

2024 Colorado State Policy Agenda

**YOUNG YI
INVINCIBLES**

Overview _____

The Rocky Mountain Young Invincibles (YI) office is committed to advancing policy benefiting young adults in higher education, health care, workforce development, and civic engagement. Young Invincibles holds the value of “young adult leadership” and our policy agenda is shaped and guided directly by young adults in Colorado.

Health Care _____

Young adults believe in a fully inclusive definition of health that includes reproductive health, mental health, and behavioral health. YI will work to expand and protect health care affordability with a special focus on eliminating the disparities among marginalized racial, gender, and sexual identities. YI will continue to advocate for policies that expand equitable access to health care for young adults.

Legislation

Equitable Abortion Access

YI will work to address gaps in reproductive, maternal care, and family care that disproportionately impact Hispanic, Black and Rural young adults in Colorado. We will seek to eliminate barriers that prevent young adults from receiving or affording abortion services.

Gender Affirming Care

YI will work alongside young adults to increase access to and protection of Gender Affirming Care in Colorado. We will promote the study of access to Gender Affirming Care in Colorado, with an emphasis on understanding the needs of Hispanic, Black, and rural transgender young adults.





Mental Health Care

YI will promote legislation that increases access to mental and behavioral health for young adults in Colorado. With the understanding that mental health care is preventive healthcare, we will work with young adults to increase affordable and equitable services to mental health resources.

Higher Education _____

In Colorado, student debt disrupts the benefits of a college education and financial gaps widen between young people of color and their white peers. And yet, higher education remains a young adult's best pathway to financial security. In 2023, Colorado students are facing unprecedented levels of inflation, high cost of living, and rapidly rising costs of tuition. A lack of sufficient state investment in higher education perpetuates geographic, racist, and classist inequities in college acceptance, attainment, and retention. YI will work to pass policies that connect more students to financial aid and need-based aid opportunities, protect and expand funding for higher ed, and address overwhelming and burdensome student debt.

Legislation

Stackable Credentials

YI will work to increase awareness and expand access to flexible and nontraditional postsecondary education pathways, including stackable credentials.

Supporting Rural Young Adults

YI will work to increase access to postsecondary education for rural students as well as students furthest from privilege who need access to wraparound support services in order to succeed.

Increasing Learner Transparency

Increasing transparency for learners would require post-secondary programs to list a realistic return on investment that includes cost of tuition and expected salary for careers in said field. YI will work to increase transparency for young adults and aid in their selection process throughout their academic careers.

Supporting HB 23-1215 Study Committee Recommendations

Over the last several years, Colorado has been working to blur the lines between high school, college, and careers, to create a new, flexible system that works for everyone. The 1215 Secondary, Postsecondary and Work-based Learning Integration Task Force released its final report in December of 2023. YI will continue to elevate the experiences of young adults as they work to implement these policy recommendations in the 2024 Legislative Session.

Workforce

Access to gainful employment is critical for young adults. In order to increase access, we need to expand access to supports that help them thrive professionally, such as transportation, flexible workplace cultures, parental leave, and childcare. Steady access to employment is a critical part of supporting adults to build generational wealth. YI will additionally support worker protections and employer accountability.

Legislation

Gig Transparency

With the proliferation of gig work into different sectors and services over the last decade, more young Coloradans in the gig economy struggle to make ends meet and plan for their financial futures. Gig transparency would provide workers with flexibility, transparency, and certainty about their earnings and expenses so they can make more informed decisions about their work and better plan for their financial future.

Creating and Supporting Career Pathways

Increasing access to stackable credential programs, career pathways, and partnerships with industries in the workforce are an innovative and promising way to provide students with the education they need for advancement within an industry. This work will allow YI to ensure that we are working to help young adults thrive in Colorado.

Contact Us

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