

## YOUTH WORKFORCE INITIATIVE NETWORK OF STATEN ISLAND (WINS)

The **Youth Workforce Initiative Network of Staten Island, Youth WINS**, is a collaboration of several Staten Island-based organizations with experience delivering social, educational and career services to young adults on the Island. In 2015, JobsFirstNYC, working with The Staten Island Foundation, put out a call to the field to develop a partnership to address the out-of-school, out-of-work young adult crisis on Staten Island. Over the past year, a number of organizations have been involved in the discussion, planning, and development of **Youth WINS**.

Among those organizations that have committed to participating on the steering committee are: African

Refuge; College of Staten Island; Empowerment Zone; New York Center for Interpersonal Development; Parent to Parent NY, Inc.; Project Hospitality; Salvation Army; Staten Island Chamber of Commerce; Staten Island Employment Education Consortium; Staten Island Mental Health Society; United Activities Unlimited; and Youth BUILD.

### How It Works

After a year of development, during which JobsFirstNYC worked with the Foundation and emerging partners to conduct labor market research, convene employers, present the model to philanthropy, and hold several design labs, **Youth WINS** is prepared to move towards implementation in the autumn of 2016. The participating

community-based organizations (CBOs) are partnering with the College of Staten Island to offer educational bridges, customized training, and wraparound support services to out-of-school, out-of-work young adults on Staten Island. Following the appropriate assessment, training, and wraparound services, the College and CBOs will work

with the Chamber of Commerce to help young adults secure quality jobs in high-demand industries and occupations. Acting collectively, the partners of **Youth WINS** are able to offer more comprehensive services than what they could provide independently. Organized into five subgroups, Assessment, Educational Bridges, Customized Training, Wraparound Services, and Retention and Evaluation, the partners have developed a model that emphasizes the long-term career readiness needs of young adults and market demand by weighing educational attainment, certification, labor market intelligence, and the immediate needs of both jobseekers and employers.

### JobsFirstNYC's Workforce Partnerships

**JobsFirstNYC is an intermediary focused on improving employment and educational opportunities for out-of-school and out-of-work young adults in New York City.** JobsFirstNYC supports placed-based initiatives, like Youth WINS, in recognition of the vital importance organizational collaboration for young adults seeking a foothold in a labor market that increasingly rewards post-secondary education and in-demand skills. Adding value as an intermediary, JobsFirstNYC helps support and develop innovative models such as Youth WINS that increase capacity and expertise both for the participating organizations and the field as a whole, to the benefit of young adults in the workforce and the organizations that employ them.

