



For Immediate Release  
March 27, 2018

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**Youth Empowerment Project Receives National Renewal Award from The Atlantic and Allstate  
Recognizing Local Organizations Driving Change Across the Country  
Award Includes \$20,000 Grant from Allstate; Announced at Event Today in New Orleans**

**New Orleans, LA** - At a symposium held at the Ace Hotel today, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) was honored with a national award and \$20,000 grant for its work in creating solutions to pressing community challenges. YEP was one of five nonprofits to receive the third annual Renewal Awards, a project of The Atlantic and Allstate honoring groups across the country for their innovative, grassroots approach to driving change in their communities and bringing progress to the country. YEP was chosen from a competitive pool of nearly 3,000 nominees.

*"YEP is honored to receive national recognition from The Atlantic and Allstate for our work with young people in New Orleans and we are proud to stand alongside of the other awardees that are doing innovative and impactful work in respective communities across the United States,"* said YEP Executive Director/Cofounder Melissa Sawyer.

Many of this year's winners are focused on building bridges to the social and economic mainstream for populations that have been excluded but are growing. Their work includes serving low-income or disadvantaged populations by offering job and entrepreneurship opportunities, mentorship, and educational resources. The winners have affected thousands of lives and serve as role models for other organizations grappling with how to drive change in communities across the country.

The honorees were selected by public vote and a judges' panel comprised of The Atlantic editors, past Renewal Award winners, and outside members. **The full list of Renewal Award winners includes:**

- Allstate Youth Empowerment Award: [Youth Empowerment Project](#) (New Orleans, La.)
- [AnewAmerica](#) (Oakland, Calif.)
- [Con Mi MADRE](#) (Austin, Texas )
- [Hazleton Integration Project](#) (Hazleton, Pa.)
- [Let's Innovate Through Education](#) (Memphis, Tenn.)

#### **About the Renewal Awards**

The Atlantic's Renewal Awards recognize local organizations driving positive change in their communities and bringing progress to the country. Now in its 3rd year, the Awards culminate with five winners each receiving a \$20,000 grant from Allstate to further their work. Five runners up also receive a \$10,000 grant from Allstate. The Renewal Awards seek to illuminate these creative solutions: the local organizations and individuals banding together to confront the biggest challenges facing the country. Allstate is the underwriter of The Renewal Awards.

**ABOUT YEP:** Founded in 2004, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a nonprofit organization engaging underserved young people through community-based education, mentoring, employment readiness and enrichment programs. In 2017, YEP served 1252 participants through a total of 11 programs at six sites. To learn more about YEP visit: [www.youthempowermentproject.org](http://www.youthempowermentproject.org) or follow @YEPNOLA on social media.

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