

# Community Transformation:

CLASP  
The Center for Law and Social Policy

## Youth Changemakers Leading National Policy and Systems Change For Liberation

### A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH



# Organizer

- 📣 ND4Y Overview & #WhyWeCantWait
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**A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH**

# ND4Y: Framework & Policy Agenda

## A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH

#WhyWeCantWait

1. REPARATIONS

2. LIBERATION

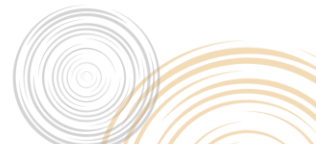
3. DECRIMINALIZATION

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.

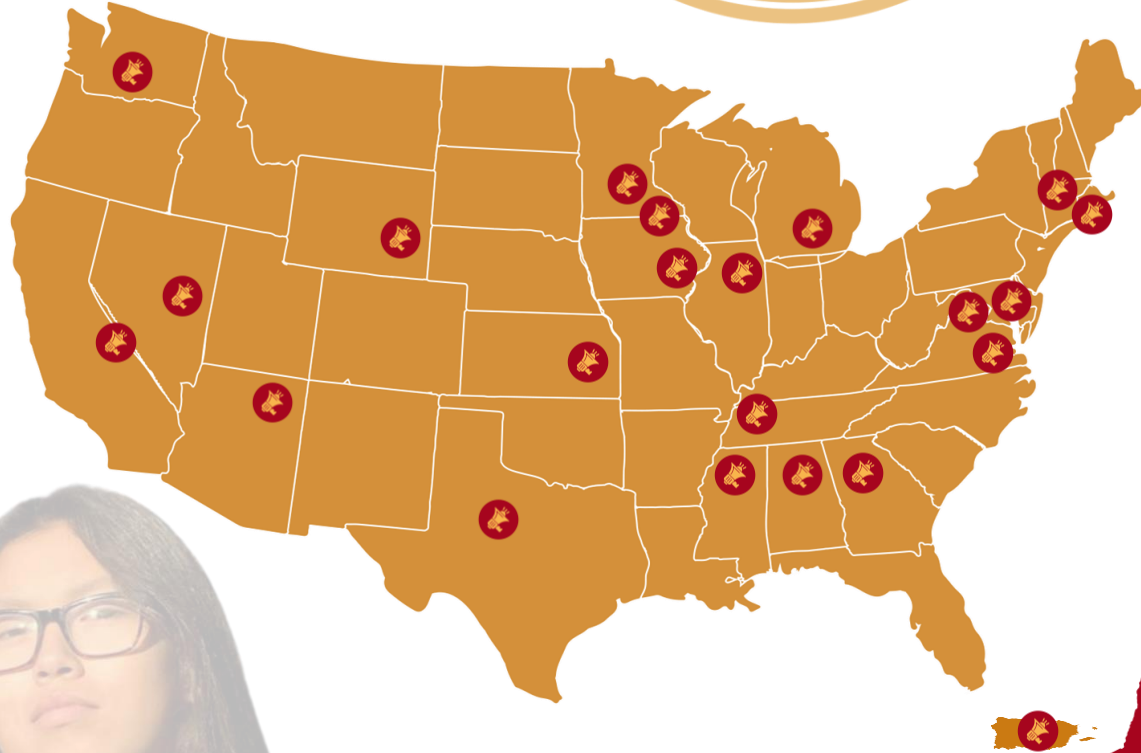
We believe in actively combatting classist and racist systems, championing models that empower communities, and amplifying the voices of young people as decision-makers in the future of our greater society.



# 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.

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. Young people are leading in the face of these entrenched challenges and demanding to be seen and heard. We 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.

**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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#WhyWeCantWait



# 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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# 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

”

# Changemaker Experience

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# ND4Y Changemakers

The following section highlights 10 of our Changemakers. Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#)





## Isabel Coronado

*I envision a future that treats public safety as an "everyone" issue. Not an "us vs. them" system.*

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- + Phoenix, Arizona
- + Research Scholar
- + Coordinator of the Family-Based Justice Center
- + ND4Y Legislative and Evaluation Group

## Accomplishments & Aspirations

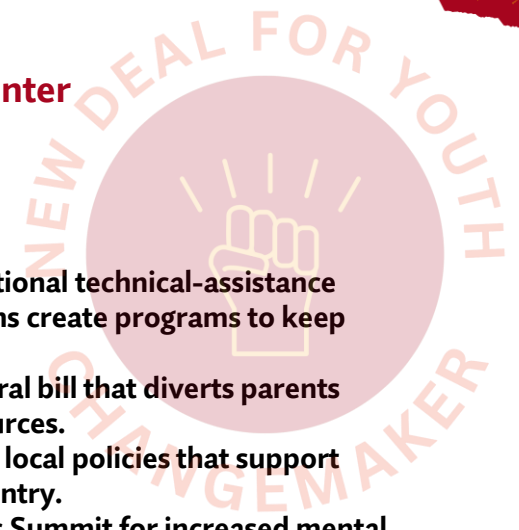
- Coordinates the Family-Based Justice Center, a national technical-assistance center that helps localities, states, and tribal nations create programs to keep families together.
- Led the campaign to pass the FAMILIES Act, a federal bill that diverts parents from prison and provides their children with resources.
- Author of report covering federal, tribal, state and local policies that support children of incarcerated parents from arrest to reentry.
- Advocated at the 2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit for increased mental health support for systems-impacted youth.

“

I am a daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother, a citizen of the Mvskoke Nation, and a policy expert who is on a mission to bring awareness and solutions to the issues impacting children of incarcerated parents and the mass incarceration of Native people. I believe those most impacted should be at the center of creating change.

”

Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#).





## **Marissa Howdershelt** **(They, Them)**

*I envision myself aiding the next generation of changemakers.. creating a more just world wherein folks basic needs are met, mutual aid is commonplace and mental health accessibility is easy and free.*

Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#).

- + **Chino Hills, California**
- + **New Deal for Youth Changemaker**
- + **University of California Riverside Graduate**

### **Accomplishments & Aspirations**

- **Major: Public Policy – Minor: Education.**
- **Organizing board member for a mutual aid organization located in San Bernardino, CA.**
- **Disability justice and mental health advocate who has worked with CLASP and Mental Health America.**
- **Keynote Speaker: Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (August 2020).**



**I am most passionate about mental health advocacy, radical disability justice and a commitment to putting community first. I believe that all policy should be shaped around and inclusive of the community in which it serves. There is true power in community and a collective voice.**



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## **Jazmine Banks** **(They, Them)**

*I may have started at the back when it comes to this system race but my success will be in first place my ancestors will be proud of me.*

- + **Oakland, California**
- + **Activist**
- + **Beyond Survival**
- + **Public Awareness, Grassroots & Organizing, LAG, Legislative**

### **Accomplishments & Aspirations**

- **Day of Action in Washington, DC.**
- **Sharing my letter to my kids on the podcast.**
- **Start a non-profit that focuses on self care (hair, nails, make-up for youth in the juvenile and foster care system**
- **Obtain a probation officer certificate.**
- **Earn my cosmetology licenses.**

“

**You will get something wrong today, and tomorrow, and every day of your life. So will I, and everybody you know. You don't have a choice about being wrong sometimes: mistakes will be your life-long companion. But you do have a choice about whether to approach your error in terror so you suppress, ignore and repeat it — or to make it your honest, open ally in trying to get to the truth. - Johann Hari**

”

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- + **Detroit, Michigan**
- + **Mental Health Advocate**
- + **Grassroots, Advocacy, and Public Awareness**

### Accomplishments & Aspirations

- **Hill Day October 2022.**
- **Panelist at the Atlanta Event and speaking about Arab American representation and health.**
- **Meeting youth from across the nation who are passionate about change.**
- **Continue to learn about the struggles and obstacles that various communities in the U.S. endure.**
- **Learning to give myself grace and patience as I do with others.**
- **Strive to be an adult a younger me would be proud of.**

### Malaak Elhage

(She, Her)

*I envision a day when Middle Eastern/North African communities in the U.S. are recognized and are represented in various sectors of society.*

Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#).



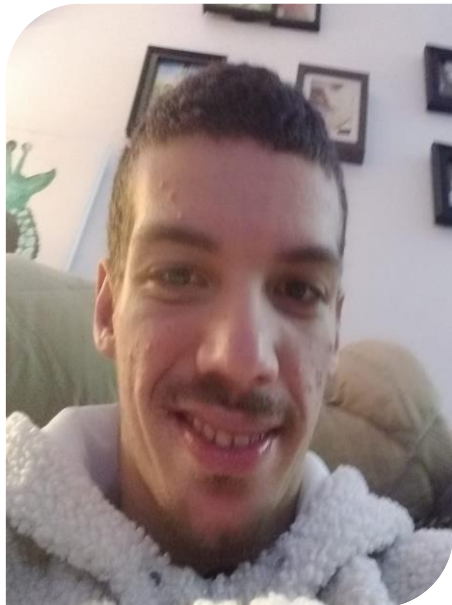
**Never a failure, always a lesson.**

أبدا فشل ، دائما درس



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- + Amherst, Massachusetts
- + Changemaker and Northeast Co-lead
- + Legislative Advocacy, Evaluation, Admin and Public Awareness

### Accomplishments & Aspirations

- Hill day meeting with officials.
- Admin panel during the week of action.
- Working with Changemakers in this amazing group.
- Becoming the best leader I can be.
- Earn my BA in public policy.
- Travel to new communities.

**Cody Rooney**  
(He, Him)

*Teamwork makes the dreamwork*

“

**As a person with a disability and a leader I want to make waves and make change.**

”



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**Joseph Yusuf**  
**(He, Him)**

- + Washington, DC
- + Changemaker
- + ND4Y Admin Group

### Accomplishments & Aspirations

- ND4Y Painting on The Mall.
- ND4Y Block Party in 2022.
- ND4Y Generating demands for The healing & well being of youth across the nation.
- Personal Goal 1 - Continue being the best Father I can be to my daughter.
- Personal Goal 2 - Continue my growth as a creative. I write, I produce, I create, and have plenty of reasons to dominate.

“ ——— | **The marathon continues...** | ——— ”  
- Nipsey Hussle



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- + Chicago, Illinois
- + Changemaker
- + Youth organizer
- + Grassroots & organizing

### Accomplishments & Aspirations

- DMV block party.
- Atlanta mural painting.
- Meeting all the change makers in person.
- Establish my own organization.
- Buy a house before I am 26 years old.
- Save at least 10k before September 2023.



### Meyiya Coleman (She, Her)

*I can't pour from a cup that is empty.  
I should always be kind to myself.  
Before I try to heal the world.*

“  
Everyday the sun won't shine ,but that's  
why I love tomorrow.  
”  
- Gloria Woods

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- + Los Angeles, California
- + Social Entrepreneur & Independent contractor
- + ND4Y Legislative Advocacy Group Co-chair, Evaluation and Community Building

### Accomplishments & Aspirations

- Outstanding Young Leader Award
- Associates in Sociology and Child Development
- California State University (Los Angeles) - Social Work
- Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Program Advisory Board
- Youth-Led Participatory Action Research
- She Ready Foundation

## Alexis Obinna (Queen, She, Her)

*Always Do What's Right*

“  
*Stand for Justice*  
”

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Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#).





- + Bloomfield Township, Michigan
- + Democratic Socialists of America
- + Public Awareness Group, Evaluation Group

### Accomplishments & Aspirations

- Interviewed Changemakers on their ND4Y experience.
- Wrote and published an op-ed on President Biden's climate failures.
- Networked with interesting people from across the country.
- Writing and publishing more political op-eds.
- Continuing my involvement in policy advocacy both in America and abroad.

**Elias Khoury**  
(He, Him)

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

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## **Kadesha Mitchell** (She, Her)

*To all young adults and young people  
you are equipped where you are now!  
You have the knowledge to make a  
change.*

Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#).

- + **Maryland Southern Maryland**
- + **Changemaker + Young Adult Peer Support Specialist**
- + **Public Awareness + Grassroots & Organizing Team**

### **Accomplishments & Aspirations**

- Natcon Virtual Poster Session
- #Whywecantwait Podcast with Prevention Institute
- Supporting our homeless youth to gain access to mental health resources
- Become a High School Counselor for a Public School Alternative School
- Grow in my ministries and photography/creativity



**Bloom where you are planted.**

-Unknown



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- + Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
  - + Youth Advocate and Changemaker
  - + we REIGN
  - + Grassroots and Organizing
- Accomplishments & Aspirations**

- Having the opportunity to co-facilitate with remarkable organizers
- The ND4Y Week of Action. Meeting and conversing with so many like-minded, kindhearted, and incredible people was inspiring and an unbelievable experience.
- I have a goal to establish a transitioning home for young people ages 16-25.
- I hope to grow and develop into a person Black girls can look up to.

**Kayla Knight**  
(She, Her)

*I envision a world where there is no longer a need for activism or advocacy. A world where everyone is held.*

“

**I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.**

- Angela Davis

”

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Meet ALL of the ND4Y Changemakers on the [website](#).



# Changemaker Experience

The ND4Y Evaluation Strategy group, in collaboration with ND4Y staff, developed interview protocols and analyzed interview data from all Changemakers. In Spring 2022, they developed a short survey and coordinated data collection of the Changemaker experience in ND4Y.

Information collected provided actionable data to better understand the Changemakers experience and to inform program planning and capacity building opportunities. Interviews and survey questions were divided into 4 sections:

- 1) Knowledge & Skills
- 2) Overall Experience
- 3) Connectedness
- 4) Social Action Impact

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# YPAR: Common Themes

Led by Changemakers Elias Khoury and Marissa Howdershelt, the evaluation group conducted several interviews with changemakers.

Common themes included:

1. **Commitment:** Changemakers commitment to pursue grassroots political work as a lifelong endeavor.
2. **Lived Experience:** Changemakers have come to do this work because of their own personal experience.
3. **Youth-Doing it Differently:** Changemakers emphasized the importance of blazing their own trail. While past activists provide inspiration and learnings, Changemakers believe it's important to cultivate their own style of leadership and activism.
4. **Youth Leadership:** There is collective agreement, when asked *what sets ND4Y apart?*, Changemakers stated that ND4Y is authentically youth-led.

“  
*Being a black girl is hard. Society really tries to push us out. When I realized that, it seemed obvious this problem required legislative solutions. We need to pass bills and transform the legal landscape to empower marginalized communities.*  
”

Oumou Kay (Changemaker)



***My alma mater, lacked a quality infrastructure for mental health despite its progressive reputation. Administrators dismissed young people’s perspectives and did not see them as experts on their own experiences. We felt that our concerns regarding mental health fell on deaf ears. So, I sought to validate young people’s experience and advocate for youth mental health.***

- Smitha Gundavajhala (Changemaker)



***I found something I was truly passionate about. Before New Deal for Youth, I never expected to fall in love with activism, politics, and policy. But the passion grew as I did the work and now it is an essential part of my life.***

- Cody Rooney (Changemaker)

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**95%**

of Changemakers  
agreed that they had an  
**engaging and positive**  
experience with ND4Y.

n = 21

## Overall Experience

**Key Takeaways:** Changemakers felt their experience provided them with the opportunity to explore their own interests and were highly engaged. Many Changemakers appreciated being **challenged to try new things** as well as building new relationships and friendships.

### What Changemakers Had to Say...

“

*The most important thing I learned as a Changemaker is to take in all the stories from other Changemakers because this experience gave me an opportunity to look at life from several different lenses and grow from that.”*

*I have been able to have the opportunity to hear different views on topics that impact every youth and young adults. I have seen the power of different minds coming together to make a difference.*

”

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**90%**

of changemakers felt  
connected to their strategy  
group lead.

**81%**

of changemakers felt connected  
to the changemakers in their  
strategy group.

n = 21

## Connectedness

**Key Takeaways:** ND4Y started working with Changemakers in 2021 at the height of COVID. By 2022 zoom fatigue had set in and people were excited to see each other in person. **As a result of feedback** ND4Y hosted two weeklong in-person events in 2022 and began providing spaces for Changemakers in the same region to connect more frequently.

### What Changemakers Had to Say...

“






*I love y'all, but these Zoom meetings... I want to connect with you all in real life.*

*As COVID is becoming more manageable and many cases aren't fatal, maybe some more in-person events. Maybe small tri-state area events so the people attending are relatively close to the destination or offer one trip a year for the all changemakers.*

”

# Social Action Impact

**Key Takeaways:** ND4Y Changemakers participated in over **40 meetings with congressional offices**, reviewed and scored over **80 pieces of legislation**, and elevated the ND4Y story at over **50 different events** across the country. Changemakers reported a high level of growth attributed to:

-  **Taking action to solve issues facing their community**
-  **Organizing with peers around social issues**
-  **Analyzing policy**
-  **Creating policy that benefits their community**
-  **Interacting with Lawmakers**

# 100%

of Changemakers felt confident to organize their peers around social issues they care about

# 90%

of Changemakers felt confident to analyze policy and interact with lawmakers

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\*After participating in two years of ND4Y (N=21).



# Knowledge and Skills Impact

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**Key Takeaways:** Changemakers reported gaining and strengthening a variety of skills, engaging in new experiences and feeling proud of their work as well as more confident as a result of participation. The top skills Changemakers reported include: **1) Gaining 21st Century Skills 2) Using the Arts to Advance Change; 3) Facilitation and Leading a meeting; 4) Policy analysis.**

## What Changemakers Had to Say...

“

*I have learned a lot about the importance of intersectionality when thinking of policy solutions as well as a better understanding of how advocacy differs across the different branches of government.*

*I have learned how necessary it is to have and to hear the voices from every walk of life possible as well as how much work goes into forming, analyzing, and pushing demands, as well as catering demands to the policymaker we want to influence.*

”

# 94%

of Changemakers agreed that they have experienced **personal growth** as part of their participation in ND4Y.

n = 21



# Participatory Democracy in Action

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# Participatory Democracy in Action

- 2020 | Creation of ND4Y Issue Areas with 30 Changemakers.
- In November 2020 CLASP launched the New Deal for Youth (ND4Y) - [ND4Y Youth Data Portraits](#) set the context, urgency and action steps (#WhyWeCantWait).
- Decisions were guided by [Hartnett's Consensus-Oriented Decision-Making Model](#) and the [Modified Borda Count Method](#).

“

*It was very collaborative in the sense that youth had agency to arrive at their own issue areas and go deeper than just the surface level, but addressing root causes such as racism, social determinants of health and socioeconomic status. – Year 1 Changemaker*

*[The discussions] gave me a lot of opportunities to tell my story and think about experiences as a black woman in society. It was centered in our lived experience and things we are passionate about. For me, the process showcased true democracy and civic engagement. – Year 1 Changemaker*

”

# Economic Justice & Opportunity

*True economic justice and opportunity are not luxuries, but fundamental rights that every individual deserves. We must challenge the systems that perpetuate inequality, and fight for a future where everyone has equal access to resources, education, and the chance to thrive.*



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

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We demand funding in youth development, education, workforce, and job training programs for middle and high school age youth and young adults, where young people can learn “soft” skills and have paid internships, apprenticeships, and job opportunities especially in the green economy and STEM sector.

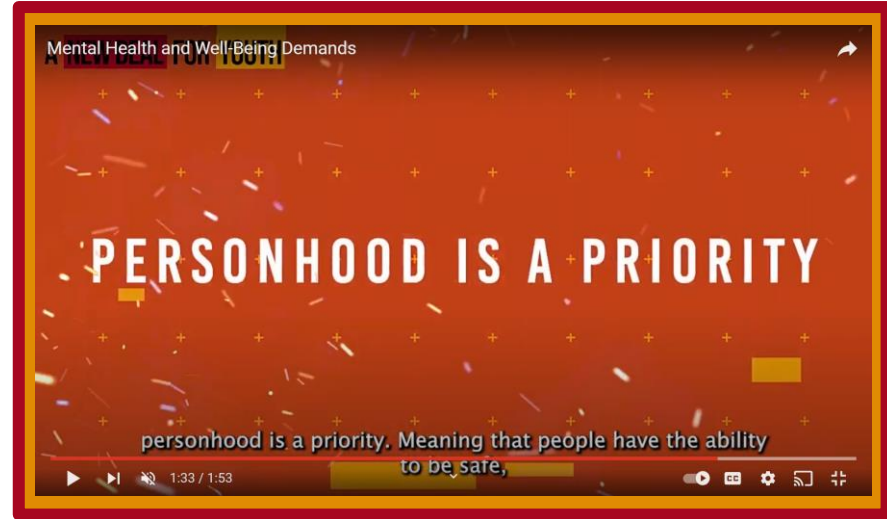
Read ALL of ND4Y demands by [clicking here](#)

# Healing & Wellbeing

*It is through caring for ourselves and each other that we build the strength and resilience needed to challenge oppressive systems and create a more just and compassionate world.*

**We demand more access to mental health resources in more spaces including school, community, virtual, and any other spaces that are meaningful to young people.**

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

We envision a world where young people have opportunity to heal, develop, and are positioned to thrive. This looks like destigmatizing mental health to increase access for everyone, including practices that are outside of western medicine.

Read ALL of ND4Y demands by [clicking here](#)



# Justice & Safe Communities

“

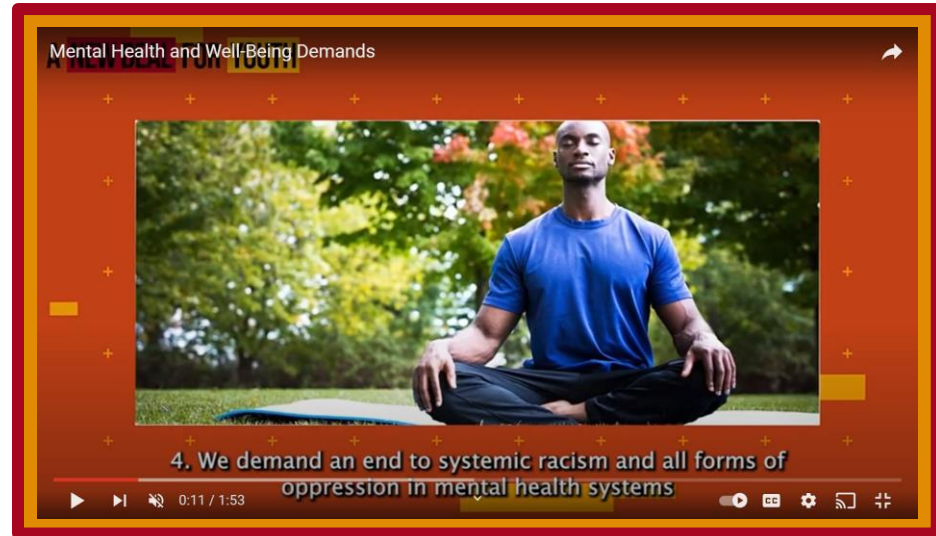
*Safety should not be a privilege for the few,  
but a fundamental right for all.*

”

**We demand a national community-based strategy to ensure every community has a baseline of core services that allow young people to heal, develop and thrive; that communities have resources to make their homes safe, ensure their basic needs are met, and that families have access to quality jobs, education, and health care.**

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



Read ALL of ND4Y demands by [clicking here](#)

# Democracy & Civic Engagement

“

*Democracy is not a spectator sport, but a collective responsibility because true democracy can only flourish when every individual has equal access and influence.*

”



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

We demand an overhaul in democratic infrastructure that is designed around the needs of each local community and prioritizes accessibility and ease in voting. For example: increase polling places proportionate to the local population, national same-day registration at voting sites, provide vote-by-mail as an option, ensure voting cards and mail-in ballots can be accessed in multiple languages, extend early voting periods, and restore voting rights for all citizens.

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Read ALL of ND4Y demands by [clicking here](#)

# Environmental Justice

“

*We must confront the intersections of capitalism, racism, and environmental degradation, and fight for a future where every community can breathe clean air, drink safe water, and thrive.*

”

We demand A regenerative not an extractive economy.  
To achieve this, we must:

- End exploitative practices that take labor, resources, wellbeing, and land from BIPOC communities
- Create new practices that allow communities to thrive in harmony with nature, focusing on climate-resilient practices, centering care and healing, and long-term sustainability.

Read ALL of ND4Y demands by [clicking here](#)



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

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# Immigration Justice

We demand the liberation of all immigrants and that all immigrant communities be supported and recognized without justifying their existence to their labor and their humanity to their trauma.

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Read ALL of ND4Y demands by [clicking here](#)

“

*Immigration justice is a fundamental aspect of our fight for a just and inclusive society. We must dismantle oppressive systems, challenge xenophobia, and create pathways for all individuals to migrate, seek refuge, and contribute to our communities without fear, ensuring that everyone's dignity and human rights are respected.*

”



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



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Changemakers and Partners developed thirty-six demands across the core issue areas: economic justice and opportunity, healing and wellbeing, justice and safe communities, democracy and civic engagement, environmental justice, and immigration justice.

Join the **139 Organizations** who have already signed on and join the ND4Y movement!



Sign on to our demands on the [website](#).

# Legislative Scorecard Criteria:

ND4Y reviews policy on an ongoing basis to ensure that legislation benefits youth and their families across the country. Below are questions asked by Changemakers when scoring legislation. More information about how the Scorecard Criteria was used can be found in our [Legislative Agenda](#).

## Tier 1

- Does it shift power, decision-making, and/or resources to youth and young adults?
- Is it youth-led?
- Does it dismantle institutions and systems that have become complacent?
- Is it youth-centered?
- Does it address immediate needs?
- Does it build momentum towards systems change?

## Tier 2

- Does it transform the system rather than reform it?
- Does it support young people's liberation?
- Does it set youth up for success?
- Does it center healing?
- Is it community-driven?
- Does it address many different areas that impact young people's lives?

## Tier 3

- Does it address long-term thriving?
- Does it ensure that none of our priority populations are left out?
- Does it shift narratives around youth and young adults?
- Does it recognize that young people hold more than one identity at the same time?
- Does it recognize that we all deserve great things for our communities?
- Does it benefit at least one priority population?

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# ND4Y Partner Highlights

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# New Deal for Youth Partners

The following section highlights 5 of our Partners. Meet ALL of the ND4Y Change Partners on the [website](#).



MASTER THE ART OF HEALING





# Lisette Orellana Engel

*Vice President, Policy and Systems*

## What Motivates You

I truly believe in the unapologetic and bold way changemakers approach the work - so being able to work with them is a huge motivation. I also applaud CLASP's approach to truly let them lead.

## What do you enjoy most about ND4Y

I have enjoyed seeing the growth in the changemakers. Some have come back going on their 3rd year and you can see their evolution into more of a leadership/role model position and I feel so proud to see that.

## Best advice I have received...

*This work is fluid and the best decisions are made when relationships are built which can take some time.*



**NATIONAL  
CRITTENTON**

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Meet ALL of the ND4Y Partners on the [website](#)

# Carlil Pittman

*Program Director*

## What Motivates You

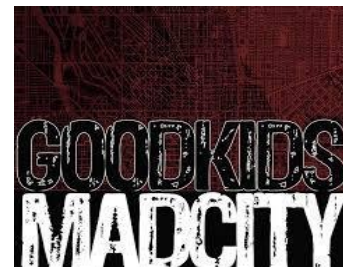
My passion for youth empowerment is fueled by the deep love and commitment I have for my family and the youth in my circle as well as witnessing the pervasive injustice aimed at the communities of color

## What do you enjoy most about ND4Y

The block party we hosted in DC. It was great to see everyone in person and brought people together during a time when human connection was sorely needed.

## If you could give yourself one piece of advice exactly a year ago, what would that be?

Don't be afraid to step out on what you believe in.



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Meet ALL of the ND4Y Partners on the [website](#)

# Meredith Hills

*Senior Policy Manager, Opportunity Youth*

## What Motivates

Working in federal policy advocacy, I am often operating in a DC silo. This work allows me to feel grounded and centered around the values that drive the advocacy work. Meeting the Changemakers and connecting advocacy work to their lived experiences motivates me.

## What do you enjoy most about ND4Y

I've loved the fact the ND4Y is informed by and driven by Changemakers. That overall has been my favorite part of working with ND4Y. My second favorite moment was bringing a group of Changemakers to Hill meetings and supporting them in using the platform.



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# Shanice Turner

*Youth Leadership*

## What Motivates You

What keeps me motivated in this work is seeing youth and adult allies collaboratively working together in a effort to advocate for better policies, and systems that work collectively for everyone. It's the people that are behind this work that uplifts and pushes everyone with a servant leadership mindset. We represent a piece of the world that needs to be at the table in creating change.

## Favorite Moments with ND4Y

One of my favorite moments was being able to have a recorded one on one with my mentee Loren. We spoke about cultivating our relationship and being advocates in this work. My other favorite moment was supporting the ND4Y Atlanta-DC event.



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# Van Tran

*Change Partner*

## **What Motivates You**

Giving a voice and platform for young people from marginalized communities to feel heard and empowered and providing them with the means to enact and inspire collective change.

I feel most proud of my contributions in coordinating the podcast series last year and helping to bring it to fruition.

## **If you could give yourself one piece of advice exactly a year ago, what would that be?**

Don't be afraid to show more vulnerability. People have the capacity to care and show empathy more deeply than I could ever imagine. To trust that.



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# Policy Influence

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# Atlanta: Mobilizing Youth to Heal & Create Change

## Summer 2022

Changemakers saw each other in-person for the first time since the pandemic. The ND4Y Grassroots Organizing Strategy Group and several Atlanta community based organizations hosted a festival **that brought together 98** participants from across the city. Through the mediums of music, poetry, dance, and visual arts the festival highlighted the current mental health crisis, youth unemployment rates, and the climate crisis.

Topics included:

- Strategies to mobilize young people to take action
- Creating a new vision for the nation
- Shifting the narratives through the art of storytelling
- Agitate! Providing tools to hold elected officials accountable
- Resources to heal and create change for self and community
- Creation of a community mural

Check out the event highlights [video on YouTube](#)

#ND4YATL #WhyWeCantWait #ND4Y #NewDeal4Youth #YoungLeaders #Changemakers

RAPHAEL WARNOCK  
GEORGIA



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF SENATOR REVEREND RAPHAEL WARNOCK

July 2, 2022

*Center for Law and Social Policy – A New Deal for Youth*

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to Atlanta for the New Deal for Youth Changemakers Town Hall.

I continue to be impressed by the passion and creativity that young people like yourselves bring to solving challenges that face your cities, our country, and the entire world. As you spend this week learning more about healing and accountability, I am certain that you will return home empowered to serve and succeed as leaders who uplift your local communities.

Your time here will build relationships and a commitment to civic engagement that will last a lifetime. Please accept my most sincere wishes for a fulfilling and enlightening event. Keep the faith, and keep looking up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Warnock".

Reverend Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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# Washington DC: Week of Action

Fall 2022

Changemakers hosted their inaugural Week of Action in Washington, D.C. Changemakers and partners travelled from all across the country to engage with policymakers and to push for the ND4Y initiative as well as establishment of a Youth Caucus in Congress. Each day included different ways that policymakers could take action in building A New Deal for Youth.

Over the course of 3 days, Changemakers...

- **Presented policy priorities to lawmakers with 29 legislative meetings**
- **Met with members from the Biden administration**
- **Organized a block party that brought hundreds of community members together**
- **Created a community mural and hosted an open mic to build support and bring awareness to the ND4Y demands for change.**

“  
*We are able to share our lived experience. We became quickly aware of how most of these issues hit close to home and because we've lived it we have a deeper understanding of the solutions that meet our needs.*  
”

- Rosebud (Current Partner and former Changemaker)



[Check out the video of ND4Y Week of Action](#)

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LONGWORTH  
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

FIFTH FLOOR

Room 1501 - 1503  
Room 1504 - 1506  
Room 1507 - 1509  
Room 1510 & 1511

← 1514 - 1529

Meeting Room - 1539 →

Restrooms

1501 - 1517

1530 - 1539

REPRESENTATIVE

Jimmy Gomez

California

1530

H-139

H-139

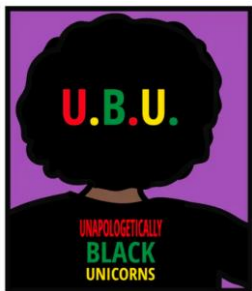
CLASP

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# Changemaker Speaking Engagements and Consultations

Since 2021, Changemakers have been shared and presented their expertise and experiences at nearly **50 different venues and events across the country**. Whether speaking directly to policy makers or inspiring other youth, Changemakers are in high demand. Opportunities have included **keynote speaking, workshop facilitation, being featured on podcasts, and other mentorship opportunities**.



**April 2022 –**  
"Unapologetically Black Unicorns" [podcast episode](#) featuring Cloud and Joseph



**May 2022 –**  
Jazmine Wildcat attends [White House Conversation on Youth Mental Health](#) hosted by MTV, Surgeon General, Selena Gomez, and the White House



**September 2022 –**  
Malaak Elhage and Cody Rooney speak at the Committee on the Review of Federal Policies that Contribute to racial and Ethnic Health Inequities ([Virtual Review hosted by NASEM](#))

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# Social Media & Podcast

## Social Media Metrics (January 2023 to-Date)



- 390+ followers
- 14,000 + Tweet Impressions



- 655 Followers
- 114 New Followers
- 8,339 Reach



- 1,205 Reach
- 200+ Followers



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@newdeal4youth



Black  
Lives  
Matter

# Ingredients for Liberation

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# ND4Y Key Investments

Running a liberatory organization takes time and resources. The ND4Y initiative compensates staff, youth, and partners. ND4Y sponsored and coordinated travel to events that was flexible to Changemakers location and travel needs.

## Year 1

- **Total Project Budget:** \$1.1 Million
- **Changemaker Honorariums:** \$2,500
- **Partner Honorariums:** \$2,000
- **Consultants:** \$116 K

### Consultant services included:

- Web Design & Maintenance
- Evaluation
- Partner Relationship Support
- Communication & Social Media
- Sign Language Interpretation
- Livestreaming
- Event Photography
- Videography & Video Editing
- Artist Presenter Honorariums
- Muralist

## Year 2

- **Total Project Budget:** \$1.8 Million
- **Changemaker Honorariums:**
  - New Changemakers - \$2,500
  - Returning Changemakers - \$3,250
  - Group Leads - \$5,000
- **Partner Honorariums:**
  - \$2,500 (All partners)
  - \$5,000 (Group Leads)
- **Consultants:** \$276 K

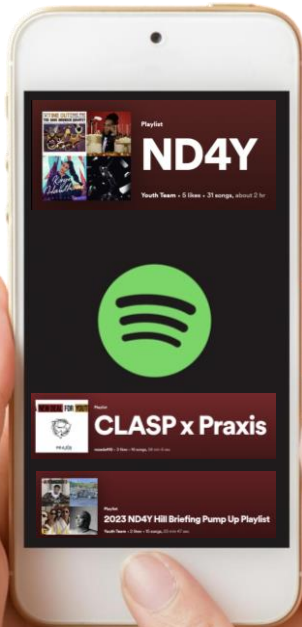
### Travel Budget Considerations:

- Beyond airfare and hotel, travel costs included ground transportation, meal per diems, and checked bag fees.
- Budgeting included consideration for adults accompanying minors, children accompanying parents, and disability support companions.
- The team worked with airlines with friendly rebooking policies and strong policies for disability and body type accommodations



# Engaging Changemakers

ND4Y engaged Changemakers during virtual and hybrid meetings using a variety of digital tools and platforms to build community, develop demands, and discuss strategy, including: Padlet, Spotify, Poll Everywhere, Kahoot, Nearpod, Word Clouds, Dot Votes, and Zoom.



Check out the ND4Y Spotify playlists by clicking the links below.

- [Year 1 Spotify playlist](#)
- [Year 2 Spotify playlist](#)
- [YPAR Spotify Playlist](#)
- [Hill Briefing Year 3 Spotify Playlist](#)

# Building Changemaker Capacity

ND4Y offers Changemakers ongoing opportunities for **personal growth and skill development**. Listed below are some of the trainings that have been offered:

- Hill Visit: How to Guide
- Communications Training
- How to Score a Bill
- Resume Workshop
- Writing an Opinion Editorial (Op Ed)
- Changing the Narrative and Storytelling
- Creating a podcast
- Consultant Panel
- Organizing for Radical Change
- How to Start a Non-For Profit or Business



# Strategy Groups Year 2: An Overview

In 2021 (Year 1), ND4Y virtually convened during the pandemic to brainstorm what were the most pressing issues that mattered the most to Changemakers. In 2022 (Year 2), ND4Y transitioned from taking those demands and focusing on how to make those demands into reality. This led to ND4Y to create the following five action-focused strategy groups. All Strategy Groups have three co leads: 1) ND4Y Staff member, 2) Changemaker, and 3) Partner

## Legislative Advocacy:

Group Leads: Kayla T | Alexis | Jamiel

- [Scored bills](#)
- Created our [Legislative Agenda](#)
- Hosted a [ND4Y Hill Briefing](#)
- Advocacy through Hill meetings
- Organize a Youth Caucus

## Federal Admin Advocacy SG

Priya | Ashley | Rosebud | Lisette

- Submitted [Public Comments](#) to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Hosted a [White House and Agency Advocacy Day](#)
  - [Emailed](#) the Office of the President

## Grassroots Organizing SG

Whitney | Kayla K | Kim

- Hosted the [Atlanta ND4Y Block Party](#)
- Hosted the [Week of Action Block Party](#)

## Public Awareness SG

Emily | Aaron | Mitali | Eleven Thirty Six Strategies

Launched the [Inspiration for You\[th\] podcast](#)

- Collaborated on Creating Social Media Campaigns and [Social Media Toolkits](#) with ND4Y Consultants
- Hosted the [Week of Action Block Party](#) with Grassroots
- Produced [Original Social Media Content](#) for ND4Y

## Evaluation

Group Leads: Kathy | Praxis Institute

- Designed a Continuous Quality Improvement Process for ND4Y
- Led a Community Assessment of their Local Areas
- Designed Surveys and Interview Protocols
- Developed the 2022 Year End Report Documenting Accomplishments and Recommendations
- Documented ND4Y Atlanta Block Party, and DC Week of Action
- Analyzed nearly 160 hours of Changemaker Interviews

# Leadership Structure

In its second year, ND4Y added a steering committee made up of Changemaker and Partner co-leads from each strategy group. The group met monthly to share cross-project updates, brainstorm ideas, plan quarterly full group meetings, and provide feedback. This structure was developed to ensure that the voices of the leadership team truly influenced the work done in between meetings, and to increase Changemaker and partner ownership of the project.



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# Lessons Learned

In 2022, Praxis conducted 14 interviews with CLASP staff documenting the process and overall implementation of ND4Y. The lessons learned include:



**Adaptability:** It is critical to be flexible when implementing strategies. The pandemic forced ND4Y to consistently reassess and modify in order to meet the evolving needs of Changemakers.



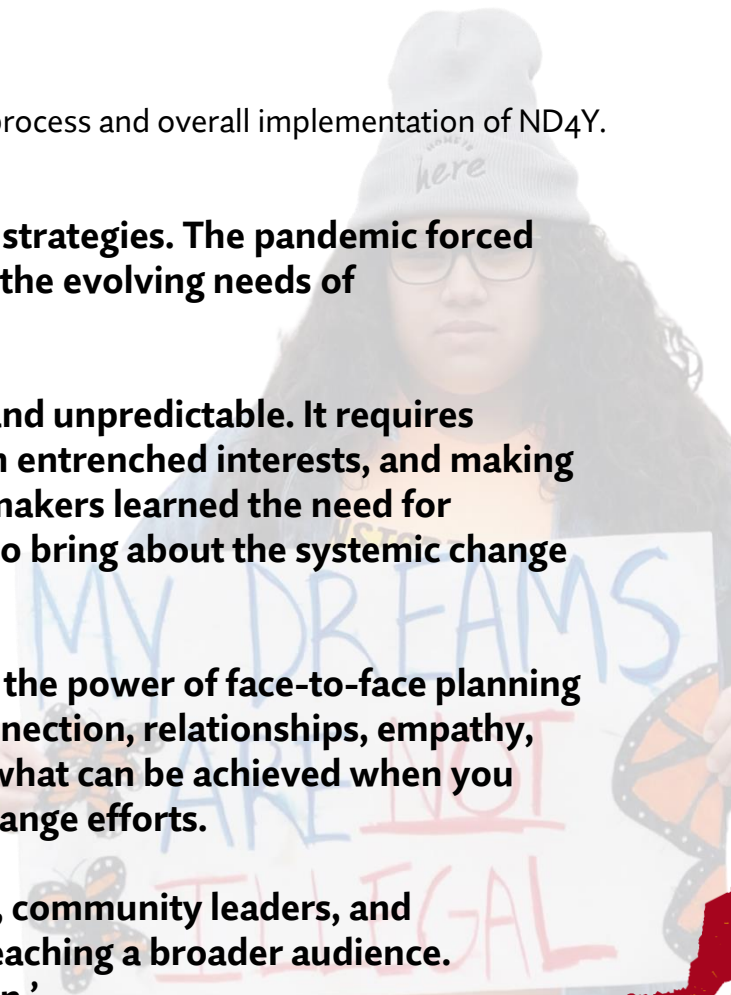
**Non-linear Process:** Achieving legislative success is messy and unpredictable. It requires navigating complex power dynamics, facing resistance from entrenched interests, and making strategic compromises. While frustrating at times, Changemakers learned the need for persistence, long term strategy, and grassroots organizing to bring about the systemic change their communities deserve.



**Better Together:** While digital tools work, you can't replace the power of face-to-face planning and networking. In-person opportunities foster deeper connection, relationships, empathy, and collaboration. Post pandemic, ND4Y was reminded of what can be achieved when you engage Changemakers in community building and social change efforts.



**Collaboration is Key:** Working with partners, organizations, community leaders, and Changemakers is key to amplifying the ND4Y impact and reaching a broader audience. 'Together, we can achieve far more than working in isolation.'



# Lessons Learned



**Building Trust is a Process:** Building trust takes time and intentionality. ND4Y staff learned that authenticity, transparency, and active listening are crucial in establishing trust and cultivating long-term relationships. It takes meeting Changemakers and partners where they are and understanding the diverse needs and interests of everyone involved. This type of support allowed for trust to be nurtured between Changemakers in order to foster engagement and meaningful participation.



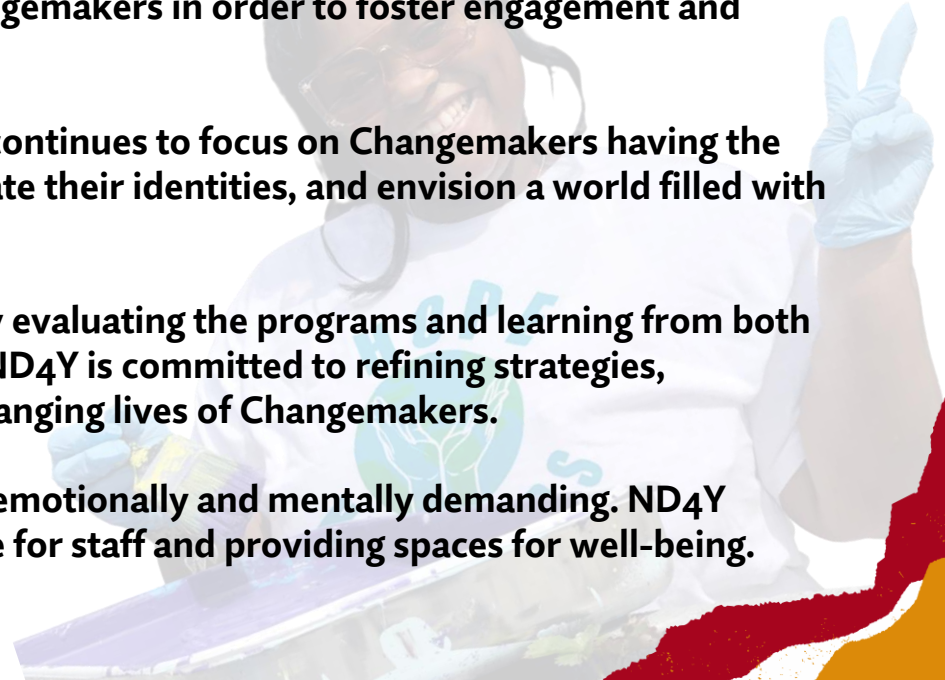
**Radical Joy:** 'We can't thrive without it.' ND4Y continues to focus on Changemakers having the opportunity to reclaim their happiness, celebrate their identities, and envision a world filled with liberation, justice, and collective well-being.



**Continuous Evaluation and Learning:** Regularly evaluating the programs and learning from both successes and failures is essential for growth. ND4Y is committed to refining strategies, improving impact, and adapting to the ever-changing lives of Changemakers.



**Self-Care is Non-Negotiable:** The work can be emotionally and mentally demanding. ND4Y realized the importance of prioritizing self-care for staff and providing spaces for well-being.



# Looking Ahead

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# Looking AHEAD: 2023 & Beyond

**Strategically Position the Power of Young People**

**State & Local Activations**

**Elevate & Uplift Transformational Narratives**

**Have Fun & Spread Joy**

**Strengthen Relationships with Partners, CLASP & Changemakers**

**Expand & Measure Policy Gains**

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# Looking AHEAD: 2023 & Beyond

## Year 3 Goals



### Strategic Positioning:

- Changemakers are seen as experts in policy solutions and are sought out as collaborators in policy making through partnerships with lawmakers and the administration.
- Strengthen the political and organizing power of young people so that more young people are seen, heard, and validated.



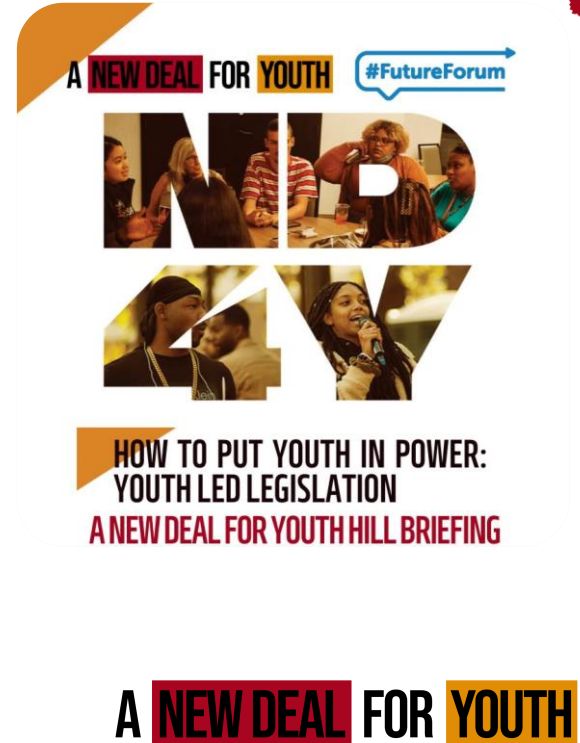
### State and Local Activations

- Increase Changemaker presence and voice in local community; strengthen their ability to lead local movements and drive change at the local level.



### Policy Gains:

- Tangible policy impact, including evidence of ND4Y demands influencing legislation, guidance, regulations, RFPs, or other policies.





# Looking AHEAD: 2023 & Beyond

## Year 3 Goals

- 📣 **Elevate and Uplift Transformational Narratives:**
  - Continue to center and educate internally and externally on the 4-pillar framework (liberation, reparations, decriminalization, abolition).
- 📣 **Partnerships:**
  - Create environment where partners can engage in focus areas and grow partners in areas where gaps exist.
  - Strengthen relationships between partners, Changemakers, and CLASP staff.
- 📣 **Have Fun and Spread Joy**
  - Center radical joy through intentional community building and intergenerational solidarity.

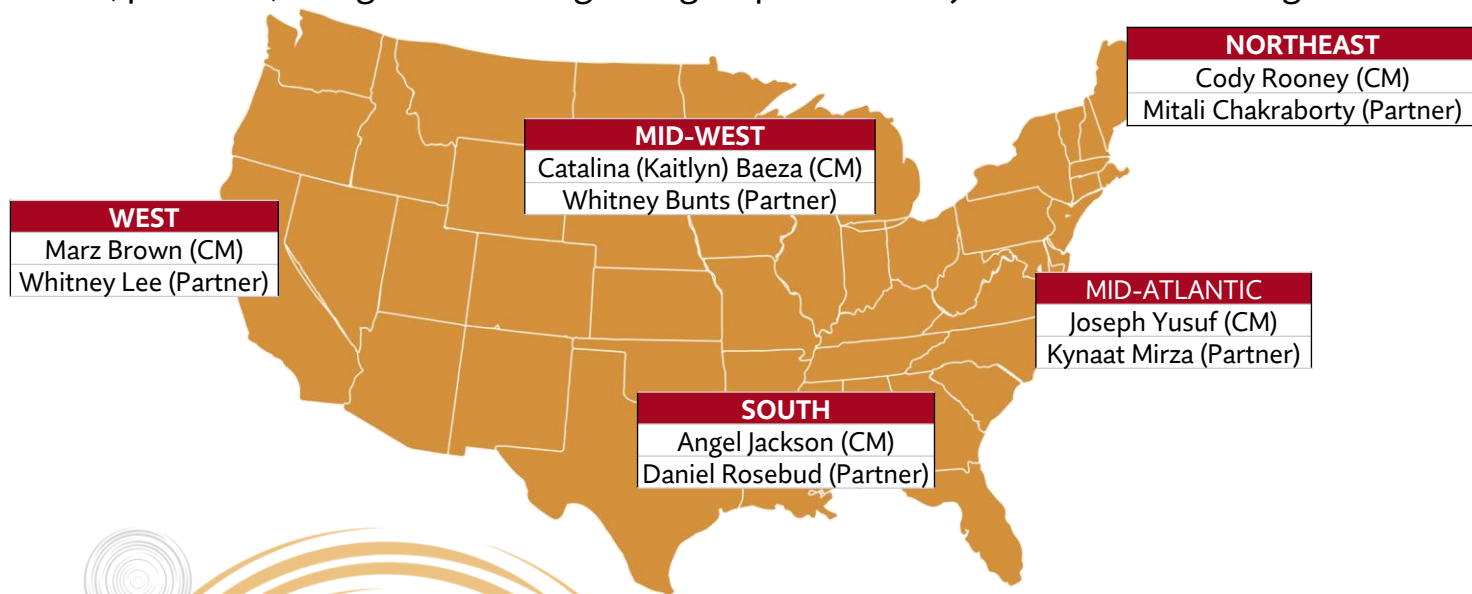


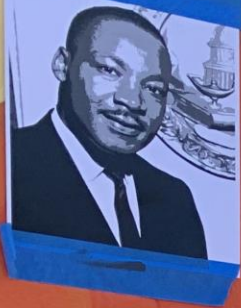
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# Looking AHEAD: 2023 & Beyond

## Regional Teams

In 2023 ND4Y engaged Changemakers, partners, and CLASP staff in regional committees intended to foster a stronger sense of community and collaboration amongst Changemakers at a local level. The regional committees aimed to coordinate actions that address region specific challenges aligned to the ND4Y demands, priorities, and goals. Each regional group is co-led by a Partner and Changemaker lead.





Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave  
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# Acknowledgements

- **ND4Y CLASP Staff:** Nia West-Bey, Clarence Okoh, Deanie Anyangwe, Emily Kim, Isha Weerasinghe, Kathy Tran, Kayla Tawa, Landy Lin, Madison Trice, Priya Pandey, Staci Walker
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- **Former CLASP ND4Y Staff and Consultants:** Ashley Burnside, Duy Pham, Kisha Bird, Marlén Mendoza, Whitney Bunts, ElevenThreeSixty Strategies

# Community Transformation:

# Youth Changemakers Leading National Policy and Systems Change For Liberation

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[#WhyWeCantWait](#)

