

A **NEW DEAL** FOR **YOUTH**

2023 IMPACT REPORT

**NEW DEAL
FOR YOUTH**



A LETTER FROM A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH CHANGEMAKER



A New Deal for Youth is an iterative experiment in youth-led work. This experiment has proven definitively the power of young people when in positions of leadership. We spent our first few years together planting the seeds for youth-led work. Changemakers had already been doing powerful work in their communities; we only needed to ground ourselves in federal policy and grow our roots. We received training, evaluated legislation, connected with local and federal youth-led and youth-serving organizations, and met with members of Congress and agency officials.

In 2023, A New Deal for Youth began to blossom. We stepped into our power as experts and authorities. Changemakers from around the country came together in the summer for our Hill Briefing, “How to Put Youth in Power: Youth-Led Legislation.” A panel of young people educated legislators and staffers on how to engage youth stakeholders with dignity and benefit from our expertise. We stood on the steps of the Supreme Court with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez as she spoke about the importance of student loan debt forgiveness. At a Press Briefing that day, Representatives Jamaal Bowman, Chuy

Garcia, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Summer Lee stated their commitment to opening pathways for young people to introduce their own legislation.

Young people in A New Deal for Youth are working to realize that vision. At our Week of Action, we met with Rep. Morgan McGarvey, who sought our input on his Young Adult Tax Credit Act (YATCA). We advocated for legislation that supports young people and led important conversations with leaders at the Office of the Surgeon General, Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Labor. At our Grassroots Festival, we uplifted the importance of art in advocacy and opened up the space for powerful musical and spoken word performances. The Administrative and Legislative Advocacy Groups teamed up with GoodKids Mad-City to teach young people at D.C. public schools about public policy advocacy.

We are working to not only evaluate and advocate for legislation, but also introduce our own. We are working to form a nationwide network of youth organizations to share resources, organize, and build youth power. At every step, we have sought to ground our work in community and share forward the knowledge and resources we have received.

We are working to ensure that youth-led work is more than just a concept. Youth-led work is our reality. Our Changemakers were involved in the planning and execution of the 2024 White House Youth Summit, and will be leading the charge to implement young people’s recommendations from the summit. We are finally beginning to realize the fruits of our collective labor, and you’d better believe we’re going to replant those seeds. We’re just getting started.

AS A RESULT OF BEING A PART OF A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH...

77%

indicated that they are
very likely to interact
with policy makers

100%

indicated that ND4Y
is a comfortable
space most or all
of the time

91%

said they feel proud
of what they've
done in ND4Y

94%

of Changemakers indicated
that they are likely or
very likely to vote

100%

said they tried
something new

73%

indicated that they
are very likely to take
a leadership role in
solving issues in their
community

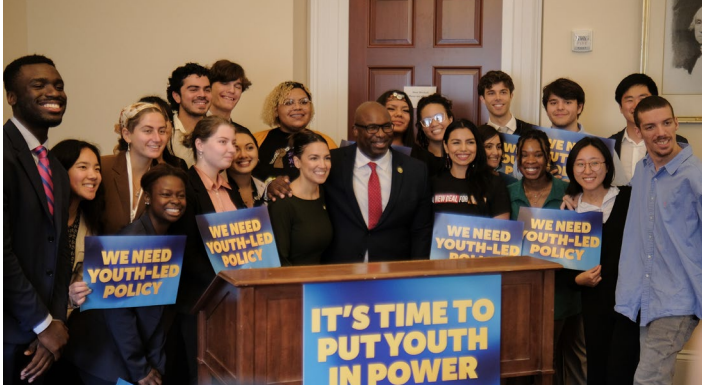
**"Spaces like this give the
opportunity for us to speak and
amplify our voices and our needs."**

— Joseph Yusuf, Changemaker

YEAR 3 HIGHLIGHTS



ND4Y Changemaker Alexis Obinna with Representative Bowman



ND4Y Changemakers and partners with Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Representative Bowman



Hill Briefing

In June, Changemakers called on federal legislators to prioritize youth-led policymaking at a Capitol Hill briefing in coordination with Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)’s office. Representatives Chuy Garcia (D-IL) and Summer Lee (D-PA), along with advocacy organizations **Gen-Z For Change** and **Sunrise Movement** joined ND4Y Changemakers and staff for the briefing and subsequent press conference. To everyone’s surprise and excitement, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) dropped by for a visit right at the end!

Changemakers organized a panel, “How to Put Youth in Power: A Hill Office’s Guide to Youth Legislation,” which stressed the importance of putting young people at the helm of developing legislation rather than just treating youth as subjects. Representatives Bowman, Lee, and Ocasio-Cortez all pledged their support for a youth-led legislative process, Ocasio-Cortez

attended the press conference on her way to the Supreme Court to advocate for student loan cancellation, and she connected the fight for student loan cancellation to youth-led policy.

“I am committed not only to uplifting and engaging the voices and leadership capabilities of the youth, but also following the youth as they reimagine, design, and write legislation to build a new country that works for all people.”

— Representative Jamaal Bowman

Week of Action

The second annual New Deal for Youth Week of Action took place in November and was a big success! Changemakers joined forces in D.C. and engaged with policymakers, shared the importance of our demands, and built community with each other and with our partners.

Each day during the Week of Action was guided by one of New Deal for Youth's project or strategy groups. At the Grassroots Festival, led by the **Grassroots Team**, Changemakers shared their stories during a cultural exchange and participated in a panel discussion that connected art and activism. The event also featured interactive art and awesome musical performances, including by our very own Aaron Mack and Andre Simms. We also honored some amazing organizations working with youth in the D.C. area and listened to awesome musical performances, some by Changemakers!

Changemakers toured the Capitol while the **Administrative Advocacy Team** met with officials from the Biden administration to advocate for youth-led policy. The Admin Team also led Changemakers in a teach-in on power mapping in partnership with Chicago-based community organization GoodKids MadCity.

ND4Y Changemakers and CLASP staff at the Week of Action Grassroots Festival



And finally, the **Legislative Advocacy Group** led us through Hill Day, where Changemakers split into teams to visit members of Congress to advocate for the Young Adult Tax Credit Act, the Green New Deal for Schools Act, and the Connecting Youth to Jobs Act for a powerful day of activism and advocacy on Capitol Hill. All three bills that Changemakers advocated for during Hill Day connect directly to the Economic Justice and Opportunity and Environmental Justice pillars of A **New Deal for Youth's policy platform**.

During Hill Day, Changemakers met with Representative Morgan McGarvey (D-KY) in support of the Young Adult Tax Credit Act, which would ensure young people ages 18-24 have access to much-needed resources during critical years of their lives. **As a direct result of Changemakers' advocacy, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) co-sponsored the introduction of the Young Adult Tax Credit!**

HONORING LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We help bring youth voices and youth-led policy to Capitol Hill, but these organizations are on the ground supporting D.C. youth so they can become the leaders of tomorrow we need them to be. We honored the following orgs at our Grassroots Festival—thank you so much for your continued dedication to youth voice and youth leadership!

- **Fan-DC**
- **DC Girls' Coalition**
- **Words Beats & Life**
- **Harriet's Wildest Dreams**
- **Project Create D.C.**
- **Opportunity Youth United**
- **Prince George's County Youth Advisory Board**

Inspiration for You[th] Podcast

Season 2 of the Inspiration for You[th] podcast, spearheaded and directed by Changemakers, provided a platform for young people to share their experiences in A New Deal for Youth directly, including episodes on mental health, the Hill Briefing, and the Week of Action.

Special shout out to Changemakers Cloud Benn, our inimitable host, and Joseph Yusuf, our behind the scenes podcast editor!



Cloud Benn



Joseph Yusuf



SOCIAL MEDIA & PRESS SPOTLIGHTS

Press Recap

Our Public Awareness Team worked throughout the year to uplift Changemakers' work on social media. Changemakers and their community work were also featured in several news pieces and op-eds.

HERE FOR YOU SPOTLIGHT

Reimagining the juvenile justice system in Kansas

KSN.COM
By Julia Thatcher, featuring Changemaker Yusef Presley

Biden Owes Young People. He's Selling Our Future to Fossil Fuel Executives | Opinion

Published Apr 12, 2023 at 8:00 AM EDT

NEWSWEEK
By Changemaker Elias Khoury
Apr 12, 2023

SOUTHERN POLITICS

Notes on 'In Their Own Words,' a series on the youth mental health crisis

SCALAWAG
By Rainesford Stauffer, featuring Changemaker Cloud Benn
September 14, 2023

Social Media Recap



Instagram Top Performing Post: Malaak Meeting Governor Whitmer

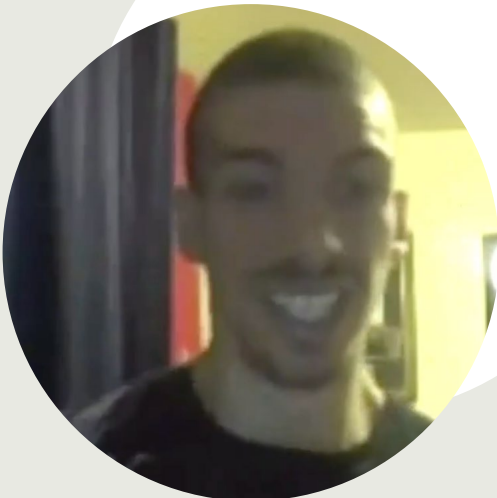
VIDEO VIEWS
36,194
(+54.7%)

TikTok Top Performing Post: Prison Abolition: But Make it Indigenous



ENGAGEMENTS
8,372
(+203.9%)

Instagram Top Performing Post: Cody Discussing the Opioid Epidemic in Biden's State of the Union



NEW FOLLOWERS
395
(+36.4%)

OUR POLICY PLATFORM

The New Deal for Youth Policy Platform advances radical and interconnected policy ideas that transform current systems and that center racial, gender, and social justice. We champion models that empower communities and amplify the voices of young people as decision-makers in the future of our greater society. We advocate for policy that embodies the principles of reparations, liberation, decriminalization, and abolition.

We actively endorse and push forward policy that promotes:

- **Economic Justice & Opportunity**
- **Healing & Well-Being**
- **Justice & Safe Communities**
- **Democracy & Civic Engagement**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Immigration Justice**

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

25

Changemakers in Attendance at the Week of Action

20

Meetings with Congressional Offices

12

Changemakers in Attendance at Hill Day

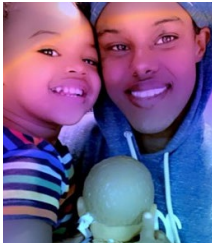
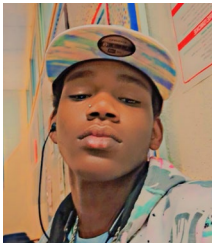
18

Panelist Appearances

“CLASP gives us a platform that we would not have otherwise.”

— Cody Rooney, Changemaker

WELCOMING NEW CHANGEMAKERS IN 2023



In 2023 we welcomed 18 new Changemakers to our cohort! From engaging with representatives, to sharing our policy platform, to building community with each other, Changemakers drive the action and advocacy at the core of A New Deal for Youth.

Names, left to right:

Andre Simms, Chester, PA

Andrea Anaya-Sandoval, Silver Spring, MD

Angelica Díaz Nuñez, Carolina, PR

Decko Clark, Las Vegas, NV

Elias Khoury, Bloomfield, MI

Elina Salikhova, Brooklyn, NY

Fabian Mondejar, Auburn, WA

Hercules Helms, Las Vegas, NV

Kai-Lin Kwek-Rupp, New York, NY

Kayla Irad, Minneapolis, MN

Kirsten Shyu, Brooklyn, NY

Manny Coleman, Glendale, MD

Marco Lima, Providence, RI

Myiah Smith, Washington, DC

Naomi Porter, Queens, NY

Roquibat Adetunji, Providence, RI

Shaeleigh Severino, Washington, D.C.

Wesley Polaco Méndez, Rio Grande, PR

LOOKING AHEAD

- 01** Put more youth in power
- 02** Broaden our reach
- 03** Leverage regional impact
- 04** Strengthen the political and organizing power of young people
- 05** Ensure that Changemakers are seen and uplifted as experts in policy solutions

“Before I got involved in New Deal for Youth, I was very uneducated on how policy and activism go hand in hand. Now that I’ve been a part of the organization for about three years, I now know how policy and advocacy and activism all work together to make a greater change.”

— Law-Rel Butler, Changemaker

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Funders

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Ford Foundation

Andrus Family Fund

Partners

Center for Law and Social Policy

Cities United (Rachel Askew)

Civil Rights Corp (Thea Sebastian)

Community Catalyst (Dusan Stojcic)

**Community Legal Services - Philly
(Kynaat Mirza)**

Earth Justice (Jeremy Orr)

**Forum for Community Solutions (Jamiel
Alexander)**

Gathering for Justice (Luis Hernandez)

**Georgia Reconnecting Youth (Daniel
Rosebud)**

**Girls for Gender Equity (Damala Denny +
Ella Grace Downs)**

**Good Kids Mad City Englewood
(Carlil Pittman)**

**Healing Ninjas/Alianza
(Hernán Carvente-Martinez)**

Jobs for the Future (Meredith Hills)

Justice and Joy National (Lisette Engel)

Lukee Forbes

NAACP (Wisdom Cole)

**National Network for Youth (Darla Bar-
dine)**

National Youth Employment Coalition

Next 100 (Francisco Arriaza)

**Opportunity Youth United (Kimberly
Pham)**

**Partners for Youth with Disabilities
(Carol Murray)**

Ryan Dalton

Shanice Turner

Taller Salud (Welmo Romero + Kaira Saez)

Think of Us (Sixto Cancel)

True Colors United (Whitney Bunts)

Van Tran

Whitney Lee

Youth Climate Artists (Caitlin Cassidy)

Youth Jobs Connect (Mitali Chakroborty)

A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH

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Visit newdealfor youth.org

Facebook: [@NewDeal4Youth](https://www.facebook.com/NewDeal4Youth)

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