Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs

QUALITY DOMAIN SUMMARIES

Program Infrastructure Category

PURPOSE: Program has mission and vision statements that are grounded in the needs of its community. Program sets annual goals for youth and for the organization that drive a continuous cycle of data collection, evaluation and quality improvement. Program has evidence that it is meeting its goals and the needs of stakeholders.

FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: Program develops and implements a clear strategic plan and aligned fundraising plan. Program shares information about the program with key stakeholders to promote sustainability.

PLANNING: Program is designed to allocate enough time, staff and resources to promote positive academic and developmental youth outcomes. Program has a proactive summer program planning process that is inclusive of all key stakeholders and connected to the goals of the program. Program has a comprehensive structure in place for all programming throughout the summer, in advance of the session.

STAFF: Program’s recruitment and staffing process intentionally yields culturally competent staff with relevant skills. Program staff is empowered to manage the program and has a voice in organizational decisions. Program provides extensive opportunities for staff development and advancement before, during and after the session.

PARTNERSHIPS: Program builds and maintains strong linkages with partners, including community organizations, the public school system and government agencies, that are supportive of its mission and have a vested interest in the program’s success. Program has a formal structure for communication and data sharing with all key external partners. Program builds and maintains strong linkages with families.

Point-of-Service Category

INDIVIDUALIZED: Program assesses young people’s needs early in the program and develops individualized strategies for meeting program goals.

INTENTIONAL: Activity planning and execution shows intentional focus on meeting learning goals and use of research-based instructional methods.

INTEGRATED: Programming builds skills, knowledge and behaviors that promote academic success and healthy development. Activities show a blend of academic strategies and social/emotional development strategies throughout the entire day.

UNIQUE PROGRAM CULTURE: Program creates a “summer culture” that is different from the school year and promotes a sense of community.