

**Action Steps**  
**Quality Task Force**  
April 30, 2009

**Where we go next to support quality practice?**

1. Raise public awareness, especially of policy-makers and funders, about the importance of quality practice in non-formal learning opportunities.
2. Increase the use of the quality practice framework in organizations, with direct service staff and youth worker training providers.
3. Make it easy for youth workers and organizations to access professional development opportunities that support quality practice.

**Action Steps:**

1. **Youth Community Connections** will continue to educate policy makers, especially the Minnesota legislative children and youth caucus, on the importance of quality practice in nonformal learning, e.g. provide information through one-on-one meetings and by hosting legislative breakfasts.
2. **Youth Community Connections** will encourage alliance member organizations, associations, and program providers to promote and adopt the quality framework through e-newsletters, bi-annual meetings and community or regional meetings.
3. **Youth Community Connections** will help disseminate information about quality research and practice to the field, e.g. making information available through its e-newsletters or bi-annual meetings.
4. **The Greater Twin Cities United Way, The McKnight Foundation and Best Buy** will work in partnership with Youth Community Connections to educate children and youth funders on the importance of the key dimensions of quality practice in non-formal learning opportunities
  - a. Utilize the quality framework to commonly define quality standards in Requests for Proposals (RFP) and in decision making when reviewing RFP's.
  - b. Identify strategies to inform other funders about the key elements of quality practice and implications for policy formulation/revision.
  - c. Review and implement the Quality Task Force draft recommendations regarding systems changes related to funders, e.g. determine how quality improvement will be supported financially in proposals, including professional development opportunities for staff.

5. **The Minnesota Alliance with Youth** will promote the quality framework through their core training with their Promise Fellows across the state and will tap their statewide partner network to identify professional development providers and opportunities focused on quality.
6. **U of MN Extension Center for Youth Development** will support and advance the quality agenda in multiple ways:
  - a. **Applied Research & Evaluation** will pursue research in conjunction with the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs to study the ways to more effectively move research into evidence-based quality practice.
  - b. **Youth Work Institute** will create a website to help youth workers and organizations identify where to access education, training and professional development as well as the content focus, cost, location and participant benefits of trainings and other educational opportunities around quality practice.
  - c. **Youth Work Institute** will continue to explore and expand the variety of training (i.e. Quality Matters), coaching, assessment and technical assistance to support quality practice including the use of technology and distance learning.
7. **U of MN Extension Center for Youth Development and Youth Community Connections** invite others to join in convening an exploratory group to study the different models of peer review and endorsement processes that could be used to identify trainings that focus on the skills and concepts essential for quality practice.