

ND4Y

2025 IMPACT REPORT | A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH



AARON JACKSON
[SECOND FROM RIGHT]

A LETTER FROM A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH CHANGEMAKER

Hey, my name is Aaron Jackson. I've been a changemaker with A New Deal for Youth since the very beginning. This was a pivotal moment in my life as I transitioned from an unemployed artist into the corporate world. Upon joining the organization, there was an urge to mask myself. I wanted to be as professional as possible when participating in meetings, so I kept a certain distance between

myself and the activists around me. There was a fear of judgment and exclusion that originated from life experience; I projected this onto fellow Changemakers and staff.

As time passed, I participated in meetings that often ended with a variation of self-expression. A safe space of sorts was created to indulge Changemakers

who dabbled in the arts. Within this space, I evolved from activist to artist/activist and, through my art, began connecting with others. The shame that I felt from being a creative began to dissipate. Many people view artistic expression as unnecessary in activism but fail to acknowledge that there were many creatives among the Freedom Riders during the Civil Rights Movement. Many poets and musicians of older generations served as scribes conveying stories of their era to us, educating future generations.

New Deal 4 Youth built a community and family, with everyone supporting each other. A person going through hardship has a space to converse with understanding minds. People with ideas for the community can bounce ideas off one another about how to better assist their peers. Creatives listen to and critique one another's work. Changemakers often educate each other on current events and how to approach combating systemic injustices. We've grown closer to one another over the years, and keep finding new ways to advocate for minorities and young adults.

One day, I came up with the idea for an album to assist with spreading the message. By this point, I'd already been commissioned to create a theme song for the organization. To my surprise, people loved the "New Deal" theme song. To increase the love for ND4Y's brand, an album seemed completely pragmatic.

After receiving the green light, I passionately spearheaded this endeavor. We created the Arts and Advocacy group, held writing sessions, recorded the album in a professional studio, and recently hosted a listening party for its release.

New Deal 4 Youth makes me feel at home and as though I matter. It is a feeling that would be difficult to replace; it's an experience that I never wish to forget. I plan to continue my advocacy for minorities and young adults through my art and by supporting ND4Y in the best ways that I can.

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CHEERS TO FIVE YEARS

In 2020, at the height of a global pandemic, economic strife, and nationwide unrest over racial and social justice, it became clear that young people were being left behind and left out. That's when A New Deal for Youth was born.

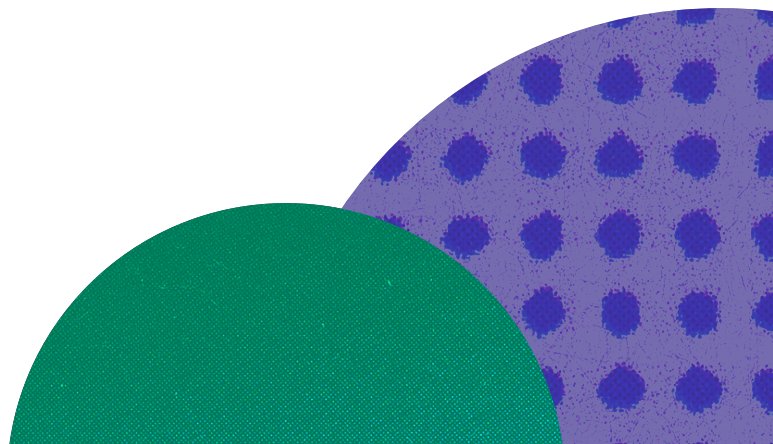
What started as an urgent response to compounding crises has grown into a sustained, youth-led movement with a clear, informed policy platform that advocates for the systems, policies, and investments that young people in America deserve.

ND4Y continues to center those voices that are the most ignored by redefining expertise and ensuring that the young people most impacted by policy have a say in shaping it.

YEAR 5 HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE MARGINS TO THE MIC: AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

In 2025, our Changemakers represented A New Deal for Youth and advocated for our policy platform demands at panels and convenings across the nation. From community organizing to legislative advocacy and economic policy, youth voices are leading the fight for social change.





“ I CONSTANTLY BELIEVE AND HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE—NOT JUST FOR MYSELF, BUT FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

— Fabian Mendoza



FEATURED PANELS & CONFERENCES

- Aspen Opportunity Youth Forum
– Alexis Obinna
- Center for the Study of Social Policy
Movement Makers Summit
– Joseph Yusef, Anthony Dickey
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities Youth
47th Annual Legislative Reception
– Cody Rooney

- No Role Models? Be One!: Highlighting Youth Doing the Work
– Mazzi Ingram
- We Are Revolutionary First Annual Youth Forum
– Cody Rooney
- Young Climate Leaders of Color Convening
– Mazzi Ingram
- Third Annual Youth Policy Summit
– Yusef Presley

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: GRANTMAKERS FOR THRIVING YOUTH

This year, A New Deal for Youth found a dream partner in Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, with Changemakers guest starring on panels across a whole gambit of issues that need youth voices at the forefront:

- **Youth at the Frontlines:** An exploration of how youth leaders are building the future they deserve – Law-Rel Butler, Fabian Mendoza, and Rebecca Do
- **The Social Safety Net:** Darlecia Dublin
- **Immigration Justice:** Andrea Anaya-Sandoval
- **Climate Justice:** Myiah Smith
- **Mental Health:** Marissa Howdershelt
- **Economic Justice:** Juan De Los Santos



Lead the Change, Defend the Future: Annual Week of Action

Last November, we brought Changemakers and Change Partners from across the country to Washington, D.C., for a weekend of collaboration and advocacy. We got things off to an energetic start with an album release party and ended our weekend advocating for our demands with lawmakers on the Hill.

LISTENING PARTY: A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH'S FIRST ALBUM!

At A New Deal for Youth, we believe that art is political and that music is healing. That's why we decided to release A New Deal for Youth album.

Spearheaded by our Arts & Advocacy Group, this project has been years in the making and is the product of hours of creativity and collaboration from our Changemakers. Each track on this album reflects the joys, hopes, fears, and visions of our young people. We kicked off our annual Week of Action with a listening party that featured live performances and artist conversations, and that energy carried us through the weekend.



LEARNING EXCHANGE & POLICY TRAINING

Ashley Monterrosa, Power Building Strategist of TYP Collab, led a Learning Exchange and Policy 101 training workshop designed to demystify policy and teach foundational skills. Each participant had an opportunity to conduct a root cause analysis for a real issue they care about and walked away certified and confident.



You can register for our online, self-paced Policy 101 course for free. [Register Here!](#)

CHANGEMAKERS DELIVER THE NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH DEMANDS TO THE HILL

25+ Changemakers walked through Capitol Hill for one on one meetings and drop-ins with legislators advocating on behalf of young people everywhere. Changemakers met with staffers for nine legislators and dropped in on at least 25 additional offices to share how recent federal actions have affected their lives.

When meeting with the office of Rep. Titus, co-chair of the Disability Caucus, Changemakers shared a bill drafted by Cody Rooney related to a disability justice curriculum for K-12 from the Smithsonian, and they discussed a new wages bill according to New Deal for Youth's platform demands.



THE ALBUM PUTS INTO YOUR FACE ALL THE INEQUITIES AND OPPRESSION THAT ARE PLACED UPON YOUNG ADULTS AND MINORITIES.

— Aaron Jackson

CHANGEMAKER SPOTLIGHT

Full circle moment – Current Changemakers met with former Changemaker Jazmine Wildcat in her new capacity as a staffer in Senator Durbin's office!



From frontlines to funding: Youth Changemakers and a call for radical philanthropists



By Katherine Plog Martinez, featuring Changemaker Law-Rel Butler and TYP Collab powerbuilding strategist Luis Hernandez
 YOUTH TODAY | June 2, 2025

Paid Leave Is a Priority for Young Workers, But Most Don't Have Access to



By Rainesford Stauffer, featuring TYP Collab powerbuilding strategist Kathy Tran
 TEEN VOGUE | September 9, 2024

SOCIAL MEDIA & PRESS SPOTLIGHTS

Our Public Awareness Team worked throughout the year to uplift Changemakers' work on social media and in press pieces. Check it out:



IT'S EASY FOR ADULTS TO TRY TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PLANNING OR ACTIONS BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT THEY KNOW BEST, BUT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE ... BECAUSE THEY ARE BOOTS ON THE GROUND ... AND THE ONES WHO ARE AT RISK THE MOST.

— Law-Rel Butler

LOOKING AHEAD

After a year of growth and perseverance in 2025, our goals for Year 6 look like...

1. Activate young leaders to advance ND4Y's advocacy through policy, testimony, and legislative engagement
2. Strengthen coordination across local, regional, and national work to more effectively advance our agenda
3. Expand and diversify partnerships with youth-led organizations, schools, and aligned institutions
4. Increase visibility and public engagement through consistent, accessible, and strategic communications
5. Build youth knowledge and skills through political education, advocacy training, and leadership development
6. Increase direct community impact through mental health initiatives, mutual aid, and resource-sharing



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WE ARE HERE TO DO THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE AND MAKE SURE THAT OUR COMMUNITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE GET THE DEAL THAT'S MEANT FOR THEM.

— Kimberly Pham

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Funders

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Annie E. Casey Foundation
The California Endowment
Andrus Family Fund

TYP's Solidarity Circle Donors

Challa Flemming
Jamil Harp
Mindy Marks

Partners

Alianza for Opportunity: Hernan Carvente-Martinez, Julia Ramirez
Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (AFCS): Jamiel L. Alexander
Cities United: Rachel Askew, Jerrilyn Roberson
Earth Justice: Jeremy Orr
Good Kids Mad City: Carlil Pittman, Carletta Pittman
Independent Partner: Meredith Hills
Independent Partner: Shanice Turner
Independent Partner: Van Tran
Justice and Joy National Collaborative: Aysha Khan, Erykah Weems,
Shakira Washington
NAACP: Wisdom Cole
National Network for Youth: Trinady Maddock
Opportunity Youth United: Kimberly Pham
Partners for Youth with Disabilities: Carol Murray
we are revolutionary: Lukee Forbes
Youth Power Project: Saanvi Arora

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