

# Community Transformation:

# Youth Changemakers Leading National Policy and Systems Change For Liberation

CLASP  
The Center for Law and Social Policy

## A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH



# ND4Y: Framework & Policy Agenda

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#WhyWeCantWait

1. REPARATIONS

2. LIBERATION

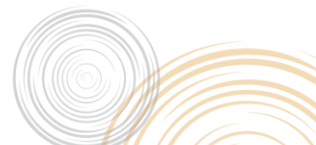
3. DECRIMINALIZATION

4. ABOLITION



ND4Y advances **radical and interconnected policy ideas that transform current systems, and that center racial, gender, and social justice.** Our policies seek to redefine whose expertise, experiences, and systems of knowledge are valued, understanding that young people not only deserve a seat at the decision-making table, but that we can also shake the table and create the menu. **We believe in actively combatting classist and racist systems, championing models that empower communities, and amplifying the voices of young people as decision-makers in the future of our greater society.**

Read the [ND4Y policy agenda](#) here.



# #WhyWeCantWait

At a time of pandemic, recession, public lynchings, and uprisings for racial justice, our nation is at a crossroads. The mounting stress and economic fallout from COVID-19 and racial turmoil is widening the equity gap for young people and communities of color. ND4Y Changemakers are leading in the face of these entrenched challenges and demanding to be seen and heard. Young people and communities across the country are in a crisis and need action and investment from the public and private sector to support solutions proposed for decades by young people and racial justice leaders.



Click [here](#) to view the video.

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# A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH

#WhyWeCantWait

The New Deal for Youth (ND4Y) policy platform advances **radical and interconnected policy** ideas that transform current systems, and that center racial, gender, and social justice. Our policies seek to **redefine whose expertise, experiences, and systems** of knowledge are valued, understanding that young people not only deserve a seat at the decision-making table, but should shake the table and create the menu.

We believe in actively combatting classist and racist systems, championing models that empower communities, and amplifying the voices of young people as decision-makers in the future of our greater society.



# Where We Come From

New Deal for Youth (ND4Y) changemakers are a cohort of **50 young leaders** between the **ages of 15 and 32** from across the country. These young leaders are advocates and organizers who work across a range of issues facing their communities.

**\*Changemakers represented 21 states, including DC and Puerto Rico in the 2023 cohort.**



\*Distribution of ND4Y Changemakers

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## ND4Y Approach & Values

ND4Y was built from and for youth who have been historically marginalized, ignored, and silenced. ND4Y exists to show that young people do care and should be heard and centered during the policy-making process.

The ND4Y initiative was created through years of advocacy on the CLASP Youth Policy team to embark on an intentional process to partner with youth. CLASP's Youth Policy team embarked on a Young Adult Engagement Strategy (Y.A.E.S.) as a response to move from co-consulting with youth to partnering with youth directly. We believe that is imperative that advocates and policymakers place the lived experiences of youth and young adults front and center to any policy agenda that affects them.

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**We can't wait for economic justice. We can't wait for healing and wellbeing. We can't wait for safe communities. It is time for a New Deal for Youth that responds to the historic roots and current scale of the crisis. When the once-in-a-lifetime catastrophe is over, our future as a nation will depend on how intentionally we invest in this generation.**

# 2021

## Building a Foundation

**Recruited** cohort of 39 Changemakers

**Campaign kickoff:** Signed [charter](#) and started policy discussions by issue areas.

- [Economic Justice](#)
- [Healing and Wellbeing](#)
- [Justice & Safe Communities](#)
- [Democracy & Civic Engagement](#)
- [Environmental Justice](#)
- [Immigration](#)

# 2022

## Taking Action

**Mobilizing Youth To Heal in Atlanta:** Brought together 100 youth from across the country to create space for healing, personal growth, and driving positive change.

**Week of Action in DC:** Over 40 meetings with congressional offices, a block party with hundreds of attendees, community service and advocacy day.

**Reviewed and scored** over 80 proposed congressional bills with 139 organizations and individuals endorsing the recommendations.

**Published** [Inspiration for Youth Podcast](#) and [2022 Year in Review](#).

# 2023

## Passion & Purpose

**Increased to 50** Changemakers.

Focused on increasing **connectedness**.

Worked with the Biden administration to make **ND4Y Demands** a priority and influence how legislation is implemented.

**Expanded the ND4Y movement** on the ground through local partnerships, relationships, and community building.

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# YPAR Overview &

# Changemaker Evaluation Team

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# Youth Participatory Action Research

When setting out to choose an evaluation strategy, the CLASP ND4Y Team chose to engage in the YPAR process to allow Changemakers to immerse themselves in the research process itself. Oftentimes, youth initiatives are measured by adult-driven outcomes. By engaging in YPAR, Changemakers were able to codesign the research question, process, and data analysis.

**“No research  
without action,  
no action  
without  
research.”**

-Kurt Lewin

1. **Oriented to the liberation and power of communities** engaged in research and challenges paradigms that prioritize the expert researcher instead of communities impacted by social inequities and injustice.
2. **Centering local knowledge**, concerns, lived experiences, and the voices of community.
3. **A collective, community-driven process.** We win by leaning on each other, learning through every mistake and wrong turn, and how we rise, revise, and root ourselves in the integrity and dignity of our mutual companionship, coexistence, and solidarity.
4. **Not a solitary process**, it is communal and meant to build connectedness and belonging.

# ND4Y-PAR Evaluation Team



Alexis Obinna - Lancaster, CA



Anthony Dickey - Washington, DC



Cecil Hill Jr. - Jackson, MS



Isabel Coronado - Tempe, AZ



Marissa Howdershelt - Chino Hills, CA



Meyiya Coleman - Chicago, IL



Omoum Kaba - Atlanta, GA



Cody Rooney - Amherst, MA



Elias Khoury - Bloomfield, MI



Ryan Dalton - New Orleans, LA  
(2020-2022)



Daniel Rosebud - Atlanta, GA  
(2020-2022)

# Changemaker Evaluation Team (YPAR Process)

The ND4Y Evaluation Strategy group consisted of **11 Changemakers** who participated in **over 30 virtual YPAR sessions** (2022-2023). The two-hour sessions were facilitated by the Praxis Institute and coordinated in the evenings accommodate Changemakers schedules across the country. As part of the YPAR process Changemakers were provided 1:1 coaching and follow-up between YPAR sessions.

**The YPAR process engaged Changemakers in three types of modules that were aligned with the goals of ND4Y:**

- 1. Understanding & Magnifying Self:** Gaining insight into one's thoughts, emotions, beliefs, and values. Magnifying oneself involves leveraging this self-awareness to maximize one's strengths, address weaknesses, and pursue personal growth and fulfillment.
- 2. Understanding & Magnifying Others:** As researchers developing empathy, active listening skills, and an appreciation for their unique perspectives and experiences of others.
- 3. Understanding & Magnifying Life:** Examining the ways in which systemic oppression and inequality impact individuals and communities. Magnifying life involves actively promoting liberatory & progressive policies and taking action to dismantle oppressive structures and systems.

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Changemakers @ Week of Action in Washington DC

# Changemaker YPAR Key Activities

The Youth Participatory Action Research process engaged the evaluation team in YPAR sessions to investigate, analyze, and present ND4Y core activities and share outcomes with partners and CLASP staff.

- Designed a Continuous Quality Improvement Process (CQIP) for ND4Y
- Led a Community Assessment of their Local Areas
- Designed Surveys and Interview Protocols
- Developed a 2022 Report Documenting Key Accomplishments and Recommendations
- Documented ND4Y Atlanta and D.C Changemaker Events
- Analyzed Nearly 160 Hours of Interviews from Changemakers (N = 45)

“

*I joined [the evaluation group] because... I like to break things down... to better understand them.*

- Evaluation Group Changemaker

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