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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 gifts \$15k donation, 25 laptops to Leaders For Life

NOYN recently presented Altarik White - founder and executive director of Leaders For Life (L4L) - with a \$15,000 check and 25 laptops for students in recognition of White's years of service in Newark. As a partner of the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative, L4L is a part of Newark's first collective approach to creating a school-to-workforce pipeline. And as the backbone of the Collaborative, NOYN works to support its partner programs with data, strategy and fundraising."

Altarik is a pillar in the community," said Robert Clark, Chief Executive Officer of NOYN. "Countless families and young people from throughout the city have benefited from the programs offered at Leaders For Life and we're honored to help support his efforts in whatever way we can." [Read the full story below.](#)

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NOYN launches Newark's first school-to-workforce pipeline for young people

NOYN has partnered with Schools That Can, Newark Alliance, and Newark Youth One Stop to launch Newark's first collective approach to creating a school-to-workforce pipeline for the city's youth.

Born out of a planning grant from the Aspen Institute's Opportunity Youth Forum, the Newark Youth Workforce 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.

"By creating a collaborative city-wide strategy, organizations serving both opportunity youth and in-school youth can pool their resources to create more pathways toward success for young people across the city," said Robert Clark, Chief Executive Officer of NOYN. [Read the full story below.](#)

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LEAD Charter School renewed for another five years

LEAD Charter School, an initiative of Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN), was renewed by the New Jersey Department of Education for an additional five years.

LEAD fuels the education arm of NOYN's four-pronged approach to supporting opportunity youth, alongside initiatives focused on workforce development, policy advocacy and systems building. Since its launch in 2017, LEAD's non-traditional learning environment has combined rigorous academics and workforce development to serve young people ages 16 to 21 years old who are disconnected from school or work.

By renewing the state's first alternative charter school, LEAD will continue to offer quality seats and serve a population of young people who have fallen through the cracks of most public systems.

"Every seat LEAD offers is another opportunity for a young person to transform themselves, their families, and their communities," said Robert Clark, Chief Executive Officer of NOYN. [Read the full story here.](#)

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My Brother's Keeper Newark joins Brick City Peace Collective, Newark Police Department and Equal Justice USA to develop a report on Newark's public safety reforms

In June 2020, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka accepted the Obama Foundation's challenge to review the city's use of force policy for the Newark Police Department. Newark is among a handful of cities that has already taken steps to revamp its use of force policy and train officers on the new protocols. Through the report entitled, "Reimagining Policing in Newark," the report is an opportunity to document Newark's broader public safety reforms, including establishing the Office of Violence Prevention & Trauma Recovery and a collaborative for community-based violence prevention initiatives, under the auspices of the Brick City Peace Collective.

Through the city's Consent Decree, a number of other reforms have been put in place including: creating the Newark Community Street Team, adopting body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras for officers, and providing extensive training in de-escalation, bias perception, proper 'search, seizure and arrest' procedures. In addition to highlighting these reforms, the report will also include perspectives from youth on policing in Newark and a resource guide for residents who wanted to get involved in Newark safer for communities. The report should be published later this month. [Check back for more details.](#)