



**Robert Clark**  
**Founder and Executive Director, YouthBuild Newark**



Robert Clark is the Founding Executive Director of YouthBuild Newark (YBN), a non-profit organization that provides academic, vocational, and workforce development programs for low-income young people. Since launching YBN in 2003, Clark has been instrumental in helping over 2,500 people graduate from the program with trade skills, industry-recognized certifications, and GEDs.

Clark has over 22 years of experience in youth development, and is the first YouthBuild graduate to found a YouthBuild program in a major city. As someone who's overcome a tumultuous adolescence, Clark knows the path to progress isn't always a straight line. He uses that knowledge every day to help young people get back on track.

Under Clark's leadership, YBN has gained a national reputation for promoting juvenile justice re-entry and vocational training. In 2011, YBN partnered with Newark Public Schools to launch the Newark Leadership Academy, an alternative vocational high school that uses YBN's proven youth development model.

In 2016, YBN, under Clark's leadership, founded LEAD Charter High School to serve 16- to 21-year-olds at-risk of dropping out or who already have dropped out of school. Clark is also the leading visionary behind Opportunity Youth Network, a hub that coordinates a citywide effort to reconnect youth with education. The Opportunity Youth Network received an initial investment of \$2.5 million from the Foundation for Newark's Future thanks to a donation from Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan.

Clark is the founding member of the My Brother's Keeper Newark Advisory Council, and a board member of Newark Trust for Education and the Newark Workforce Development Board. He is a Boston native and holds a bachelor's degree in Adult Training in Human Services from the University of Massachusetts. As a young adult, Clark participated in the nationally celebrated Public Allies leadership program. Before becoming the Founding Executive Director of YBN, he worked at the Boston Medical Center and the Boston Public Health Commission.