

APPLY NOW AND JOIN THE INAUGURAL Summer Continuous Program Improvement (CPI) Learning Cohort

Is your summer learning program team interested in building capacity to use data and reflection to improve your work with young people?

Apply to participate in the *Summer Continuous Program Improvement (CPI) Learning Cohort* by March 21st, 2022.

Application can be found [HERE](#).

What is Summer CPI? Continuous Program Improvement is a mindset and a way of doing business. It's about your team using different kinds of data to identify and make the right adjustments—big and small—to help your program be the best it can be. **Summer CPI** is all about streamlining the process to fit with the unique schedules, opportunities, and realities of summer programs in Minnesota!

What is the Summer Learning Cohort? Program managers from up to 10 organizations from around Minnesota will implement new **summer CPI** tools and resources that build off Ignite Afterschool's evidence-based *Making Meaning with Multiple Data Sets* CPI process. Together we'll explore what works, what doesn't, and what else is needed so we can improve the tools for future summers.

Benefits to your program:

- Receive a **summer CPI toolkit** filled with week-by-week data collection and reflection tips and ideas and other M3 CPI resources
- Be part of a **community of colleagues** working toward similar goals
- Access to **training and professional development** supports in summer effective practices for your direct-service staff
- Support and **technical assistance** from Ignite Afterschool
- Receive **copies of Believe It. Build It.** Minnesota's Guide to Effective Afterschool Practices and ten decks of Building Block Cards to use with your staff for training, reflection, and other CPI strategies

Why we're doing it: We know from our that the *Making with Meaning with Multiple Data Sets (M3)* Continuous Program Improvement school-year cycle is a game changer for many programs. We also know that summer is different and has unique challenges:

- Staff training and onboarding time is shorter and more intensive
- program days are longer while program cycles are shorter
- there's often little time to pause and "take inventory" of how things are going and how they could be improved.

The **Summer CPI Learning Cohort** will address these dynamics and be an opportunity to co-create ways to make summer CPI its own kind of game changer.

What is Summer CPI?

Continuous Program Improvement is...:

- building a culture of *evaluative thinking* among your staff, partners, and participants
- using multiple kinds of data to *improve* your programming
- engaging your team in *rapid cycle feedback loops* so you have the information you need when you need it in order to make adjustments to your programming

Who can be involved in CPI?

CPI can be for anyone and everyone involved in summer programming! Here are some of the stakeholders to consider including:

- Young people
- Youth workers
- Program managers
- Parents
- Partners and funders
- Evaluators
- Organizational leaders



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Organizational Commitment

- **At least one Program Manager attends Learning Cohort meetings:**
 - 2-3 virtual prep sessions in April-May
 - 2 facilitated check-in gatherings in June-July
 - 1-2 debrief sessions in August-September
- **Implement toolkit CPI action items:**
 - Program manager(s)/leader(s) agree to implement the continuous program improvement and staff reflection strategies included in the toolkit, including suggesting/trying new ways that work within your program design and circumstances.
- **Participate in and/or provide training for direct service staff:**
 - Summer staff who work directly with young people will have an opportunity to participate in a virtual “Summer Institute” 1-2 day series of workshops in early June 2022 (exact dates to be negotiated with Learning Cohort members depending on your program schedules).
 - Direct service staff will also have access to short “Summer Tips” videos on Ignite’s Kajabi on-line learning platform (there’s an app for that!)

Criteria, Directions to Apply and Selection Notification:

The Summer *CPI Learning Cohort* will begin in mid-April 2022. This pilot cohort will include up to 10 programs that are providing at least 5-6 weeks of comprehensive summer programming for young people in Minnesota during the summer of 2022.

The Summer *CPI Learning Cohort* is committed to equity and diversity in selection of program teams. We encourage both small and large, public sector and nonprofit programs, and urban, suburban, and rural programs statewide to apply. We welcome and encourage 21st CCLC funded programs to apply. We also encourage culturally-specific organizations as well as those that serve youth from a broad range of cultural backgrounds to apply. The selection committee will look at the breadth and scope of organizations to ensure diversity of perspective and experience, as well as a commitment to CPI.

The application can be found on our website [HERE](#).

Applications are due Monday, March 21st, 2022.

Final decisions and notifications will be made by March 28th, 2022.

Questions? Contact Sarah Loepfe, Strategy Manager Professional Development & Learning, sarah@igniteafterschool.org

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