Center for an Urban Future
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Commentary/Op-Ed - October 2017

Op-Ed: On New York's Amazon Wishlist? More Homegrown College Graduates

Bids are due today for Amazon's new headquarters and it seems cities across North America have joined the fray. New York City alone has multiple neighborhoods vying for Bezos' bounty. However, New York's ability to lure the world's fourth largest corporation will hinge on whether its workforce is primed and ready.

by Matt A.V. Chaban

There's no doubt that New York City is a formidable competitor in the quest for Amazon's HQ2. No other city offers so expansive a world of culture and commerce in a single place, a paragon of urbanism and urbanity animated by an astonishingly diverse population. However, while New York has always been a beacon for titans of industry, striving immigrants, and the creative cognoscenti, for too long, the city has failed to develop enough local talent into the kind of smart, savvy employment base a modern company like Amazon demands.

In this new *Gotham Gazette* op-ed, Matt A.V. Chaban, CUF's policy director and Fisher Fellow, argues that New York's ability to lure the world's fourth largest corporation, or its 40th or 400th, will hinge on whether its workforce is primed and ready.

Read the 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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