

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 long histories of 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 create a consortium 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 organizing to develop **Youth WINS**.

Among those organizations that have committed to participating on the Steering Committee are: College of Staten Island; Empowerment Zone; New York Center for Interpersonal Development; Parent to Parent NY Inc.; Salvation Army; Staten Island

Chamber of Commerce; Staten Island Employment Education Consortium; Staten Island Mental Health Society; Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness and United Activities Unlimited.

How It Works

After a year of development, during which JobsFirstNYC conducted labor market research, convened employers, presented the model to philanthropy, and held several design labs in collaboration with the Staten Island Foundation, **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 wrap-around services, the College and CBOs will work with the Chamber of Commerce to help young adults secure quality jobs in high demand employment sectors. Acting collectively, the partners of **Youth WINS**

are able to offer more comprehensive services than when working in silos. Furthermore, by collaborating rather than competing, the organizations have increased capacity to serve those in need. Divided into three subgroups, Educational Bridges, Customized Training, and Wrap-Around Services, the partners have developed a model that emphasizes the long-term career readiness needs of young adults by weighing educational attainment, certification, labor market intelligence, and the immediate needs of job seekers.

JobsFirstNYC's Workforce Partnerships

JobsFirstNYC is an intermediary focused on improving employment and educational opportunities for out-of-work and out-of-school 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 difficult-to-obtain educational attainment and in-demand skills. Adding value as an intermediary, fundraiser and facilitator, JobsFirstNYC helps incubate and grow 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.

