



Are We Ready to Engage in a Quality Cohort?

There are many ways to engage with Quality and work with your team to support continuous quality improvement. One of the most intensive is to join a Quality Cohort. Below are a few questions to help you gauge your organization/program's capacity to participate in a Quality Cohort.

Criteria	No / not at all	Rarely / not much	Sometimes / a bit	Yes / a lot
Do site/program managers work full-time for the organization/program?				
Does the program have a permanent and/or stable location that meets the needs of program activities?				
Do program staff have easy access to the program building/location whenever necessary?				
Do program offerings take place consistently each week throughout the entire school year?				
Does the program have space to conduct a meeting with program staff and a coach?				
Do program staff have opportunities to collaborate, practice skills, plan lessons together, or learn from each other?				
Are program staff compensated for at least 3 – 5 hours each week for the purpose of program planning and/or working with a coach?				
Do program managers actively build and maintain positive relationships with program staff and youth, and lead in a way that program staff feel supported and encouraged?				
Do program managers conduct meetings regularly with all staff at the program level?				
Are program staff/managers/leaders receptive to feedback and support from an external coach?				
Do program managers/leaders use assessment and/or evaluation data to continuously review and refine program activities, policies, staffing and professional development?				
Are professional development opportunities available and encouraged for all staff in multiple formats, including workshops, observation, and peer-to-peer learning?				
Are both year-round and seasonal/part-time staff involved in using data for program improvement planning?				
Have program managers and staff had previous experience working with a coach and using data to inform goals and training needs?				

If your organization answers most of the questions with "Sometimes" or "Yes," you are likely ready to join a Quality Cohort. If not, consider checking out some of SOWA's professional learning opportunities to help build your organization's capacity for engaging in Quality.