

Commentary/Op-Ed - January 2018

Op-Ed: How To Prepare New Yorkers to Benefit from Amazon

Many New Yorkers are worried that a new home base for the world's largest internet company would be more burden than boon. But a bold proposal to land 50,000 good jobs deserves an equally ambitious plan to invest in the city's workforce. New York should want Amazon's jobs, while ensuring more New Yorkers get them.

by Jonathan Bowles and Matt A.V. Chaban

Amazon and its 50,000 well-paying jobs is nothing to sneeze at. Most of New York City's recent employment growth has been fueled by jobs at the very top and bottom of the economic ladder, with far too few in the middle. But with millions of New Yorkers struggling to get by at a time of skyrocketing rents and stagnant wages, New York needs to ensure that everyone will benefit when good jobs are created. The city needs to go beyond pulling out all the stops to land Amazon and push like never before to invest in the skills New Yorkers need to succeed if it comes.

In this *City & State* op-ed, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles and CUF Policy Director and Fisher Fellow Matt A.V. Chaban argue that a bold proposal to land 50,000 good jobs deserves an equally ambitious plan to invest in the city's workforce.

Read this op-ed here.

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future's extensive research on human capital and workforce development, including *Building the Workforce for the Future*, a major report assessing New York City's Career Pathways initative, and the groundbreaking *Bridging the Disconnect* report on the youth unemployment crisis.

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Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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