



YOUNG  INVINCIBLES

IMPACT REPORT

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2022

A large blue circle is partially overlapping a smaller circle with a diagonal hatching pattern. The hatching lines are thin and black, spaced evenly.

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MISSION & VISION



OUR MISSION

Young Invincibles' mission is to amplify the voices of young adults in the political process and expand economic opportunity for our generation.



OUR VISION

All young people fully participate in our nation's political process and have the economic opportunity to reach their fullest potential.



OUR VALUES



Young Adult Power

Lasting social change is created by empowering local young adult leaders with deep community ties who can drive the work. By providing young people with tools and practice to better use their voices and skills, we create a ripple effect of young adult leaders addressing systemic barriers.

Community

We build and sustain a community of belonging, where everyone brings their full selves. Our relationships are authentic, empathetic, compassionate, and respectful. We are mutually responsible for and accountable to one another, meeting each other wherever we are.



Bold Ideas

We are not satisfied with business as usual or the status quo. Tangible and sustainable systemic change requires new and different leaders whose ideas and approaches can design better solutions to the challenges we face. We commit to creating, learning, growing, and improving together.

Collaboration

We care about one another and take joy in working together to set and accomplish our goals. We value and celebrate each other's unique lived experiences, worldviews, talents and contributions. We work through the courageous and difficult conversations that build better relationships and stronger teams. We bring high quality data, youth voice, facilitation, and strategic thinking to our relationships with our partners.



Equity

We want to live in a world of opportunity, cooperation, and abundance. A world that does not yet exist. We work to ensure political, educational, social, and economic equality for all people by understanding the complex and interconnected systems of power and white supremacy that have marginalized people and created entrenched inequities. We must acknowledge the world in which we currently live in order to change the institutions that preclude justice.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

It has been quite a year. As the recovery from the global pandemic evolves, young people across the country are in a period of profound and historic opportunity to address systemic barriers to economic security. Young Invincibles' mission to amplify the voices of young adults in the political process and expand economic opportunity is as relevant today as it was 14 years ago when we were founded.

It is easy to feel demoralized by the difficult economic and social conditions that today's young people, especially people of color and low-income young adults, face. However, we at YI know big change is possible because young people are powerful. Young people want a prosperous future with access to an affordable education and an in-demand career. A future with comprehensive and affordable health care coverage, including full reproductive care and mental health care. When young adults come together, learn to organize in their communities, and share their personal stories, they create extraordinary social and policy change.

We are happy to report that, because of your continued support, YI is thriving. Our accomplishments in 2022 include advocacy that led to historic student loan debt relief, COVID-19 education and outreach in communities around the country, and a new Financial Health of Young America report that analyzed the financial landscape after the pandemic. In the past year since I joined as Executive Director, we have returned to in-person programming. After three years of virtual and hybrid work, we have new offices in our regions, a new strategic plan, and a new theory of change.

Our strategic plan focuses on narrative change and alignment. We will shift the narrative about young adult access to economic opportunity by working diligently to uplift youth voices, align our existing programs by creating unified experiences for young people who participate, elevate our use of digital tools to expand our reach, and focus on efforts to produce high-quality, cutting-edge policy research.

As we enter our next chapter, we are building an organization we are proud of. We have doubled down on centering diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we are excited to showcase YI as a great place to work. Building on the progress we have made across health care, higher education, jobs, and voting for young adults, YI's programs are recommitted to our values of bold ideas, collaboration, community, equity, and young adult power.

Looking ahead, I am confident that we will continue to carry out our mission with creativity, passion, and commitment. We look forward to partnering with you to further our shared work for many years to come.

In solidarity,

Kristin McGuire
Executive Director





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"Working with YI has shown me not only that my voice is important in the policy process, but that the voices of young people are necessary for creating equitable change. "

-Linda Schiller
Colorado YAP Graduate and YI Alum



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



1,934,000
video views



1,471
policymakers
or staff who
attended
testimonies or
briefings



119
press
hits



295
legislative
testimonies



300

Young Advocates
trained



36,142,311
event
attendees



146

policy reports,
issue briefs,
infographics, and
blogs



52,182
social media
followers



YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National

Every day around the country, young adults took action to fight for better economic opportunity, and YI continued training the next generation of leaders to achieve their dreams. We empowered young people to share their stories, advocate with elected officials and decision makers, and organize in their communities. Young adults showed decision makers that in order to create a more equitable society, those furthest from power and privilege must be heard. [Here are some of our top accomplishments:](#)

- YI and young adults created momentum that led to the historic [cancellation of up to \\$20,000 in student loan debt](#). Thousands of young people emailed, called, tweeted, and attended events. They showed that no one pursuing higher education deserves extensive student debt, and Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students unfairly carry a disproportionate burden of this debt. Unfortunately, this action is currently stalled in the court system.
- Our [“Generation Vaxxed”](#) campaign focused on education, outreach, and recovery for COVID-19 in communities around the country. By engaging local organizers who shared their own COVID-19 stories through one-on-one conversations, we built trust with communities and helped residents get vaccinated. We expanded the program, creating a #FluBoo campaign to encourage young people to get the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 bivalent booster.
- On September 22, 2022, YI released an update to our seminal report, [“The Financial Health of Young America”](#) (FHYA). In this edition, we measured critical areas -- including income, retirement savings, home ownership, student debt, and net wealth -- to shed light on and contextualize the financial landscape young adults are currently confronting. We did this through a “post-pandemic” lens. We also built a customized website landing page for visitors to explore the data and our findings. The communications team designed a robust social media toolkit, and we produced [a new video](#) that demonstrates the lived experience of the data we present.





YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

California



- YI hosted our 5th Annual State of Young California in November. Our team worked with multiple partners to give young adults resources and workshops on obtaining financial security as they move through life's milestones. We hosted panels, open conversations with young adults, a Q & A with young adult leaders, and released our [Student Basic Needs](#) report.
- In September, YI visited Bakersfield Community College, Fresno Community College, Clovis Community College, Merced Community College, and Madera Community College over a span of three days. Our staff provided consumer education on COVID-19 vaccinations, health insurance literacy, and recruitment for our 2023 Spring Young Advocates Program. YI staff met with campus organizations to connect on our basic needs efforts at community colleges.
- YI hosted our virtual Advocacy Week in April. Young adults across California advocated for legislation on Cal Grant program reform, CalEITC support, and Health for All expansion. We began our Annual Advocacy Week with a pre-Advocacy Day training session for Young Advocates. The following day, we hosted our Annual Advocacy Day, kickstarting the day with a welcome session featuring prominent California Advocate Kristina Bas Hamilton, and Young Advocates attended virtual advocacy visits with California Assembly Appropriations Committee Members. The Young Advocates attended five advocacy visits to speak about the importance of Health Care for All, Guaranteed Income, and Priority Registration for Student Parents. Young Advocates hosted a Tweet Storm to thank legislators for meeting and raising awareness on our issues.



YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Colorado



- During the 2022 legislative session, YI and our young adults advocated for **32 policies** addressing equity; health care, including the social determinants of health; and higher education and the workforce. Young adults shared their stories **52 times** at the Colorado State Capitol on behalf of YI. We were interviewed and quoted **11** times in the press, affirming not only that young adults have a powerful perspective, but that the world is ready and hungry for that perspective and the society we envision for our futures.
- YI conducted focus groups and surveys with more than **200 people ages 18-34** on the most pressing issues for young adults across our issue areas. We published our policy agenda, [Dismantle to Rebuild](#), to share our [findings](#). Through roundtables, surveys, polls, and conversations with young adults across our state, we heard over and over again that youth furthest from power, privilege, and economic opportunities were hit hardest during the pandemic. Rural students, Black and Brown young adults, and LGBTQ+ youth faced significant barriers compared to their white peers in accessing higher education and health care.
- Colorado's non-partisan ballot guide, co-written and distributed by the Young Advocates, reached more than **40,000** young people in the state through social media and virtual and in-person community events. Program participants organized in their communities to distribute more than **400** Voting 101 one-pagers in more than **50** locations. In addition, **100%** of the young people we polled indicated they were more likely to vote after interacting with YI.



YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Illinois



- In 2019, Illinois enacted the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act, a law setting goals for all state public higher education institutions to improve and expand mental health services and supports for students. While legislators worked on securing the necessary funds, YI and NAMI Chicago partnered to create the Illinois Mental Health Access on College Campuses Learning Collaborative, a platform for resource sharing, discussions, presentations, and student feedback on provisions of the Act. In July, the Collaborative released the [Mental Health Learning Collaborative Resource Guide](#). After a years-long advocacy campaign, the state announced that new funding was included in the state's FY23 supplemental budget.
- On March 16, YI led a Mental Health Advocacy Day. Young Advocates spent the day in **10** meetings with legislators to educate them about the need to fund campus mental health services at all public colleges and universities. **Six** Young Advocates joined the meetings and shared their experiences attempting to access mental health services at their school, only to find numerous issues with access, affordability, and availability. Because they were moved by Young Advocates' stories, **five** legislators decided to sponsor legislation to fund mental health on Illinois campuses.
- In January, Illinois legislators introduced a resolution on [The Young Workers' Bill of Rights](#) in the Illinois General Assembly. The YI-led legislation secures support to establish baseline protections and rights across the state, as well as expand career development opportunities, for young workers. On April 5, the Illinois House of Representatives adopted the resolution.

YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New York



- YI trained and educated 36 young folks (our largest cohorts ever) on policies affecting them and how to advocate for change in New York higher education and health care through our Young Advocates Program. These Young Advocates, the vast majority of which were women of color, represent all five boroughs of New York City, CUNY and SUNY students, first-generation college students, immigrants, upstate and downstate, urban and rural locales, grads and undergrads, LGBTQIA+ identifying and gender non-confirming/non-binary students, and more.
- Our [#EndTranscriptWithholding](#) Campaign succeeded in our multi-year effort, as Governor Hochul signed the bill banning transcript withholding at all New York public and private higher education institutions.
- [Our team met with top members of Governor Hochul's administration](#) -- our first meeting with them -- to discuss the issue of food insecurity. Former Young Advocate Bella highlighted the gross inadequacies of SUNY Buffalo's food pantry program, the immense amount of student hunger that exists, the lack of dedicated funding to address this issue, how this trend of lacking basic needs resources is prevalent throughout both CUNY and SUNY schools, and the importance of the Hunger-Free Campus Bill for comprehensively helping to end student hunger, as other states have.

YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Texas



- Led by our Young Advocates, YI’s “Missed Connections: Opportunity Gaps in Texas Higher Education and Workforce” summit reached 376 registrants. Sessions included: College Affordability: The High Cost Of Attendance, Financing Community College, Today’s Students, and Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning. Policy and decision makers from around the state gathered via Zoom to be enlightened and educated by young adults on several policy areas. YI encouraged decision makers to take this information and turn it into policy. We hosted an in-person mixer with 40-50 young adults from across the state. We gathered to discuss ways we can build power through people unification and base building.
- During the 2022 Fall cohort, Young Advocates conducted health insurance literacy teach-in trainings both online and in-person across Houston, Austin, and East Texas. Trainings reached 600 young Texans from diverse backgrounds. YI worked with community partners to host large-scale open enrollment and vaccine education events, reaching hundreds more.
- The [Texas Community College Student Advisory Council](#) (SAC) is organized and supported by YI, The Education Trust in Texas, Every Texan, and Breakthrough Central Texas. SAC student members actively engaged in the work of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance in the state legislature. They presented a set of recommendations for college affordability to the Commission, and the final report incorporated these recommendations. Our SAC members were invited to not only provide oral and written testimony during Commission hearings, but Commission members also reached out for clarification on some of the SAC members’ key concerns when the recommendations were published.



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"There is power in your testimony, and YAP taught me to clearly communicate the impact that legislation has on daily life. There is power in the collective, and the skills I learned at YAP have helped me connect with people on an intimate level."

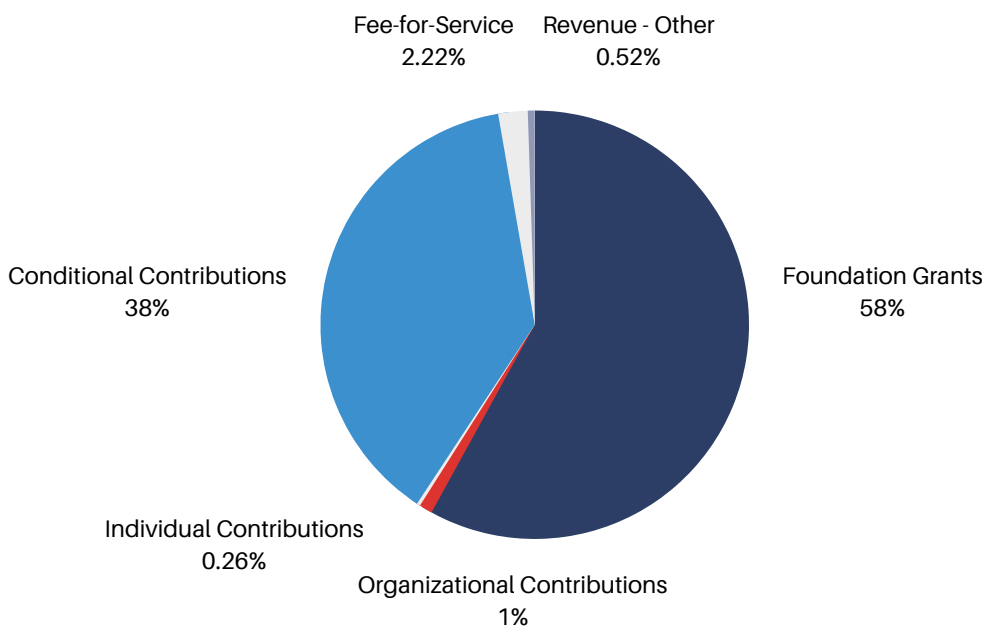
-Ayana Clark
Illinois YAP Graduate and YI Alum



FINANCIALS

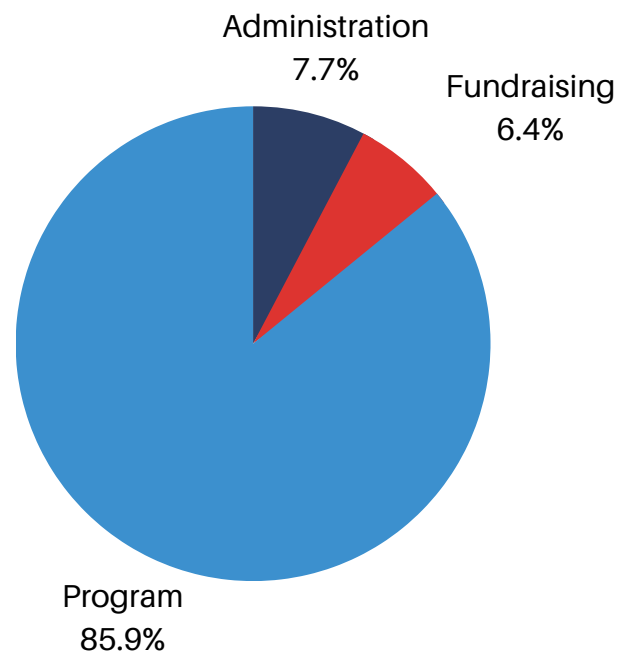
REVENUE

The total amount of revenue in 2022 is \$7,275,103. This includes a combination of foundation grants, individual contributions, organizational contributions, conditional contributions, and fee-for-service contributions.



EXPENDITURES

In 2022, YI spent 85.9% of its resources on program costs, 7.7% on administration costs, and 6.4% on fundraising costs.





2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Julian Haynes

Board Chair, Visiting Practitioner, Georgetown University Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership



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Gia Suggs

Author, Consultant, Organizational Development Expert



“

You have your vision and YI is here to support the development of that vision. Leverage their resources, support their efforts, and soak up the knowledge you gain through participation. Your experience will fly by, but it can have a lifetime impact.”

-Ronnell D. Hampton
California YAP Graduate and YI Alum



DONORS

Thank you to our funding partners for supporting our work and ongoing sustainability.

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