

# TOGETHER, INVINCIBLE:

## A Bold Agenda for Young Adults

### Executive Summary

#### Overview

Our federal strategy will provide a broad platform for our regional offices to tailor their agendas to reflect their state's individual policy and political landscapes. Each year, YI develops policy priorities based on a wide-ranging consultative process that involves national polling, listening directly to young adults, engaging our national and regional Youth Advisory Boards and Young Advocates Program participants, and organizational knowledge of policy and politics in our regional offices in California, Colorado, Illinois, New York, Texas, and nationally.

#### Health Care

##### **Prioritize Affordable and Equitable Access to Health Care Coverage**

- Defend and improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Support equitable investments for historically underserved communities and declare racism as a public health crisis through Congressional action.
- Support additional subsidies in non-expanded Medicaid states and ease enrollment barriers.

##### **Fight for Reproductive and Maternal Health Care**

- Advocate for Congress to codify a person's right to bodily autonomy through the Women's Health Protection Act.
- Support congressional and administrative policies that support affordable and protected access to abortion care
- Advocate for expanded, protected, and timely access to contraception
- Advocate for policies that prioritize the experiences of African American women and people of color in relation to the delivery of maternal health care.





### **Ensure Young People Have the Tools and Information to Get Vaccinated Against Covid-19 and other Viral Illnesses**

- Ensure that the commercialization of vaccines, tests, and treatment does not hinder access for low-income and uninsured populations.

## **Higher Education**

### **Increase affordability of and equitable access and completion to postsecondary education for racialized, low-income, and first-gen students;**

- Defend President Biden's Broad Student Debt Cancellation plan and advocate for the immediate cancellation of student debt.
- Support federal legislation intended to provide funding to eliminate tuition and required fees for all students at community colleges and two-year tribal colleges and universities
- Additionally, legislation must extend eligibility for federal student aid to certain non-citizen students.
- Permanently reauthorize the Federal Pell Grant program by providing funding to increase the maximum award for each eligible student.

### **Strengthen systems, policies, and practices supporting academic success and close the opportunity gap**

- Support federal legislation or initiatives requiring institutions to grant students the right to reenroll in their associate or baccalaureate degree programs after withdrawing.
- Advocate for upholding the original intent of affirmative action in college admissions.
- Expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for students, simplify the eligibility for postsecondary students and make the temporary COVID-19 protections in place permanent.
- Advocate for legislation establishing a federal-state partnership that provides federal match grants to distribute funding to institutions to develop Basic Needs centers.

### **Expand mental health resources at colleges and universities**

- Support dedicated funding and a framework and goals for higher education institutions to meet students' demand for campus mental health services.
- Advocate for introducing legislation mandating all institutions of higher education receiving Title IV aid must administer a climate survey to all students, collect data regarding police contact with students, and track incidents of hate speech on campus.

## Workforce & Finance

### **Expand and improve equitable career pathways for young adults, especially racialized and low-income young adults**

- Support federal legislation intended to develop robust, infrastructure-focused, federally-backed workforce programs.
- Support federal legislation intended to expand Pell grant eligibility for students enrolled in job training programming.
- Support federal legislation intended to provide reparations for descendants of American Freedmen and examine the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery.
- Support funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs by at minimum \$80 billion over six years.

### **Widen and deepen access to vital support for basic human needs through employers**

- Support extending the current ARPA Expansion of EITC for Childless Workers.
- Advocate for federal legislation that prevents states from imposing onerous and unnecessary earnings requirements for the Child Tax Credit
- Support federal legislation establishing a child care and development assistance program that allocates funding for states to provide services.
- Fight for legislation requiring employers to provide employees with family and medical leave insurance.
- Support legislation prohibiting employment practices that discriminate against making reasonable accommodations for qualified employees affected by a pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

### **Fight for all work to pay a living wage**

- Fight to raise the minimum wage so every young adult worker in America is paid fairly.
- Ensure the raise is indexed to the consumer price index (CPI) to keep up with inflation.
- Support federal-state partnerships to offer equitable, accessible, and portable retirement benefits and savings options for workers.
- Protect and expand Social Security retirement benefits and ensure benefits will be there for today's young adults when they retire.

**Protect and expand young adults' ability to unionize and engage in collective bargaining**

- Support federal legislation for young adults to unionize and bargain with employers without intimidation or retaliation.
- Ensure that Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) legislation is updated with provisions that protect employees' right to unionize and stricter penalties for employers violating FLSA.

