



WHY Because you're dedicated to improving the odds for America's children and youth. You want all young people to be ready for college, work and life; all communities to offer high-quality supports; all leaders to work together to reach those goals. The Ready by 21 National Meeting is for leaders like you: change-makers who want to learn from their peers, apply proven strategies and strengthen their collective impact.

WHO The National Meeting brings together up to 400 national, state and local leaders committed to improving partnerships, policies and practices for children and youth. These leaders are managing 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. They come from business, nonprofits, education, policy, philanthropy and intermediaries, along with national organizations that are partners in delivering Ready by 21 strategies.

WHAT The National Meeting offers keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops and peer learning circles, all built around four big questions. How do we ...

- Embrace a Broad Definition of “Readiness”** over more traditional concepts of achievement or attainment?
- Build Effective Community Partnerships** that use common data, goals and action to improve outcomes for kids?
- Expand Learning Opportunities and Outcomes** in school and out, with a focus on improving quality and assessing skills and competencies?
- Align Policies and Resources** to accelerate collective impact efforts, not hinder them?

For each question, you'll explore standards, solutions and measures of success; hear case studies from state and local partnerships; connect with leaders from across the country to strengthen your networks and find new ways to take on your toughest challenges.

Topics will include:

- Strengthening and aligning partnerships
- Evaluating coalitions
- Closing “readiness gaps” among different youth populations
- Choosing and building backbone organizations
- Creating child and youth master plans
- Strengthening out-of-school time services through quality improvement systems
- Engaging young people as partners
- Managing multiple national initiatives, learning communities and campaigns
- Measuring and evaluating outcomes
- Expanded learning time: aligning school and non-school supports
- Fostering middle grades success
- Mapping public and private resources for youth
- Aligning policies across issues, agencies and ages
- Developing leadership and policy coordinating bodies
- Connecting work across geographic levels, from neighborhoods to communities to states
- Reaching opportunity youth
- Leveraging Ready by 21 tools and strategies to support other initiatives, such as Promise Neighborhoods, Grad Nation, Strive and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
- Creating a balanced set of outcomes and indicators

WHEN March 31-April 2, 2015.

WHERE The Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans.

HOW Register online. For more information, see www.readyby21.org/nationalmeeting or call the Forum for Youth Investment at 202.207-3325.



What People Say About the Ready by 21 National Meeting

"I loved that there were so many good choices that I couldn't attend everything I wanted to. It made me **hungry to come back** for more."

"This conference is **by far the best** I've been to in my professional journey."

"There are some really nice things that the Forum does to make it a little more of a community, a bit more of a **learning environment** than the typical conference."

"It drew a nice combination of **civic, business and policy leaders** as well as representatives from larger foundations."

"I left with good ideas for **how I could improve** the work of the collaborative that I work with."

"The size of the meeting was just right. I had a **chance to network** with many people and have deeper conversations than at your typical youth conference."

"The **best national meeting/event** I have attended in years. Thank you."

"The informality of the session was a great plus. The Forum staff created an atmosphere for **free-flowing conversation**."

Source: Attendee evaluations of Ready by 21 National Meetings, 2012-14.