



Data Academy is an engaging, fast-paced training series that seeks to enhance managers' skills in using data to lead staff in improving outcomes for children and families. Approximately 30 DCP managers and QA staff can be accommodated in this training in FY2020, receiving a thorough grounding in key concepts of critical thinking, analysis, and data storytelling from a Data Fluency curriculum that has been delivered in child welfare and human services organizations across the United States. In-person training sessions (March-April 2020) will focus on how participants can leverage existing data systems and reports (SafeMeasures, CAS, CNNX, etc.) and improvement processes (e.g. ChildStat CoQI) to create a comprehensive picture of the strengths and challenges of their local zone or borough. Follow-up webinars, a dedicated project work day, and individual coaching sessions will help participants assess data trends within a given zone and implement strategies that will address a selected improvement priority (identified by the manager in collaboration with PPM and DCP leadership). The training series will culminate in a final presentation to a panel of ACS leadership.

- Session 1** (3/23/20) *Making Sense of Data:* an overview of quality assurance processes/data sources and approaches to asking questions and drawing conclusions across multiple sources
Data Bootcamp: activities to critique and/or apply key data mastery activities (data collection, management, analysis, and application) using Microsoft Excel
- Session 2** (3/24/20) *Critical Thinking:* a gentle, engaging introduction to making sense of information through games
Data Analytics: introduction to key concepts for quantitative data analysis/organization and application to data elements and program planning
- Session 3** (4/7/20) *Using Evidence:* review and critique quantitative and qualitative data with confidence
Triangulation: approaches to using multiple data sources and quantitative and qualitative methods to strengthen analysis
- Session 4** (4/8/20) *Data Analytics Bootcamp:* review available data sources and conduct analyses to identify areas of strengths and challenge using Microsoft Excel
- Session 5** (4/28/20) *The CQI Process:* introduction to plan, do, study, act (PDSA) cycles
Hypothesis Testing: theories of change, understanding and assessing evidence
Understanding Implementation: assessing implementation context and challenges
- Session 6** (4/29/20) *Assessing Effectiveness:* setting and monitoring improvement targets
Communicating with Data: presentation skills for communicating verbally and in writing about data
- Session 7** (5/19/20) *Coaching Session:* dedicated session for supporting project implementation and preparing for the final presentation
- Session 8** (6/3/20) *Final presentation to ACS leadership*

This training series was developed by April Allen of Spark Learning for Organizations, whose Data Fluency curriculum and related training opportunities use gamification and experiential learning techniques to help human services professionals critically engage with data, in collaboration with the ChildStat Data Unit and DCP Leadership.

Prospective participants have the opportunity to apply online (www.spark-learn.com/data-academy-app) through February 28, with selection decisions made by March 9.