

## **The Forum for Youth Investment and nFocus Software Partner to Bring Improved Accountability to Youth Development**

The Ready by 21® Challenge calls on states and communities to change the odds for children and youth by changing the way they do business

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Washington, DC - The Forum for Youth Investment (the Forum) and nFocus Software® have entered into a partnership agreement to bring improved accountability to youth development. The Forum is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping leaders and communities across the nation make sure all young people are Ready by 21® - ready for college, work and life. nFocus Software® is a leading provider of data management and analysis software enabling non-profit organizations, Fortune 500 companies and the federal government to proactively increase program effectiveness.

With this partnership, the Forum and nFocus Software will provide technology and expertise to community-based youth service organizations to improve accountability and decision-making that leads to improved outcomes for children and youth. nFocus Software® will be joining as a technical partner in the Ready by 21® National Partnership - an unprecedented coalition of organizations representing government, education, non-profit, business, research and philanthropy sectors. Through the Ready by 21® Challenge, youth serving leaders will have the opportunity to put in place a complete and proven set of outcome measurement tools and processes that will significantly improve their ability to positively affect the lives of their children and youth.

State and community leaders constantly struggle with a limited ability to measure the quality and impact of their overall effort to support young people within their individual communities. Data exists in disparate and unconnected systems that do not integrate with each other. Additionally, there is no common language or standardized approaches in use of data between various youth serving organizations within a community that includes schools, government agencies and community-based organizations. The combined efforts of the Forum and nFocus Software bring unmatched expertise in the areas of technology and strategic expertise for implementing the Ready by 21® Framework which is focused on results and providing actionable data quickly that can help communities bring precision to their passion for helping kids.

“Ready by 21 is founded on the belief that building leader capacity for creating shared accountability is the fastest way to fundamentally improve outcomes for children and youth. The Ready by 21 Approach engages leaders and communities with the help needed to use a big picture approach to planning and accountability that is action-oriented, results-based and built on an understanding of the whole child,” states Karen Pittman, Executive Director of The Forum for Youth Investment. “The Approach helps leaders begin to think differently – to ask bigger, bolder questions about the combined impact of their individual investments. What they often lack, however, is the ability to know differently – to have the data they need to answer essential questions such as ‘are we reaching the young people who need help the most with consistent high quality programs? Is it making a difference?’ To help leaders answer those questions we are excited to have nFocus as a technology partner in Ready by 21 Partnership.”

“nFocus Software has been providing Data Management and Outcome Measurement solutions to youth-serving organizations for over 15 years. Over the last decade, it became obvious that the most effective way to tackle the problems facing America’s youth was through an integrated approach at the community level. Through partnering with the Forum and the other Ready by 21 Partners, we can offer communities a complete, and proven, set of outcome measurement tools and processes that will significantly improve their ability to positively affect the lives of their children and young adults. By combining our software tools with the Forum’s expertise in program development, we believe we can truly help to improve the lives of America’s youth and the future of our Nation’s workforce,” states Ananda Roberts, President and CEO of nFocus Software.

The Ready by 21 Challenge calls on leaders and communities to change the odds for children and youth by changing the way they do business. More than two dozen states and communities across the country have already taken on the challenge and have seen immediate results from their efforts to bring Big Picture thinking into their work. The Ready by 21® Approach helps leaders – from young people to parents, program directors to policy makers – bring precision to their passion, ensuring that all young people are Ready by 21 – ready for college, work and life.

Through the partnership nFocus Software® will provide their TraxSolutions™ Suite, a leading data collection and outcome measurement platform, which includes KidTrax® Participant Management, the Outcome Measurement Toolkit, Community Compass™, a community portal that enables families to locate vital youth services, Community Server™, an enterprise class reporting and analysis system, StaffTrax™ and VolunteerTrax®.

#### **About the Forum for Youth Investment**

The Forum for Youth Investment is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping communities and the nation make sure all young people are Ready by 21®: ready for college, work and life. This goal requires that young people have the supports, opportunities and services needed in the first two decades of life so that they are on track and ready to learn, work, thrive, connect and contribute. The Forum provides youth and adult leaders with the information, technical assistance, training, network support and partnership opportunities needed to increase the quality and quantity of youth investment and youth involvement.

#### **About nFocus Software**

nFocus Software® is a leading provider of data management and analysis software enabling non-profit organizations, Fortune 500 companies and the federal government to proactively increase program effectiveness. Founded in 1995 as the first software of its kind in the youth service arena, nFocus Software's solutions now track, trend and measure outcomes for more than 2.2 million children across 3,500 social service and community-based organizations, public schools and government agencies across America. nFocus Software's solutions are also used to track the training and mission readiness for all 1.2 million soldiers in the United States Army.

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