

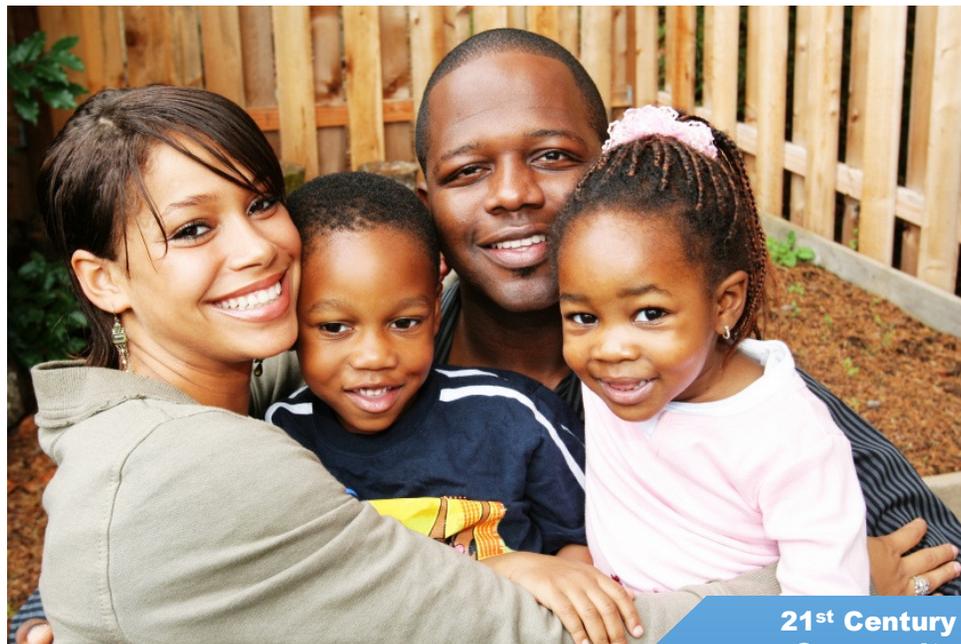


# Coffee Break Webinar

## May 9, 2013

### Family Involvement with Y4Y

**YOUTH FOR YOUTH**



**21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Community  
Learning Centers**  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
[y4y.ed.gov](http://y4y.ed.gov)

# Disclaimer



This information is being provided as part of a Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 webinar for the “You For Youth” (Y4Y) professional development website. This website supports the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Information and materials mentioned or shown during this presentation are provided as resources and examples for the viewer’s convenience. Their inclusion is not intended as an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education.

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## **Published Materials**

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# How to Use the Technology



The screenshot displays a WebEx meeting window. The main content area shows a presentation slide titled "Y4Y Web-based Professional Development". The slide features the "YOUTH FOR YOUTH" logo, which consists of the word "YOUTH" in large orange letters and "FOR YOUTH" in smaller green letters, all set against a white background with a blue triangle in the top left corner. Below the logo is a photograph of five diverse children giving thumbs up. In the bottom right corner of the slide, there is contact information for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, including the Department of Education, 404 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202, and the website y4y.ed.gov. The WebEx interface includes a top menu bar with options like File, Edit, Share, View, Communicate, Participant, Event, and Help. On the right side, there is a control panel with tabs for Participants (showing 2 participants), Chat, and Polling. The chat window is active, showing a message from the host, Jim Kiley-Zufelt, and a text input field for participants to type questions or comments.



# Introductions



**Host:**

***Natalie Lucas***

Y4Y Content Specialist



# Coffee Break Webinar Objectives



- Discover how Y4Y resources can support your program's family involvement efforts
- Interact with Y4Y team members and afterschool colleagues from across the country
- Ask questions about Y4Y and how the portal can help you



# Today's Topic



## Family Involvement with Y4Y

- The importance and benefits of a strong family involvement plan
- Y4Y resources for getting families engaged and maintaining their involvement
- Q & A



# Families on Y4Y



- Learn
- Teach
- Tools
- Network



# Poll: Your Role



- a) Executive Director
- b) Program Director
- c) Site Coordinator
- d) Group Leader/ Teacher
- e) Other

# Poll: Your Program's Family Involvement Efforts



- a) We focus on family involvement daily.
- b) We have regularly planned family involvement initiatives.
- c) We involve families a few times a year.
- d) Family involvement is not something we plan for.



# Why Plan for Family Involvement?



Y4Y > Learn > Family Involvement > Introduction > Why Is It Important?



## Why Is It Important?

When families are involved in their children's education, students are likely to be more engaged in school and have better attendance and graduation rates.

Family involvement in 21st CCLC programs strengthens the connections between the home and school, between the school and community, and between families and students. When your program invites students' families to get involved, you send a strong message that says everyone needs to be on board for students to be successful in school.



# Tools: Start with Your Goals



You For Youth / Family Involvement



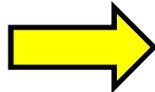
## Goals for Family Involvement

Clarify goals for family involvement. Work with staff to develop short and longer-term goals, and ensure that all work as a team to achieve them.

Check all that apply, then develop your own in more detail specific to your program.

Our program will improve family involvement efforts to:

- Ensure all families feel welcome and that the program encourages their continued involvement in any way possible
- Help families gain access to the organizations, people, and resources they need to support their children and themselves
- Find innovative and differentiated ways to involve families that utilize their skills and address their concerns
- Help families find additional ways to be involved in their children's lives and support their healthy development
- Support better student behavior and academic performance in school and the program
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



Tools/Family Involvement/Assess and Reflect





## Follow-Up and Supervision Checklist

Family involvement and engagement requires the ideas, leadership, and outreach from all program staff. Coach and assist staff in their family engagement efforts to ensure quality and ongoing improvement.

Know families and their cultures	Strong	OK	Needs work
Give and find time for families to talk about themselves.			
Actively examine and questions his/her "cultural lens" or how he/she views the world and experiences in it.			



Know families and their cultures	Strong	OK	Needs work
Give and find time for families to talk about themselves.			
Actively examine and questions his/her "cultural lens" or how he/she views the world and experiences in it.			
Find ways to have youth teach him/her about families' cultures.			
Meet and interact with families in settings other than the program.			

youth.			
<b>Support families</b>			
Find ways to incorporate families' strengths and skills into the program.			
Recognize when families or youth are facing challenges and try to connect them with the appropriate resources.			
Seek out ideas for workshops and other opportunities for families.			
Reestablish contact with families if their connection to the program fades or stops.			

Tools/Family Involvement/Assess and Reflect



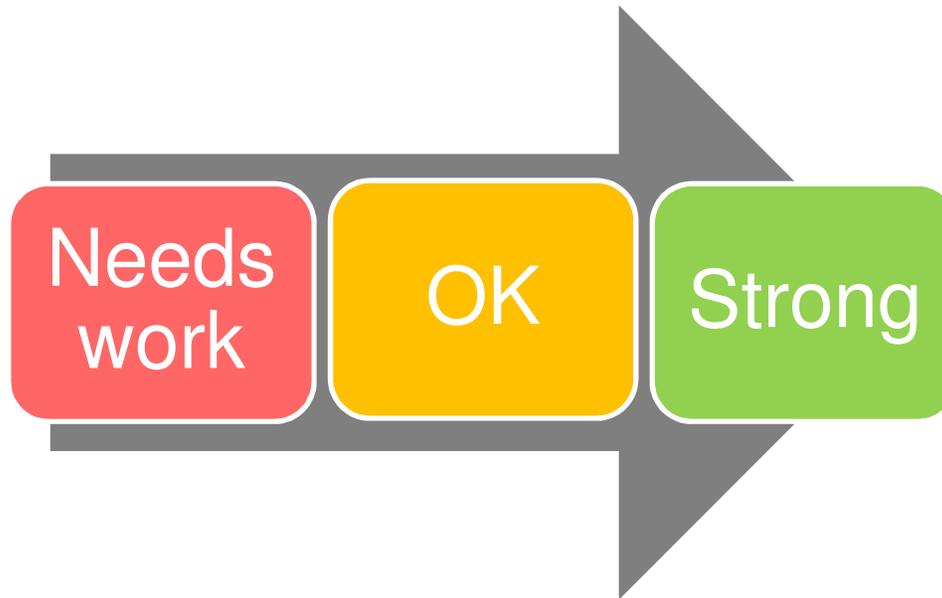
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<http://y4y.ed.gov/>



# Self-Assessment



Find ways to explore underlying causes  
Find numerous ways for families to be  
(transportation, language barriers, etc.)  
involved  
for why families may not be involved.



# Learn: Find the Right Solution



Instructions: Click on each challenge below to see potential underlying causes and possible solutions.

- **Forms sent home to be signed are never returned.**

**Potential Underlying Cause(s):**

Youth misplaces the form.

Youth forgets to show it to family.

Families don't understand the form.

Family members work in the afternoon and evenings and don't see youth until they are asleep.

**Possible Solutions:**

Create a folder for important forms.

Choose one day a week for important forms to go home so families know when to look for them.

Translate the form into the appropriate languages and go over the form with youth so they can explain it to their family members.

Send forms electronically or through the mail.



# Coaching Moment



Only a few families attend open houses or other meetings related to the program.

***Potential Barriers to Successful Uses?***



# Teach: Tailor Your PD



You For Youth / Family Involvement		
 <p>Training training s</p> <p>Conn</p> <p>Connect</p> <p>K - 5</p> <p>Learn en</p> <p>6 - 12</p> <p>Gain eng</p>	<p><b>Training Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage Participants (Ice breaker/warm up activity related to the topic) _____ minutes</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> <p>Introduce the Topic _____ minutes (Motivate participants, show them why the topic is important, and share objectives and agenda)</p> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li>	different s.
	<p><b>Training Middle</b> _____ minutes</p> <p>(Explain the topic in detail, demonstrate the concept and discuss it, and practice and apply the topic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have participants think about some of the youth they serve in the program. Individually, have participants jot down ideas (surprise visits to the classroom, ethnic cooking lessons, visiting a family business, etc.) for how they think that youth would want their families involved in the program.</li> <li>Come back together as a group and share ideas that individuals brainstormed. Create a master list and have groups talk about the pro's and con's of different involvement ideas.</li> <li>Have participants choose their favorite involvement idea and form a small working group to create an action plan to make the idea a reality.</li> <li>Make sure participants action plans are specific with regard to time and responsibilities and identify potential challenges and how to overcome them.</li> <li>Have groups share involvement plans and other participants ask questions and give feedback. Decide on which, if not all, strategy or plan to try first and establish a timeline for progress, check-in's, and completion.</li> </ul>	



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Teach/Family Involvement/Training Starters



# Special Populations



## Meet Rural Challenges

There are several strategies 21st CCLC might use to promote family involvement in rural communities:

- Position your program site as a meeting place for community groups.
- Engage with family members where they are, such as at the store, church or other community locations.
- Set up phone trees to contact families informally.
- Conduct home visits to hard-to-reach families.
- Partner with community and faith-based organizations for services.
- Be creative about messaging to rural families.

## Special Challenges: Immigrant Populations

Another set of challenges is presented when working with immigrant populations, whether it is urban, suburban or rural.

- They speak little or no English.
- They feel unable to support a child's education.
- They expect that teachers, not parents, are responsible for their child's education.
- They view education as only learning to read and write.
- They feel unwelcomed.

### Reflect on This

Identify the backgrounds of the immigrant populations in your area. How do they view schools and teachers? In My Neighborhood, plan to find out more about the families.

## Meet Non-Traditional Family Challenges

Strategies for connecting with nontraditional families are not necessarily different from those you would use with traditional families. However, here are some approaches you might explore:

- When more than one household is involved, be sure to communicate with everyone. A child and a noncustodial parent may have strong ties, and that parent may want to be involved in the child's education.
- Reach out to grandparents by partnering with their networks, such as church groups and senior centers, to offer programs in technology use and parenting the next generation.
- Foster parents may be hesitant to get involved if they think their relationship with a child will be short-term. Identify ways they can contribute, such as participating in a field trip or setting up a learning space in their home.
- Single parents may rely on older children or relatives for help with child care. Be sure to treat those family members as you do the parent, inviting them to participate in appropriate activities.
- Talk to school-day teachers to let them know when you become aware of family situations that might interfere with a student's focus or performance.



# Tools: Putting It All Together



You For Youth / Family Involvement



## Creating a Family Guidebook

Your family guidebook should clearly explain program policies and procedures and help families

- An introduction to your program
  - Program history
  - Goals and objectives
  - A welcome from the director
- Directory of staff members
  - Include pictures
  - Have short bios
  - History in the program and working with youth
- Calendar of events
  - Special events
  - Holidays
  - Early or late days
- Academic expectations
  - Amount of homework done in the program
  - Sharing of grades and state test information
  - How families can help
- Involvement opportunities and policies
  - Family involvement philosophy
  - Existing and potential opportunities for involvement
  - Ways to share concerns and ideas



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<http://y4y.ed.gov/>



Tools/Family/Plan and Implement



# Learn More Library



21st CCLC

External Videos

Publications

Web-based Resources

« Keep It Going

Acknowledgements »

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WEBINAR SERIES

# Achieving Excellence and Innovation in Family, School, and Community Engagement

April 2010 to September 2011

The U.S. Department of Education and its partners United Way Worldwide, National PTA, SEDL, and Harvard Family Research Project are proud to bring you a free webinar series on family, school, and community engagement.

Research over the last thirty years has shown that engaging families in their children's education increases student achievement and decreases dropout rates. Effective family engagement is not a one-time program or a choice of a good school, but rather a set of day-to-day practices, attitudes, beliefs and interactions which support learning at home, at school, afterschool and during the summer. To ensure that the students of today are ready for the careers of tomorrow, families, schools, and community groups need to work together to promote engagement that is systemic, sustained, and integrated into school improvement efforts.

*Achieving Excellence and Innovation in Family, School, and Community Engagement* is an opportunity for stakeholders representing national, regional, and local organizations to learn about family, school, and community engagement research, best practices from the field, and new innovations that are making a difference in school improvement and student learning.

Leading practitioners, researchers, and policymakers will share real life examples from the field about what systemic, integrated, and sustained engagement efforts look like in practice.

These webinars will occur every other month and will cover the following topics:

- [Webinar 1: Transforming Schools Through Family, School, and Community Engagement](#)
- [Webinar 2: A New Day: Family, School, and Community Engagement in Education Reform](#)
- [Webinar 3: Data Driven: Making Student and School Data Accessible and Meaningful To Families](#)
- [Webinar 4: The Teacher-Parent Relationship: Using Professional Development to Improve Family and Community Engagement](#)
- [Webinar 5: Building Strategic Partnerships to Foster Community Engagement in Education](#)
- [Webinar 6: Ensuring School Readiness Through Successful Transitions](#)
- [Webinar 7: Successful Transitions to High School: Promoting High School Success and Facilitating College Readiness](#)
- [Webinar 8: Evaluating Family Engagement Strategies: Addressing Measurement Challenges](#)
- [Webinar 9: Bringing It All Together: Family and Community Engagement Policies In Action](#)

Webinar archives and resources will be posted as they become available. Please click the above topics to see resources and more information relating to each webinar installment.

For more information, and to register to participate in upcoming webinars, visit:  
[http://www.nationalpirc.org/engagement\\_webinars/](http://www.nationalpirc.org/engagement_webinars/).

#### Webinar Sponsors

Visit partner websites for more resources:

- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
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# Understanding the Research Base



## Family Involvement Research Brief

You For Youth / Family Involvement



### Family Involvement

Twenty-first Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs need family involvement for many reasons. First, the family is each student's most immediate and influential environment, whether the child is living with one or both parents, or with some other relative or caregiver.

Second, community learning centers strive to be community hubs that engage children and adults in activities that both educate and enrich their lives. Third, students do better in school when their families are involved. Research has shown family involvement relates to higher student grades and test scores across different student groups, including at-risk students. Fourth, higher levels of family involvement also correspond to lower dropout rates and to increased student achievement. Finally, a sense of personal competence, engagement in school work, and beliefs in the importance of education (Hoover-Dempsey et al., 2005; Kakli, Kreider, Little, Buck, & Coffey, 2006; MALDEF, 2010; Nye, Turner, & Schwartz, 2006).

### Downloadable Files

#### FI Family Involvement Research Brief

File Format: **Word Document**  
Size: **3.00mb**



#### FI Family Involvement Research Brief

File Format: **Adobe PDF**  
Size: **440kb**



Tools/Family Involvement/Learn



# Q & A



- Family involvement strategies
- Y4Y resources
- Training staff
- Program planning
- Y4Y Network



# Today's Webinar



- Discover how Y4Y resources can support your program's family involvement efforts
- Interact with Y4Y team members and afterschool colleagues from across the country
- Ask questions about Y4Y and how the portal can help you



# Next Steps



1) Visit the Y4Y portal to:

- Register
- Follow up on today's discussion
- Find more resources on Y4Y

2) Tell your colleagues about Y4Y

3) Join us for the next Coffee Break webinar in June





# Thank You!

**Natalie Lucas**

Y4Y Content Specialist

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**Visit [www.y4y.ed.gov](http://www.y4y.ed.gov)**

