In 2010, Richmond, Virginia was chosen by Ready by 21 as a Southeast Challenge city. Being part of the Southeast Challenge entitled us to various resources to help build supports for youth in the Richmond Region. Richmond selected the Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI), a quality improvement process by the David P. Weikart Center.

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg and VCU’s Mary and Frances Youth Center are proud local administrators of this nationally recognized quality improvement program for youth providers. Anchored in over 50 years of research and housed at the Forum for Youth Investment, the Weikart Center has been implementing the Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI) for over 10 years.

During the 2016-2017 school year, our fifth year of providing continuous quality improvement, we have reached near capacity at 56 sites from 25 organizations. Organizations reach youth in Chesterfield County, Hanover County, Henrico County and the cities of Petersburg and Richmond.

**2016-2017 Participants:**
- Art 180
- Blue Sky Fund
- Boy Scouts of America: Heart of VA Council
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond
- Church Hill Activities & Tutoring
- East District Family Resource Center
- EnRichmond Foundation
- Fit4Kids
- Friends Association for Children
- Fulton Neighborhood Resource Center
- Hanover Community Resources
- Hanover County Community Services
- Higher Achievement
- Kidz R Cookin
- Lyric Ave
- M.H. West & Co.
- Mary and Frances Youth Center
- Peter Paul Development Center
- Podium Foundation
- Richmond Chess Initiative
- Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
- Sports Backers
- St. Andrew’s School
- Trinity Family Life Center
- YMCA of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

**Phases of the YPQI Process**

**Assess:** The process begins with observing and collecting data on current programming using the YPQI assessment tool.

**Plan:** After data has been collected through the assess phase, program staff develop their improvement plan which turns raw data into a practical plan for improvement.

**Improve:** Staff attends aligned Methods workshops designed to strengthen skills and improve quality at the point of service.
Highlights from the Process

What did participants have to say about YPQI?

“It does not matter how many years you participate in this process or knowledge you have of it, each year brings a new opportunity to create change and improve.”

“(Through the YPQI process), we saw improvements in student "buy in" or engagement with byproducts of better behavior and increased attendance across the board. With better quality programming and better attendance we developed deep relationships and students got more out of programming.”

“YPQI helped us clarify our goals and methods of instruction. It helped highlight that we were doing a pretty good job in many areas and helped us think more strategically/critically about our process and how we can provide an environment where students more readily engage. We are continually becoming more and more student centered, empowering students to have more input in our planning and activities.”

Looking at the Numbers...

- 25 organizations
- 56 sites
- 201 participating staff
- 1,200+ hours of Youth Program Quality training
- Participating sites serving 6,000+ youth annually
- 82% retention of organizations from 2015
- 10 Quality Coaches assigned to participating sites
- 11 local youth development professionals serving as Methods trainers