



Ready by 21[®]

A set of innovative strategies that helps communities improve the odds that all children and youth will be ready for college, work and life.

Ready by 21 is built on the Forum's Building Blocks for Effective Change: **Broader Partnerships, Bigger Goals, Better Data, Bolder Actions.**

Ready by 21 provides **standards** and **solutions** for leaders to carry out these changes and methods to measure **success**. Our theory: When leaders come together to fundamentally change the way their communities do business, they change the supports available to young people – and thus improve outcomes on a large scale, for the long term.

Ready by 21 guides leaders to improve the quantity, quality and consistency of supports – such as education, civic engagement, arts, recreation, health, job training and interpersonal skill development. We offer a range of services, from publications and webinars to technical assistance and tools to carry out large-scale reform.

The Ready by 21 Theory of Change

Moving the small gear makes a big difference.



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Learn more at www.readyby21.org.

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The Forum's Reach

The Forum has worked directly with local coalitions, government agencies and service providers in more than 75 communities, and with leadership groups and agencies in 25 states.

Communities

- Alexandria, Va.
- Asheville, N.C.
- Atlanta, Ga.
- Austin, Texas
- Baltimore, Md.
- Broome County, N.Y.
- Broward County, Fla.
- Buffalo, N.Y.
- Buncombe County, N.C.
- Butler County, Iowa
- Central Falls, R.I.
- Cerro Gordo County, Iowa
- Charlotte, N.C.
- Charlottesville, Va.
- Chattanooga, Ten.
- Chicago, Ill.
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Columbus, Ind.
- Denver, Colo.
- Des Moines, Iowa
- Detroit, Mich.
- El Dorado County, Calif.
- Evansville, Ind.
- Floyd County, Iowa
- Ft. Myers, Fla.
- Franklin County, Iowa
- Georgetown Divide, Calif.
- Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Hampton, Va.
- Hancock County, Iowa
- Howard County, Md.
- Indianapolis, Ind.
- Kamehameha, Hawaii
- Kansas City, Mo.
- Kossuth County, Iowa
- Linn County, Iowa
- Los Angeles, Calif.
- Louisville, Ky.
- Maui, Hawaii
- Miami, Fla.
- Milwaukee, Wis.
- Mitchell County, Iowa
- Monroe County, N.Y.
- Montgomery County, Md.
- Nashville, Tenn.
- New Haven, Conn.
- New Orleans, La.
- Newport, R.I.
- New York, N.Y.
- Norman, Okla.
- Northern Kentucky
- Oakland, Calif.
- Onondaga County, N.Y.
- Orange County, N.Y.
- Palm Beach, Fla.
- Pawtucket, R.I.
- Petaluma, Calif.
- Phoenix, Ariz.
- Providence, R.I.
- Richmond, Va.
- Rockland County, N.Y.
- St. Louis, Mo.
- St. Mary's County, Md.
- Seattle, Wash.
- Shoreline, Wash.
- Sonoma County, Calif.
- Spokane, Wash.
- Surry County, Va.

Tulsa, Okla.

- Tuscon, Ariz.
- Virginia Beach, Va.
- Wicomico County, Md.
- Winnebago County, Iowa
- Worth County, Iowa
- Yakima, Wash.
- Ypsilanti, Mich.

States

- Arkansas
- Arizona
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- New York
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Vermont
- Washington

The Forum for Youth Investment

Helping leaders get young people ready for life



The Forum for Youth Investment

is a nonprofit, nonpartisan action tank that helps communities make sure all young people are ready by 21 – ready for college, work and life.

We Drive Collective Impact...

by guiding leaders to work in partnership toward shared goals for young people. We include:

All young people – from birth through adolescence to college and career.

All leaders – policymakers, providers, funders, advocates and youth.

All levels – city, county, state and national.

All sectors – government, education, business, nonprofit and philanthropy.

We Bridge Research and Practice...

by combining the ideas of a think tank with the services of a consultant. We base our work on:

Best practices in child and youth development.

Evidence gathered by working in dozens of sites around the country since our founding in 1998.

Experience gained by our founders – youth development and policy experts Karen Pittman and Merita Irby – and our staff, who come from education, policy, direct service, advocacy and research.

We Deliver Solutions...

by providing resources and technical assistance to organizations, communities and states, with funding from grants and contracts. These include:

Field-tested strategies to improve partnerships, policies and supports for young people.

Tools to plan and implement actions that produce results.

Methods to measure success.

Coaching along the way.

Moving Ideas to Impact

Assessments & Quality Improvement

We work with providers, communities and states to make a measureable difference in the lives of young people by improving services, supports and opportunities.

Leadership – We help state and local leaders improve policies and practices for young people through our signature initiative, Ready by 21, which provides strategies to create broader partnerships, bigger goals, better data and bolder actions.

Community Supports – We empower program providers to improve the quality of educational and human services through scientifically validated strategies created by our David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, and to expand the reach of those services.

Youth Outcomes – We guide leaders in crafting a common set of desired child and youth outcomes for their states and communities, with the goal of making all young people academically and vocationally productive, socially and civically connected, and physically and emotionally healthy and safe.

Partnerships & Networks

We help leaders achieve more by bringing them together to share information and experiences, and to work in collaboration.

The Ready by 21 Leader Network provides information, tools and trainings to people and organizations across the country working to improve child and youth services, supports and opportunities.

The Children's Cabinet Network connects officials who lead state children's cabinets and commissions, providing them with technical support, best practices and other resources to increase the effectiveness of policies and services.



CHILDREN'S CABINET
NETWORK
Managed by the Forum for Youth Investment

The Ready by 21 National Partnership brings together prominent national organizations – from education, business, government, research, nonprofits and philanthropy – to help leaders carry out best practices and policies.

Policy & Communications

We make policies and practices more effective through research, education and hands-on guidance.

Policy Alignment – We help local, state and federal policymakers achieve collective impact by adopting common goals, tracking and sharing data, aligning fragmented policies and making policy coordinating bodies more effective.

Consultations – We conduct field research and strategic planning for government agencies, foundations and other organizations to advance the core ideas of child and youth development and to bridge research, policy and practice.

Online Advocacy – We advance the collective communications power of the child and youth field through SparkAction.org, our Web-based journalism and advocacy platform that informs and equips users to improve the odds for young people.

Education – We promote effective policies and practices through publications, events and Web-based resources about such issues as out-of-school time, civic engagement, health and education.

