

Thursday, June 10: Building the Future

New Jersey YouthBuild Panel



[**isles.org/forum**](https://isles.org/forum)



New Jersey YouthBuild



Jeremy Hanson-Gutierrez

Senior Manager, Field Mobilization, Advocacy and Policy,
YouthBuild USA



Jasmine Joseph-Forman

Chief Program Officer, Newark Opportunity Youth Network



Anita Wemple

Principal, Isles Youth Institute, Isles



Overview

Isles and YouthBuild

Program snapshots:

- YouthBuild USA
- Newark Opportunity Youth Network
- Isles Youth Institute

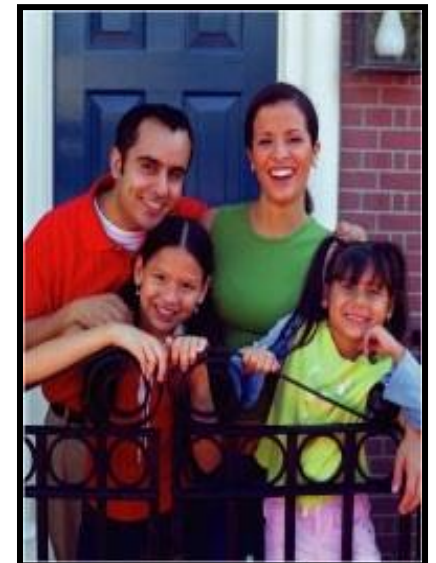
YouthBuild student and alumni panel

Conclusions



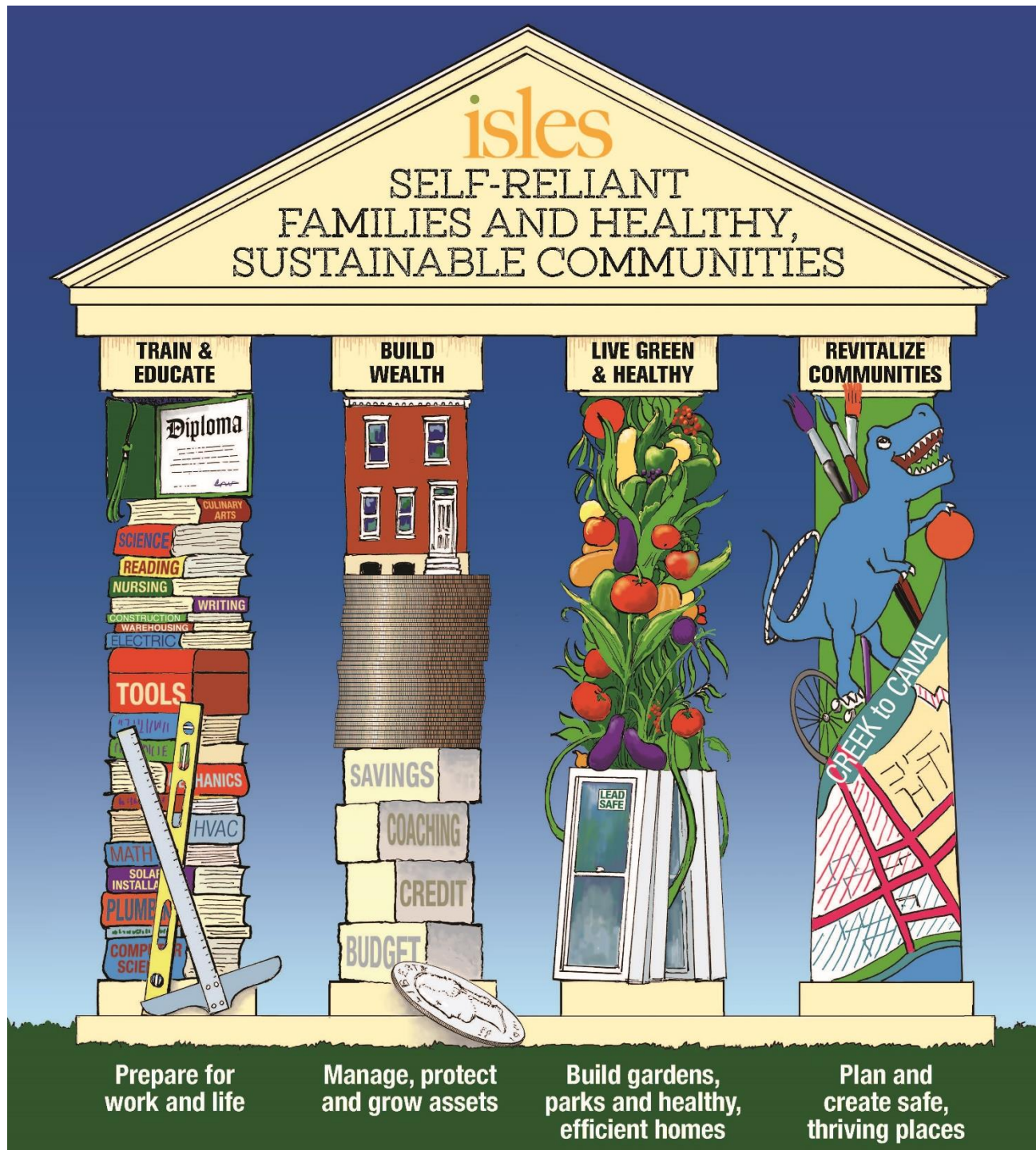
Isles' Mission

To foster self-reliant families...



And healthy, sustainable communities





Program Snapshots

- **YouthBuild USA**
- **Newark Opportunity Youth Network**
- **Isles Youth Institute**



YouthBuild USA:

Origin Story, Impact and
Advocacy Accomplishments



YB YOUTHBUILD

YOUTHBUILD USA
AFFILIATED NETWORK

YouthBuild Core Elements



Education



Construction
& Other
Career
Pathways



Support
Services



Leadership
Development



Alumni
Success



Love

+

History and Impact

- Created in East Harlem in 1978 in partnership with young people
- Since then YouthBuild has...
 - Partnered with over 180,000 young people
 - Supported a movement of 290 programs in 18 countries
 - Constructed over 35,000 units of affordable housing



YouthBuild Programs in the USA



233 programs in 46 states and territories

YB YOUTHBUILD

YOUTHBUILD USA
AFFILIATED NETWORK

The YBI Network: Global Overview

- Charter Members
- Learning Partners
- Other GOYN & CRS

57 programs in
18 countries



YouthBuild Movement Advocacy Wins

- Federal Funding via HUD in 1992; Transferred to DOL in 2006
- Bipartisan Champions in both Houses of Congress lead an annual funding support letter:
 - 172 House Signers (FY 22)
 - 49 Senate Signers (FY 22)
- President's Budget - \$145 million for FY 22 (50% increase)



The best part of
YouthBuild...

Is YOU!

Congratulations to
Isles for 40 years of
transformative work!



YB YOUTHBUILD

YOUTHBUILD USA
AFFILIATED NETWORK



NEWARK
OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH NETWORK



LEAD
CHARTER
SCHOOL



YouthBuild
NEWARK



MBKN
MY BROTHER'S
KEEPER NEWARK

What is Newark Opportunity Youth Network?

Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN) is New Jersey's leading advocate of opportunity youth with a body of replicable initiatives that are designed to address youth disconnection.



Who are Opportunity Youth?



The term **“opportunity youth”** is a relatively new phrase to describe young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not participating in the labor force. But for years, they've been defined as *at-risk, dropouts, disconnected or delinquents*.

Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN) was established to change this narrative through the collective work of public and private organizations, transforming the way they are educated and prepared for post-secondary learning, careers, and life.

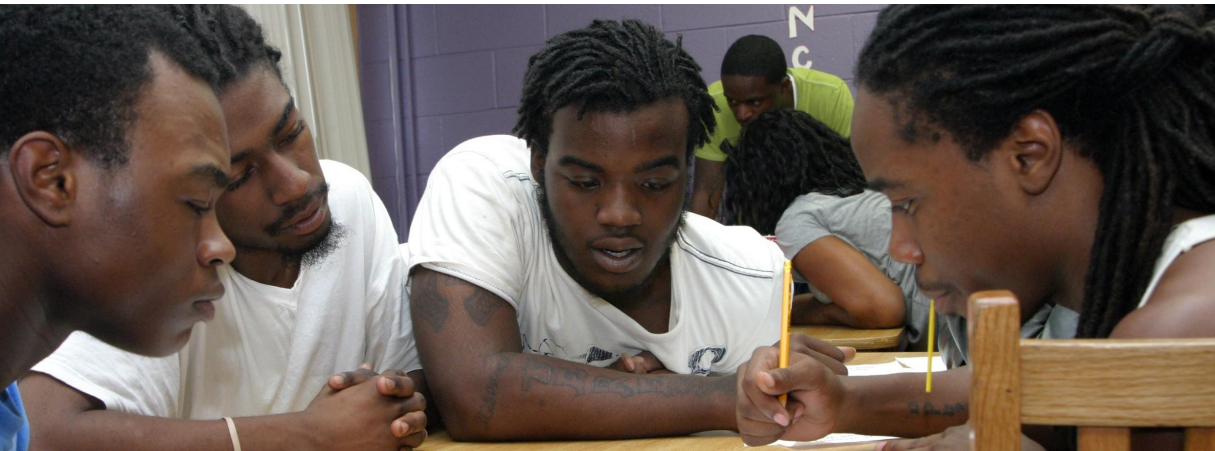
Though Newark is not the only U.S. community working to address the needs of opportunity youth, we are charting a new path to success.

Our Story

Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN), a founding charter member of the Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN), began its work in 2016 after nearly a decade of work as YouthBuild Newark, an affiliate of YouthBuild USA, to provide young people - ages 16-to-24 years old - an opportunity to earn a GED while gaining on-the-job training through community building projects.

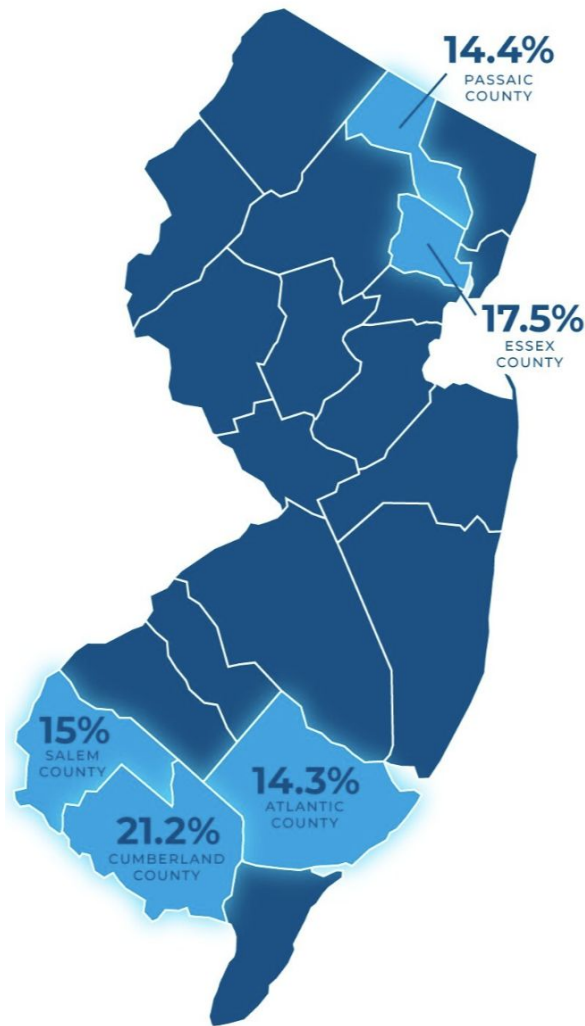
Robert Clark, founder and executive director, made history as the first YouthBuild graduate to found a YouthBuild program in a major city, and his visionary leadership led to years of successful community building throughout New Jersey and collaborations with local and national community-based organizations (CBOs). Through this work, Clark and other Newark leaders recognized how coordinated efforts across the city had the potential to achieve more for opportunity youth than any one organization alone. In 2014, Rutgers University hosted an inaugural forum for the city's leaders to examine—for the first time—data on all the challenges that these young people face—and the implications for the city's economy. This helped create the necessary conditions to formalize nascent partnerships emerging from YouthBuild Newark's work.

In 2016, NOYN was established and began to develop a body of evidence-based initiatives designed to re-engage opportunity youth while drastically changing systems that inhibit their success.



At a Glance

- Since its inception in 2016, NOYN has received about **4,300 applications** for its programs and served more than **700 opportunity youth** across Essex County.
- Nationally, 20% of opportunity youth re-engage and receive their high school diploma while NOYN students exceed expectations with a combined 75% graduation rate.
- NOYN also touts an overall recidivism rate of 12.2% (2019) for its programs, compared to the state's most recently reported rate of 52.4% (2016).
- New Jersey spends **\$16,000** (2020-21) a year in per pupil funding at NOYN programs compared to **\$289,287** (2019) a year it spends for each young person in state youth prison.
- **The population includes:**
 - 90% *Black/African American*
 - 10% *Hispanic/LatinX*
 - 56% *Male*
 - 44% *Female*
 - 70% *Economically Disadvantaged*



In 2018, nearly 4,000 young people in Newark between the ages of 16 and 20 were not in school, and about 3,000 more were at risk of leaving school without a high school diploma.

According to the latest Opportunity Index, there were **15,705** (17.5%) **opportunity youth in Essex County** — well above the national average of 11.7% or New Jersey's average rate of 10.1%.



Our Approach

Newark Opportunity Youth Network launched in 2016 with a multi-pronged approach to improving outcomes for opportunity youth in our community - and across New Jersey. To execute this mission, our network is comprised of four key elements: **Education, Workforce Development, Policy Advocacy, and Systems Building**. Every city and region is unique, but when this approach is localized to a particular community's needs, only then, can large-scale, sustainable impact for opportunity youth become possible.





Education:

LEAD Charter School

LEAD Charter School is New Jersey's **first alternative public charter high school** specifically designed to serve young people 16-21 years old who are not participating in school or the workforce.

By establishing an alternative school to re-engage opportunity youth, NOYN has demonstrated how OY-serving organizations **can leverage public funding streams toward this population.**





Workforce Development:
**YouthBuild
Newark**

YouthBuild Newark is a comprehensive youth and community development program that addresses core issues facing low-income communities: **education, housing, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development.**

NOYN uses its experience with the YouthBuild model to advance a system of quality workforce development programming throughout the city, providing coaching and capacity building to local OY-serving Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).



A young man with dark, curly hair and a beard is speaking at a wooden podium. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. His hands are gesturing as he speaks. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a microphone visible on the podium.

Policy Advocacy:

My Brother's Keeper Newark

In 2014, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka accepted the Call to Action from My Brother's Keeper Alliance, and since that time, MBKN has worked to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color.

MBKN was embedded within NOYN in 2019 to drive the network's advocacy agenda, **leveraging its bodies of work to close opportunity gaps, build systems of support, and create new pathways for continuing education, job training, and employment.**





Systems Building

Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative

The Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative serves as the table around which various players in the field of youth workforce development gather. As its backbone, NOYN is moving to establish a clear school-to-workforce pipeline for Newark's young people through **capacity building** with local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

Using what it has learned from decades of experience as a direct service provider, NOYN serves as an **intermediary** to advance a system of quality workforce development programming throughout the city.





LEAD
CHARTER
SCHOOL

YouthBuild
NEWARK

MBKN
MY BROTHER'S
KEEPER NEWARK

Changing the conversation on Newark's opportunity youth

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less than a year*



*Discover your career
path*



*Participate in
community service*

For youth aged 16-24. Learn more at www.isles.org or facebook.com/islesyouthinstitute



What is IYI?

Founded in 1995, Isles Youth Institute (IYI) is an alternative high school that engages out-of-school youth who seek to take control of their own lives and improve their communities. They obtain:

- a high school equivalency diploma
- job training
- life skills

The IYI mission of “self reliance through education” is furthered by opportunities for:

- leadership development
- financial and health education
- service learning
- pathways to higher education



IYI Goals

Goal: To provide youth with the tools necessary to achieve career success.



- To offer a wide range educational opportunities that support students' choices in all career paths including post-secondary education and advanced vocational training.
- To offer students career development and advancement training including job shadowing, financial literacy and job etiquette skills.



IYI Goals

Goal: To provide youth with the emotional well-being to achieve healthy life relationships and to develop into community-oriented residents



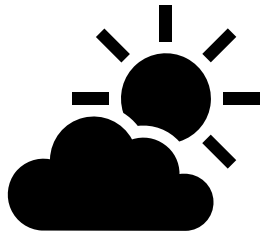
- To offer students opportunities to engage with social services including life skills training, service learning and volunteer activities, mentoring and appropriate social skills training.
- To offer students opportunities to participate in cultural, recreational, and social events within and outside of Trenton to broaden their intellectual horizons and strengthen their emotional capacity.



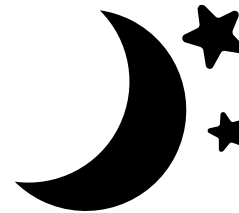
Youth Services

Keeping students
engaged after school

Extended Evening
Program (EEP)



Evening Resource
Center (ERC)



Leadership Academy



IYI Approach:

Academics

Vocational training

Job readiness

Leadership Development

Social and Emotional Support

Community Service

Cultural and Social Programming



YouthBuild

student and alumni

panel



Thank you for attending New Jersey YouthBuild!

Questions or Comments?

Anita Wemple

awemple@isles.org

609.341.4751



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isles.org/forum**

