Youth Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

OVERVIEW
- This is an observational measure that assesses the quality of learning environments and identifies staff training needs and can be used an external assessment, internal assessment, or self-assessment
- This measure is very comprehensive and provides thorough instructions and explanation of the process within the tool package

SUBSCALES
- Safe Environment
  - E.g., Emotional Safety, Accommodating Environment
- Supportive Environment
  - E.g., Warm Welcome, Active Engagement
- Interaction
  - E.g., Collaboration, Leadership
- Engagement
  - E.g., Choice, Reflection

TARGET POPULATION
- Program staff, administrators, researchers, youth
- An internal, external, and self-assessment can be conducted using the Youth PQA

LENGTH & HOW IT IS MEASURED
- 63 items across 18 subscales
- Field notes should be taken during the program observation and measure should be completed at the of the program session
- For each question, a 3-point scale is provided, outlining examples for each items as to what a 1 (none of something), 3 (some of something), and 5 (all of something occurs)
- Scores are averaged by domains and subscales
- Available in: English, Spanish

DEVELOPER
- The Forum for Youth Investment, 2012

GOOD TO KNOW
- Please note you have to register online at cypq.org/downloadpqa to get access to this tool.
- Before using this tool, it is recommended to read through the Youth Program Quality Assessment Handbook and that you, or someone in your evaluation team, attend a one-day PQA Basics Training.
- There are several versions of this tool based on the age of youth participants and the context which you are interested in evaluating (e.g., School-Aged PQA for grades K-6, Youth PQA for grades 4-12, Youth PQA Short-form, Camp, Arts, Academic, Summer Learning, Health & Wellness, STEM)
- There is an additional section of this questionnaire that also measure Organization items, such as policies, practices, staff development, and strategies for program improvement

LEARN MORE

PSYCHOMETRICS
- Reliability
  - Internal Consistency
  - Inter-rater reliability (.38 – .84)
- Validity
  - Content validity, Construct Validity
  - Convergent and Discriminant

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE TOOL.