

Evaluation Overview

The 2017 Ready by 21 National Meeting was the largest and most dynamic to date. The Forum for Youth Investment launched the Ready by 21 National Meeting as a 200-person, invitation-only event in 2012. Now in its sixth year, over 530 champions for readiness representing 38 states plus DC and the United Kingdom, came together in Austin from March 29 to 31 to learn, share and be inspired. It has become a go-to meeting for state and local leaders who care about changing the odds for children and youth and want to cross-fertilize with people who have the same passion but may be coming from different communities, networks or priorities – be it opportunity youth, boys and men of color, social & emotional learning, cradle-to-career partnerships or afterschool networks.

2017 Evaluation Summary

Statements (on a scale from 1 “strongly disagree” to 4 “strongly agree”)	2014 Mean	2015 Mean	2016 Mean	2017 Mean
Meeting was well organized.	3.63	3.77	3.74	3.83
I was satisfied with the registration process.	3.64	3.77	3.67	3.77
Information/materials received during registration were informative and useful.	3.53	3.63	3.61	3.59
The staff was helpful and courteous.	3.75	3.81	3.80	3.79
Hotel layout and accommodations were adequate.	3.69	3.77	3.68	3.66
Food served at the meeting met my expectations.	3.52	3.75	3.75	3.54
Meeting was held at a convenient time of year.	3.42	3.68	3.53	3.52
I found out about the meeting in a timely manner.	3.47	3.67	3.59	3.58
The Ready by 21 National Meeting was a worthwhile experience.	3.50	3.70	3.68	3.76
I left the Ready by 21 National Meeting with new energy and inspiration to apply to my work.	3.36	3.60	3.53	3.70
After attending the Ready by 21 National Meeting, I have new knowledge and resources to apply to my work.	3.38	3.57	3.48	3.55
Overall, I believe I obtained the knowledge necessary to share the Ready by 21 key ideas back in my community.	3.19	3.47	3.26	3.53
I achieved a good return on my investment considering the entire cost of attendance.	3.26	3.55	3.35	3.45
I would recommend the conference to a colleague.	3.37	3.64	3.51	3.67
I plan to attend the next Ready by 21 National Meeting.	3.24	3.48	3.38	3.45
Information received leading up to the meeting (e.g. blogs from Karen Pittman, logistics, special announcements) were informative and useful.	*	*	*	3.61
I would recommend coming as part of a group	*	*	*	3.56

*These survey items were added in 2017, so no prior data is available.

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What People Said About the Ready by 21 National Meeting

“The energy was great. I felt like every workshop I attended was filled with people who are inspired and creative, and that excitement was contagious.”

“I enjoyed the atmosphere of the location and the opportunity to talk and brainstorm ideas with other organizations and individuals that are facing some of the same challenges that I am facing in my own community. I feel this conference provides an accurate landscape of the youth development field. I enjoy networking and hearing about other program and funding models supporting youth development in many types of communities.”

“One of the other attendees who I met for the first time there but who lives in the same state as I do said something that I believe sums up my experience at the Ready by 21 National Meeting. She said, “At this convening I always feel as though I am surrounded by truly knowledgeable, purpose-driven and passionate individuals. I don’t really get that at some of the other conferences in the field.” I agree completely. This was definitely in the top three convening of the minds in the field of youth work. I truly enjoyed it. The sessions were diverse and addressed the age group that I am most interested in, the presenters were prepared. The registration was smooth. The Forum and Weikart staff were very friendly and helpful. The overall tone of the National Meeting was great.”

“The Ready by 21 National Meeting is unique and is the one conference that I can attend where I do not have to explain what I do. It gives me an opportunity to strengthen my professional network with individuals who are experts in the field and experience similar challenges in their local contexts. I love that Ready by 21 involves young people in the conversation and allows you to gain an authentic perspective into their lives. Starting the conference off with this multi-generational conversation sets a great tone for the conference!”

“The best part of the National Meeting is the opportunity to learn what is happening in other cities and states and the opportunity to connect with a network of people I could really learn from.”

“Good balance of theory and practical application of concepts.”

“There was a wide variety of topics available and sessions to attend, and materials available for sessions that I couldn’t make it to. The sessions were energetic and informative.”

“I loved the coming together of like minds! It was so encouraging, refreshing and empowering to meet so many people who were already working on ideas that I am trying to implement in my community. I came away with so many ideas, and a renewed passion for my work.”

“I really liked the quality of presenters, wide range of topics, tools/skills/resources I could use immediately. The attendees were also top notch professionals that were helpful and informative.”

“This was great!! RB21 is becoming my favorite conference to attend. Great, knowledgeable presenters and an excellent range and choice of topics. I enjoyed the way the agenda was laid out, starting with plenary instead of sessions. Session timing was perfect, not too long but still enough to cover the topics.”

Source: Attendee evaluations of the 2017 Ready by 21 National Meeting.

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