documented your progress child by child, community by community?					Critique the Partnership’s efforts?
		Assessed your capacity for change against clear standards?					Capture your impact? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common goals.</li> <li>• Managed commitments.</li> <li>• Monitored efforts.</li> <li>• Improved conditions.</li> <li>• Changed lives.</li> </ul>

## ENGAGE

*through a range of learning and exchange opportunities designed to inform, instruct, involve, inquire and improve performance.*