

## Ready by 21 Strategies

In communities around the country, leaders are developing approaches to reach the goal of having all youth ready. Still, far too few youth in America are ready, too few communities are providing youth enough quality supports, and too many leaders are not working together effectively.

Ready by 21 provides clear standards to achieve collective impact, tools and solutions to help leaders make progress, and ways to measure and track success along the way. Specifically, Ready by 21 helps leaders **build broader partnerships, set bigger goals, collect and use better data and take bolder actions.**

Ready by 21 is implemented by a National Partnership, an unprecedented coalition of government, education, nonprofit, business, research and philanthropy organizations whose members reach more than 100 million children across the country.

The Ready by 21 National Partnership offers tailored strategic planning tools to mobilize community leaders and foster more effective collaboration among leaders. This reduces duplication, increases accountability and ultimately improves outcomes for young people.

### Moving the small gear makes a big difference!



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*Ready by 21 strategies demonstrate that effective leadership is the critical lever to improving health, educational and social outcomes for children and youth.*

## Ready by 21 asks organizations & leaders to come together to help all children & youth

The National Partnership takes Ready by 21 strategies into states and communities nationwide.

The Forum for Youth Investment is the founding and managing partner of Ready by 21. United Way Worldwide is the signature partner. Mobilization partners include: American Association of School Administrators, America's Promise Alliance, Children's Cabinet Networks, Corporate Voices for Working Families, the National Collaboration for Youth, the National Conference of State Legislatures, Search Institute, and other leading organizations that help prepare youth for a better future. Combined, they reach over 650,000 state and local leaders who impact the lives of more than 100 million children and youth.

Technical Partners offer state-of-the-art, competitively priced on-the-ground tools and incentives. They include: Child Trends, Community Systems Group, SparkAction, David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, The Finance Project, The Gallup Organization, nFocus Software and Results Leadership Group, LLC.

## JOIN US!

*Leaders interested in learning more about how Ready by 21 strategies can help communities should visit [readyby21.org](http://readyby21.org) for more information and to join the mailing list.*

**EMAIL:** [readyleader@readyby21.org](mailto:readyleader@readyby21.org)

**CALL:** 202.207.3333

**VISIT:** [readyby21.org](http://readyby21.org)

# Ready by 21: an introduction



**the**  
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FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

## Ready by 21

All young people need to grow up healthy and strong, learn skills for today's jobs and be connected to the community and prepared to succeed. But research shows that only four out of ten young people are ready for a productive adulthood and two in ten are in serious trouble.

Ready by 21 is a set of innovative strategies developed by the Forum for Youth Investment that helps communities and states improve the odds that all children and youth will be ready for college, work and life.

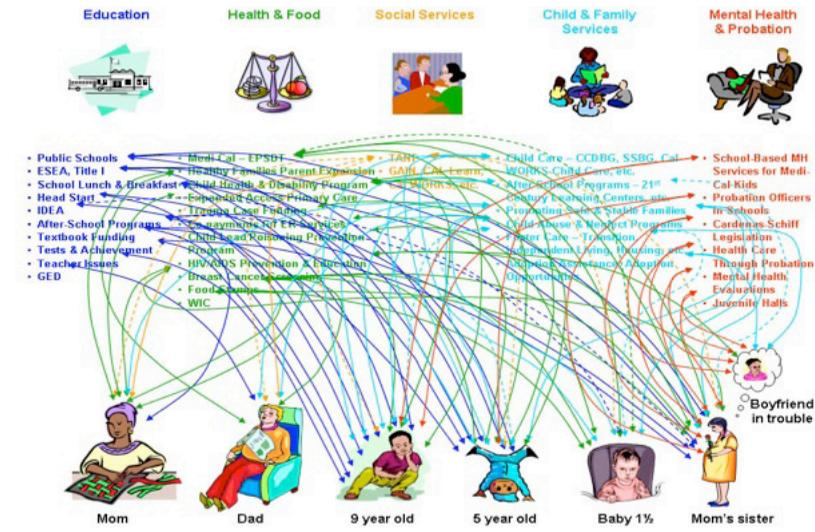


“ The Ready by 21 framework is exactly right. It's not just about education. It's about families. It's about community. It's about working together to make sure that young people succeed. ”

- Brian Gallagher, President & CEO, United Way Worldwide

## Ready by 21 meets the problem of fragmentation & duplication

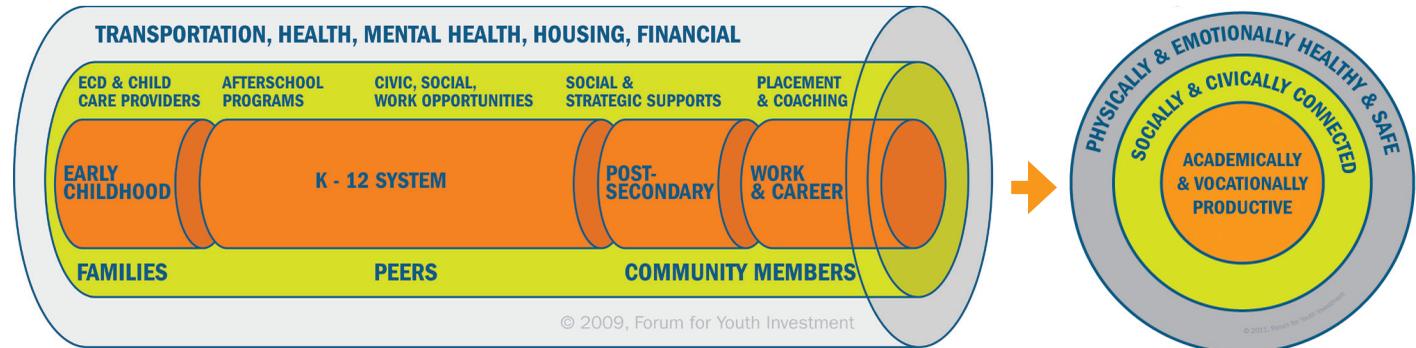
In any state or community, collaboration and shared accountability produce the best outcomes.



Too many young people do not have what they need to develop their potential, while isolated programs and fragmented approaches waste precious time and resources. No one program, system or effort addresses everything. Ready by 21 can help each of them meet its responsibility to do what it does best and collaborate for better results.

## Ready by 21 helps improve the outcomes for all children & youth

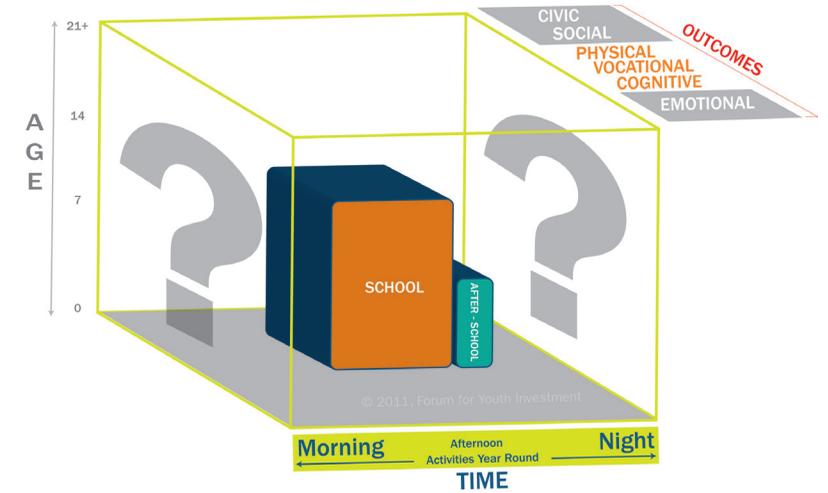
With successful strategies to meet the needs of young people, communities can build a competitive workforce, strong social networks, stable families and future leaders.



The United States' education pipeline is leaking and urgently needs insulation. Children struggle to learn and develop when they can't get to school, are hungry or unsupervised, when health problems go untreated or their families are financially insecure. But problem-free also doesn't mean fully prepared! Academic preparation is not the only challenge. All students need the tools to avoid risky behaviors as well as opportunities to develop a broad range of social and emotional skills. To help all children thrive, Ready by 21 strategies align education with other learning and engagement supports and basic services such as housing, health care and transportation.

## Ready by 21 challenges communities to serve the whole child

A broad range of stakeholders must assume responsibility for child and youth success. Systems and settings should be organized to ensure the all young people have ongoing access to and participate in high quality services and learning environments, throughout their waking hours and across their developmental years.



While schools are the core of young people's learning and development, schools are not open 24/7/365. Ready by 21 harnesses the full developmental environment – families, schools, out-of-school time, neighborhoods, parks, libraries and community organizations – to get children started off right and staying on track for success.