

Please join us for the Ready by 21 National Meeting, scheduled for April 18-20, 2018 in Palm Beach County, Florida, which will bring together more than 500 local, state and national leaders who are committed to improving partnerships, policies and practices for children and youth. These leaders manage 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 at the national, state and local levels.

The National Meeting offers keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops, peer learning circles and abundant networking opportunities, all built around big and common challenges. The major themes are: **ensuring readiness** for college, work and life, by building competencies, abilities and mindsets; **promoting equity** for all young people, and especially closing gaps for populations often facing great challenges (e.g. boys & young men of color, opportunity youth, youth in foster care, pregnant & parenting youth, etc.); **increasing shared commitment** to changing the odds for young people through common goals, strategies and measures within and across systems & sectors; and **improving program quality** and effectiveness in ways that spark management & staff engagement and support better outcomes for young people.

Attendees will hear from featured plenary speakers including **Ruby Sales**, a nationally-recognized human-rights activist, public theologian, and social critic, who joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960's as a teenager at Tuskegee University and went to work as a student freedom fighter in Lowndes County, Alabama; and **Stephanie Jones**, professor at Harvard's School of Education and leading national expert on the effects of poverty and exposure to violence on children and youth's social, emotional, and behavioral development. In addition, you will have a choice of over 40 learning workshops on topics including:

- Engaging Today's Families: A Relationship-Based Approach
- Reconnecting Youth: From Brazil to New Orleans
- Supporting Older Youth: What's the Brain Got to do with it?
- Staff Supervision in OST: Putting Theory into Practice
- Unpacking Workforce Readiness: SEL & Character Development for All Ages

For more information or to register, visit the [Ready by 21 National Meeting website](#).

