

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

Program # 7

1. Name of the Planned Program

Youth Work Institute

Reporting on this Program

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

KA Code	Knowledge Area	%1862 Extension	%1890 Extension	%1862 Research	%1890 Research
805	Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services	50%		0%	
806	Youth Development	50%		0%	
	Total	100%		0%	

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of FTE/SYs expended this Program

Year: 2012	Extension		Research	
	1862	1890	1862	1890
Plan	14.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
Actual Paid Professional	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Actual Volunteer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

Extension		Research	
Smith-Lever 3b & 3c	1890 Extension	Hatch	Evans-Allen
390682	0	0	0
1862 Matching	1890 Matching	1862 Matching	1890 Matching
1491272	0	0	0
1862 All Other	1890 All Other	1862 All Other	1890 All Other
1132974	0	0	0

V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Brief description of the Activity

The Youth Work Institute works alongside 4-H youth programs in Minnesota, studying issues relevant to youth development, and creating a solid bridge between research and practice. Ultimately, the Youth Work Institute reaches beyond 4-H, contributing training and research resources to youth development programs and workers throughout Minnesota.

Previously, we reported on the Institute's Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) effort. This effort uses research about quality youth development experiences to help 4-H and all youth programs assess and improve the quality of programs. In 2012, we continued to increase staff's capacity to use the assessment tools and understand concepts behind it, applying them to practice. The Institute also began training 4-H volunteers who use the YPQA assessment tool in club settings. Every region of the state now has a plan for quality improvement as a result.

The YPQA process also continues to be adopted in other Minnesota youth organizations. In 2012, twelve new organizations contracted to learn and adopt the process. As a result of these contracts, 141 youth development sites received consultation and technical assistance from the Youth Work Institute.

Minnesota's YPQA process is now responding to national attention. Missouri is contracted with Minnesota's Center for Youth Development to replicate quality assessment projects there -- both in 4-H and other youth work programs. In addition, the Institute is using funds from the Howland Endowment to consider ways that young people can help improve the quality of their own programming.

Another important continuing effort to reach the field is the Youth Development Insight blog. This blog is a forum where youth development educators and specialists offer their views on what is happening in the field of youth development, with an eye to research. It is meant to provoke discussion as well as disseminate information to the field.

2. Brief description of the target audience

The Youth Work Institute serves individuals, organizations and systems working with and on behalf of youth. This includes those who interact with youth through community-based programming as well as decision-makers who can improve the quality and quantity of opportunities for youth to be involved in out-of-school-time activities. Examples include: youth program directors, youth workers, volunteers, teachers, coaches, parents and elected officials, as well as community collaborative initiatives, state agencies, funders and policy makers. In 2012, 43 percent of workshop attendees were from communities of color.

3. How was eXtension used?

eXtension was not used in this program

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

1. Standard output measures

2012	Direct Contacts Adults	Indirect Contacts Adults	Direct Contacts Youth	Indirect Contacts Youth
Actual	2717	41000	0	0

2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)

Patent Applications Submitted

Year: 2012

Actual: 0

Patents listed

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

Number of Peer Reviewed Publications

2012	Extension	Research	Total
Actual	4	0	0

V(F). State Defined Outputs

Output Target

Output #1

Output Measure

- Educational offerings will be delivered for youth-serving organizations. (Target expressed as the number of events, classes, workshops delivered.)

Year	Actual
2012	58

Output #2

Output Measure

- Capacity-building consultation and technical assistance will be delivered. (Target expressed as number of participating organizations.)

Year	Actual
2012	12

Output #3

Output Measure

- Educational offerings will be delivered through distance education methods. (Target expressed as the number of online offerings delivered.)

Year	Actual
2012	11

V(G). State Defined Outcomes

V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content

O. No.	OUTCOME NAME
1	Participants in educational offerings will report that they increased their understanding and knowledge of the given topic. (Target expressed as a percentage of participants in agreement.)
2	Youth Development organizations participating in consultation and technical assistance will increase program quality. (Target expressed as percentage of organizations that improved one or more dimensions of program quality.)
3	Participants in educational offerings will report that they will be able to apply what they learned to their work. (Target expressed as percentage of those in agreement.)
4	Programs participating in quality improvement efforts will measure program quality with a validated assessment tool. (Target expressed as number of organizations and funding sources utilizing tool.)

Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

Participants in educational offerings will report that they increased their understanding and knowledge of the given topic. (Target expressed as a percentage of participants in agreement.)

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Knowledge Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	96

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Research is the backbone of effective youth development programs. It is critical that practitioners understand the latest youth development research and related best practices. Earlier research noted disparities in youth worker training and staff development options, pointing to a need for more education.

What has been done

The Youth Work Institute's offerings are grounded in the latest youth development research. They bridge research with practical ways to apply it to daily practice.

Results

Evaluation summaries for all Youth Work Institute classes in 2012 demonstrated that 96 percent of respondents (N=668) agreed that their understanding of the research related to the session topic was enhanced.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
805	Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services
806	Youth Development

Outcome #2

1. Outcome Measures

Youth Development organizations participating in consultation and technical assistance will increase program quality. (Target expressed as percentage of organizations that improved one or more dimensions of program quality.)

Not Reporting on this Outcome Measure

Outcome #3

1. Outcome Measures

Participants in educational offerings will report that they will be able to apply what they learned to their work. (Target expressed as percentage of those in agreement.)

Not Reporting on this Outcome Measure

Outcome #4

1. Outcome Measures

Programs participating in quality improvement efforts will measure program quality with a validated assessment tool. (Target expressed as number of organizations and funding sources utilizing tool.)

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2012	52

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Staff development and quality assessment have not been used consistently across youth organizations in Minnesota. As described in last year's, the Youth Work Institute is "hard wiring" training and assessment into Minnesota's youth-serving organizations.

What has been done

In 2012, twelve new organizations adopted the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool. This includes multi-site organizations such as Anoka-Hennepin Schools Community Education, the

Hennepin County Library system, the Metropolitan Alliance of Community Centers, United Way of Olmstead County and other individual nonprofit organizations.

Results

Cumulatively, 52 youth development organizations, many of which have multiple program sites, have adopted the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool, and are conducting observations of the features of their program delivery. The twelve new organizations that adopted the program in 2012 represent 141 program sites.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
805	Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services
806	Youth Development

V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes

- Appropriations changes
- Competing Programmatic Challenges

Brief Explanation

Staffing for Youth Work Institute has been in transition for the past few years because of organizational realignment. The new model is reflected in the 2013-2017 plan of work, which merges 4-H and Youth Work Institute activities. All adult professional development programming will now be provided under the umbrella of the Center for Youth Development. As a result, efforts to disseminate YPQA were led by a smaller group of staff in 2012. Still, additional youth development organizations were attracted to the YPQA and to trainings and consultation that helped them adopt it in their organizations and systems.

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies)

Evaluation Results

All workshops and events delivered to adult youth development workers were evaluated through end-of-session surveys. Besides results described in Outcomes Measures, the evaluation examined the effectiveness of instruction, applicability to work settings and participants' understanding of the topic at the end of the workshop.

Key Items of Evaluation

The Youth Work Institute is committed to serving adults who work with youth, so that programs replicate the most effective, evidence-based practices and achieve outcomes. Toward that end, evaluations are measuring the effectiveness of workshops, and Minnesota's youth development organizations are adopting the Youth Program Quality Assessment. Through that assessment tool, hundreds of youth development program sites are holding themselves accountable to providing quality youth program experiences.