ATTAINMENT & SUCCESS

Addressing equity challenges in higher education requires a multi–faced approach, so we break our report into three categories. This document summarizes problems and recommended federal policy solutions for Attainment & Success in higher education as identified in Young Invincibles’ report Race & Ethnicity as a Barrier to Opportunity. To read the full report, visit: www.younginvincibles.org.

PROBLEM: Attainment gaps are widening – While college attainment rates have steadily risen for most demographic groups, Latinx and African American rates have not grown at the same pace as whites. As a result, the racial and ethnic attainment gap has widened dramatically since 1974.

Recommendations:

• **Invest in affordable campus–based childcare** – A quarter of all college students are also parents. We should find ways to strengthen programs that support these undergraduates, including but not limited to subsidized child care services.

• **Improve Pell Grant Flexibility** – Restoration of the Year–Round or “summer Pell” Pell Grant could be pursued to cover full–time students summer courses.

• **Align financial aid and public benefits** – The next Farm Bill should grant Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (food stamp) eligibility to any student on a Pell Grant.

• **Invest in assessment infrastructure at minority serving institutions** – The federal government should fund MSIs to collect more and better data that can be used to make data–driven decisions about interventions and programs that improve student outcomes.

• **Hold institutions accountable for student success** – All institutions should be held accountable for student success while also protecting access, especially for low–income students of color.

• **Further evaluate student support services** – Explore investments in additional research and evaluation for these kinds of programs, including potential complications created by burdensome eligibility requirements, and scale what works.