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# NOYN Newsletter

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. NOYN's work is organized around four key elements of Education, Workforce Development, Policy Advocacy, and Systems Building.

Read how NOYN's initiatives are working together to re-engage opportunity youth while drastically changing systems that inhibit their success.



## NOYN names full-time My Brother's Keeper Newark Executive Director

Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN) has named Mark Comesañas as the first full-time Executive Director of My Brother's Keeper Newark (MBKN), an initiative of NOYN. In his role, Comesañas will lead NOYN's strategic approach to changing systems that inhibit the success of young people in New Jersey. He most recently served as Head of Schools for LEAD Charter School, another of NOYN's initiatives, and will work alongside Khaatim Sherrer El, whose firm - Results Driven Consulting - has led the work over the last several years. [Read the full story below.](#)

[Read more](#)



**Are you between the ages of 16-24?**

**Are you out of school or out of work?**

### Get your diploma.

Get back on track and earn your high school diploma or high-school equivalency.



### Get Job-Ready.

Earn an industry recognized certification in **Healthcare, Information Technology or Construction.**

For more information, please call 862-772-1724  
Visit [leadcharterschool.org/enroll](http://leadcharterschool.org/enroll)

## Apply at LEAD today!

Do you know a young person between the ages of 16-24 interested in developing job training skills, attaining industry-recognized certifications in Construction, Healthcare, and Technology all while earning a high school diploma?

LEAD Charter School is currently enrolling young people for the 2021-22 school year. As the first public charter school of its kind, LEAD helps young people LEAD themselves, their families, and their community toward success. We have campuses in the North and Central Wards. Learn more about LEAD Charter School at the link below.

[Learn more](#)



## Urban League of Essex County accepting applications for Youth Reentry program

Thanks to a \$562,000 grant from the National Urban League (NUL), Urban League of Essex County (UYRP) is now accepting applications for its Urban Youth Reentry Program (UYRP), which focuses on enrolling young people into college courses, engaging in campus activities, and achieving an associates degree. Through a partnership with Essex County College (ECC), Urban League will offer justice-involved youth - ages 18-24 - access to career paths, financial education and a chance for a fresh start.

ECC will provide young people certifications in two workforce tracks: Introduction to IT and A+ Certification as well as Supply Chain Management, where youth learn the logistics behind managing warehouses, packaging, travel and customer service. They also provide academic classes like math construction and more. Students who complete the certified Supply Chain course can apply to ECC's Associates track in Supply Chain Management, which has starting salaries above \$50,000 a year. Each course is limited to about 15-20 students.

"New Jersey's system of youth incarceration has been failing young people for decades, particularly young people of color, their families, and their communities," said Robert Clark, CEO of NOYN. "Research has shown that the state's youth incarceration system does not reduce recidivism or increase public safety. However, Urban League and other community-based organizations that provide justice-involved youth with quality education and job training routinely achieve positive outcomes at a fraction of the cost of operating youth prisons. We are excited for the return of the Urban Youth Reentry Program and look forward to supporting the Urban League in any way we can." [Read the full story below.](#)

[Read more](#)



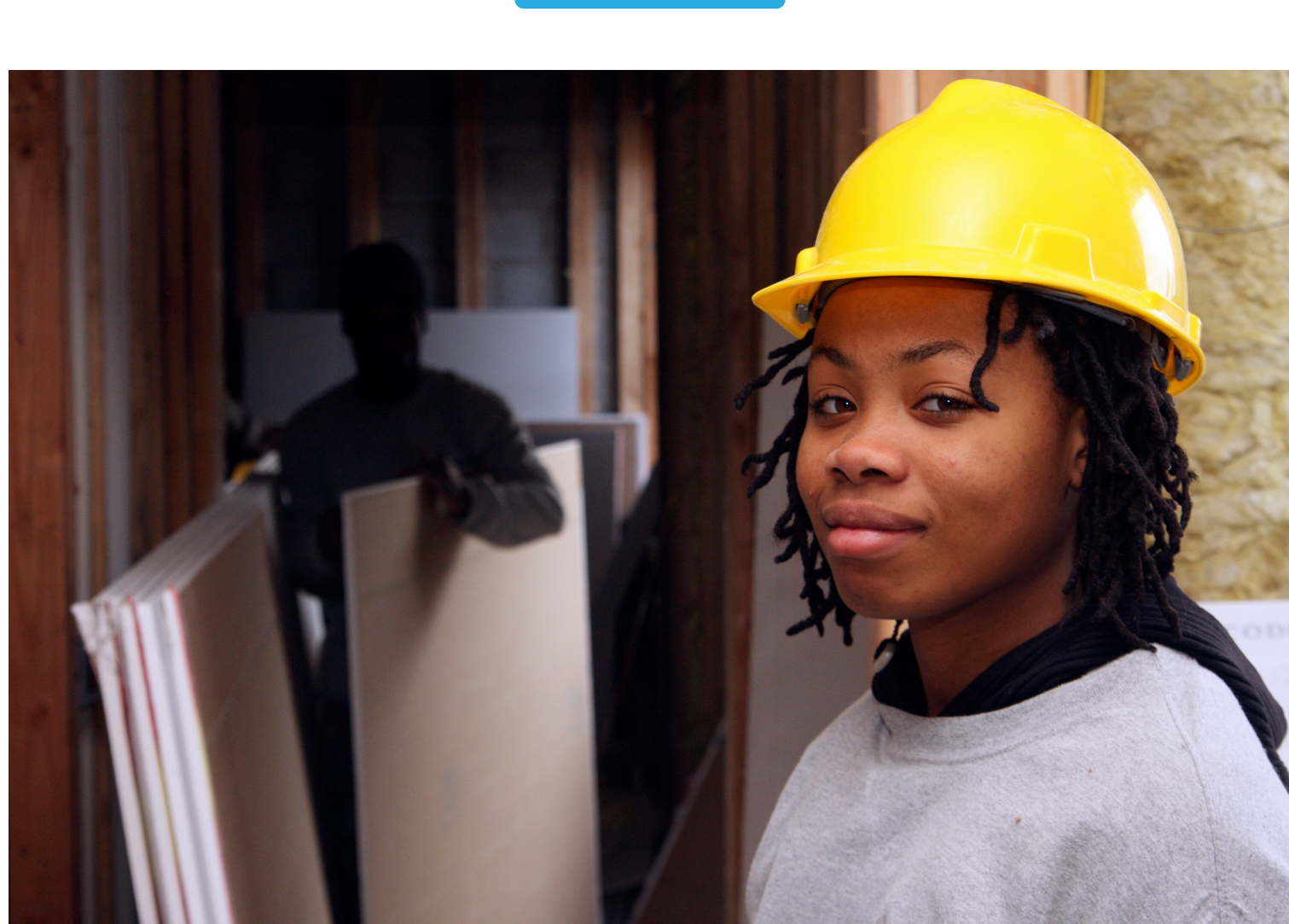
**“Everybody that you connect with at LEAD is here for the same thing; they're here to push you ahead, and when you're surrounded by that kind of energy, it makes you want to change.”**

## New Jersey's Assembly Committee votes yes on "Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program"

In early May, New Jersey's Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee voted to advance A4663, a bill that will allocate \$8.4 million toward creating a two-year "Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program" in the Juvenile Justice Commission, focused on reducing youth involvement with the youth justice system. LEAD alum So'Nya Jordan called for this passage of this bill in her op-ed, "I'm More Than My Mistakes" to shine a light on the need for more quality seats. A huge thanks to all the Assembly members and advocates who provided testimony in support of the bill. We look forward to a vote in the full Assembly and Senate!

In the words of Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, "This is a good step, but we've got a long way to go." [Read So'Nya's op-ed at the link below.](#)

[Read more](#)



## Scotch Porter grants \$10K to help build data infrastructure for Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative members

Scotch Porter, a New Jersey-based men's personal care brand, recently presented Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN) with a \$10,000 grant to support the data infrastructure of the network's in-house initiatives, as well as its work with the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative, a collective impact approach to creating a school-to-workforce pipeline in the city.

The Collaborative brings together leaders in education and workforce development, as well as local employment partners, to create an ecosystem that collectively shares data, creates pathways for career exploration, expands internships and apprenticeships, advocates for policy changes, and addresses wraparound supports for youth as they transition into the workforce. As the backbone of the Collaborative, NOYN works to provide funding opportunities, capacity building, and technical assistance to members of the Collaborative.

"We are grateful for the support that Scotch Porter has provided," said Robert Clark, Chief Executive Officer of NOYN. "These funds will enable us to further strengthen the education and workforce development ecosystem in Newark and, ultimately, increase the number of high-quality seats available for opportunity youth in the city." [Read the full story below.](#)

[Read more](#)