

2023

YOUNG **YI**
INVINCIBLES

IMPACT REPORT



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MISSION

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

VALUES

To support our vision and mission, we have defined our values to achieve our goals, knowing we must continually communicate and uphold these values across the organization.

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.

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.

In our programming and advocacy, we create opportunities to shift power for communities with the least access to political and economic power. Our diverse team aims to implement inclusive and equitable practices, policies, and strategies.

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.

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.

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.



LETTER FROM ED



Friends,

Can you believe Young Invincibles is about to hit our 15th anniversary? As we approach this milestone, I can't help but feel immensely proud of how far we've come while still being fired up about the work ahead.

This is a pivotal election year, and our mission to amplify young voices and expand economic opportunity has never been more vital. We want to help ensure that our goal of creating a future where the boundless potential of every young person is not just a dream but a reality that shapes the very fabric of our nation. This is the perfect moment to reflect on our accomplishments and refocus our vision for the future.

That's exactly what we did in launching our new strategic plan, the Power Playbook, this year. This roadmap will supercharge our operations, deepen community engagement, and elevate our policy impact over the next three years. But it's about more than just the nuts and bolts - the Playbook helps us interweave joy and passion into our daily activism. It centers the very things that give our work its profound purpose and meaning.

Thanks to your incredible support, 2023 was packed with landmark wins. In February, we rallied shoulder-to-shoulder with YI advocates and countless others on the steps of the Supreme Court during the People's Rally for Student Debt Cancellation, where we called for President Biden's student debt relief plan. Seeing the sea of young people bravely raising their voices in that historic moment filled me with hope.

Speaking of our unstoppable advocates, the Young Advocates Program leveled up its curriculum to provide even more robust training on issues that young adults care about the most- including community organizing, reproductive justice, and mental health care. My own experiences as a first-generation college student have shown me how essential it is for young people to have access to this type of comprehensive training, as these skills are transferable to real life. I'm proud that our advocates are equipped to be locally trusted guides on these issues.

Lastly, our Youth Advisory Boards continue to be the heart of YI's work. Seeing these inspiring young leaders roll up their sleeves and direct our mission is just...wow. They make me so optimistic about the future we're building together.

Truthfully, words can't capture the full sense of excitement I feel being part of this movement. As we gear up to turn 15, I know that YI will keep blazing new trails and leaving our mark on history. Get ready because the past 15 years were just our warm-up act!

**IN SOLIDARITY,
KRISTIN**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

BY THE NUMBERS

YOUNG ADVOCATES
TRAINED

125

VIDEO VIEWS

1,499,000

POLICY EVENTS

283

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

46,892

TESTIMONY IN FRONT
OF LEGISLATORS

377

PRESS HITS

+3000

POLICYMAKERS OR STAFF WHO
ATTENDED TESTIMONIES OR BRIEFINGS

1,592

PARTICIPANTS IN OUR TWITTER/X CHATS

34,516,000

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

NATIONAL AND REGIONS

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 in 2023:



NATIONAL

YI led efforts to shift the popular narrative around canceling student debt from the early days of the Biden administration. On February 28, YI led the historic People's Rally for Student Debt Cancellation at the Supreme Court. **We had media hits in 43/50 states and over 100 hits nationwide.** Demonstrators converged in the nation's capital as the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two challenges to President Biden's student debt relief program. The rally showcased the expansive—and growing—support for debt relief, bringing together working people from across party lines, industries, faith communities, socioeconomic statuses, and cities and states around the country. Co-sponsored by organizations representing millions of borrowers and supporters, the People's Rally for Student Debt Cancellation was the largest-ever mass demonstration by people with student debt in front of SCOTUS.

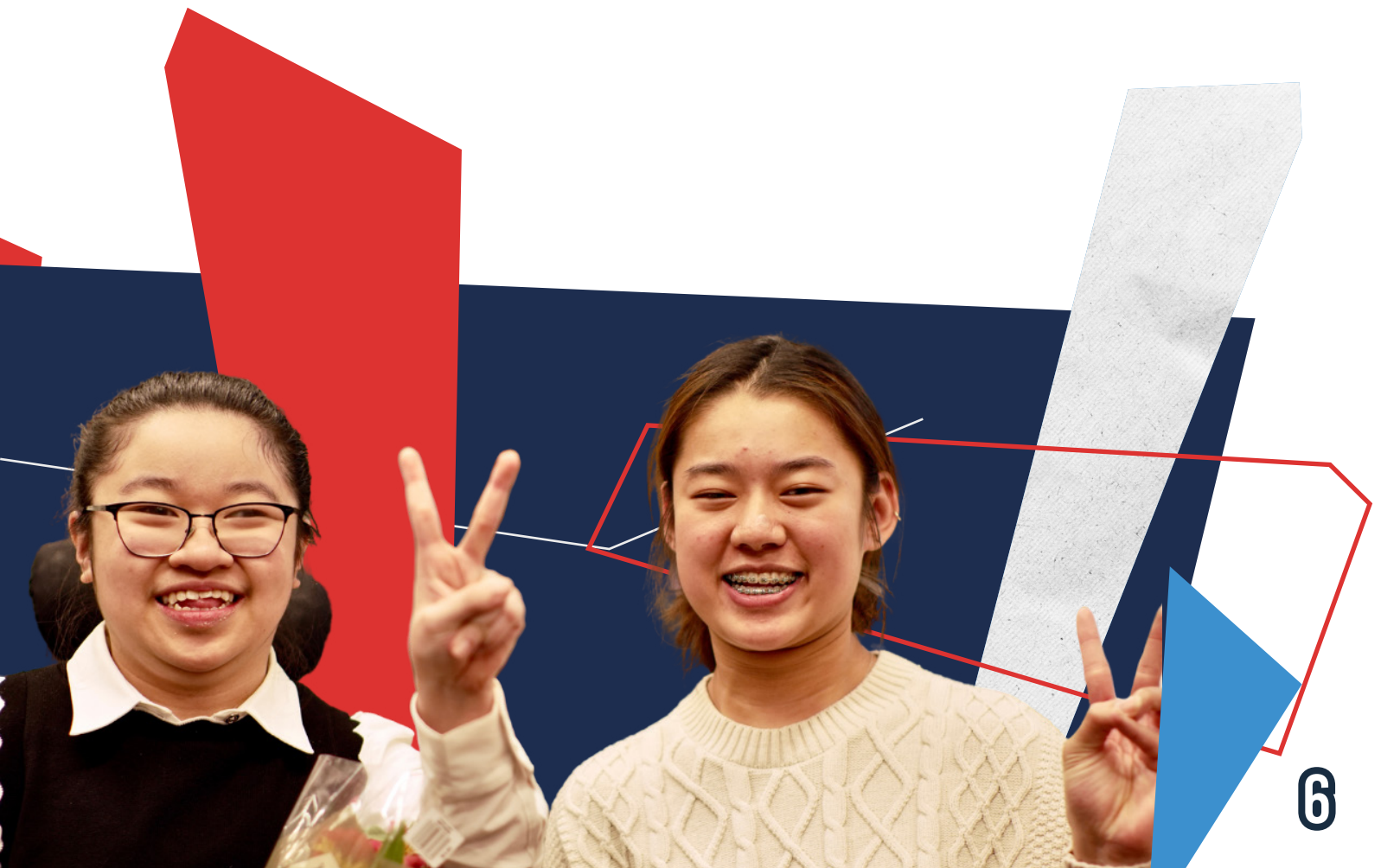
From February 6-12, YI and Chegg hosted the first-ever Global Student Mental Health Week, which featured seven days of mental health offerings on campuses to promote mental well-being for students. The inaugural global initiative sought to destigmatize mental health among students, encourage young people to be intentional about looking after themselves, and inspire conversations around what policymakers, education institutions, the wider community, parents, and learners themselves can do to support student mental wellness.



On February 8, YI staff and three YAP alumna (from Illinois and Colorado) held an advocacy day on the Hill, where they met with staff from eight congressional offices, educating them on the importance of mental health wellness. Throughout the YI Mental Health campaign, YI's elevation of the issue was cited in various media platforms, amplifying social interactions and engagements. This further solidifies YI's brand and leadership in the student mental health space.

YI continues to lead the charge year-round to ensure young people are aware of their health care coverage options. **Through digital ads, emails, social media outreach, and live events we were able to reach over 11.5 million young people during this open enrollment period.** Now, YI remains committed to supporting the outreach and enrollment community, including through our Get Covered Coalition of over 500 navigators, assisters, and advocates, in the next steps following enrollment – how to use this coverage and access care. **ACA enrollment hit record highs: more than 21.3 million people enrolled in Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance marketplace plans, 16 percent more than the year prior.**

On September 28, YI hosted a Thought Leaders Town Hall to raise awareness around the need for investment in young adult career pathways through the reauthorization of WIOA, expansion of the National Apprenticeship Program, and creation of a Short-Term Pell program. **The Town Hall featured opening remarks from Chairwoman Virginia Foxx and Ranking Member Bobby Scott.**



CALIFORNIA



YI trained 30 Young Advocates through our Young Advocates Program (YAP). They joined YI staff for our annual Advocacy Day in Sacramento, where our group of 15 young adults met with more than 15 legislative offices, advocating for the importance of Covered CA for all, regardless of immigration status, for the transformative nature of guaranteed income, and for the impact that institutional debt has had on our student populations across the state. We provided trainings and workshops for University of California (UC) student leaders as they prepared to speak to legislators, amplified the voices of our young adult communities through roundtables, and rallied for student debt cancellation. We were invited to speak at more than five legislative committees about guaranteed income and tax credit increases, both economic levers that lend to equity. These steps toward ensuring young adult-led policies are enacted allow us to work in community with young adults and collaborate with our partners.

In March 2023, Young Invincibles proudly co-hosted the first annual California 100 Youth Futures Summit, a landmark event that brought together over 500 student leaders, youth activists, and partner organizations on the West Lawn of the Capitol in Sacramento. As an integral part of this historic gathering, youth leaders and campus activists from across California convened to take action, express themselves through art, and connect with one another to shape the future of our state. The California 100 Youth Futures Summit exemplified the power of youth voices and collective action in shaping a brighter future for our state.

In 2023, we embarked on an effort to assess the effectiveness of basic needs initiatives within the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. Focused on gauging awareness and utilization of these services among California's four-year public college students, we crafted a survey covering aspects such as service accessibility, awareness, and comprehension. On the ground, members of the Young Invincibles' Young Advocates Program distributed printed flyers across various CSU and UC campuses, each containing a link to the survey and a brief description of its purpose. Concurrently, our digital outreach targeted affinity centers, student organizations, and key student leaders, leveraging email and social media platforms to encourage dissemination.

This comprehensive strategy ensured broad participation and generated valuable insights into the landscape of basic needs awareness and utilization among California's public college students, emphasizing the importance of holistic approaches in addressing critical issues within higher education. [The findings of this assessment](#) were released in early 2024, along with recommendations to increase access to basic needs across public four-year higher education institutions in California.

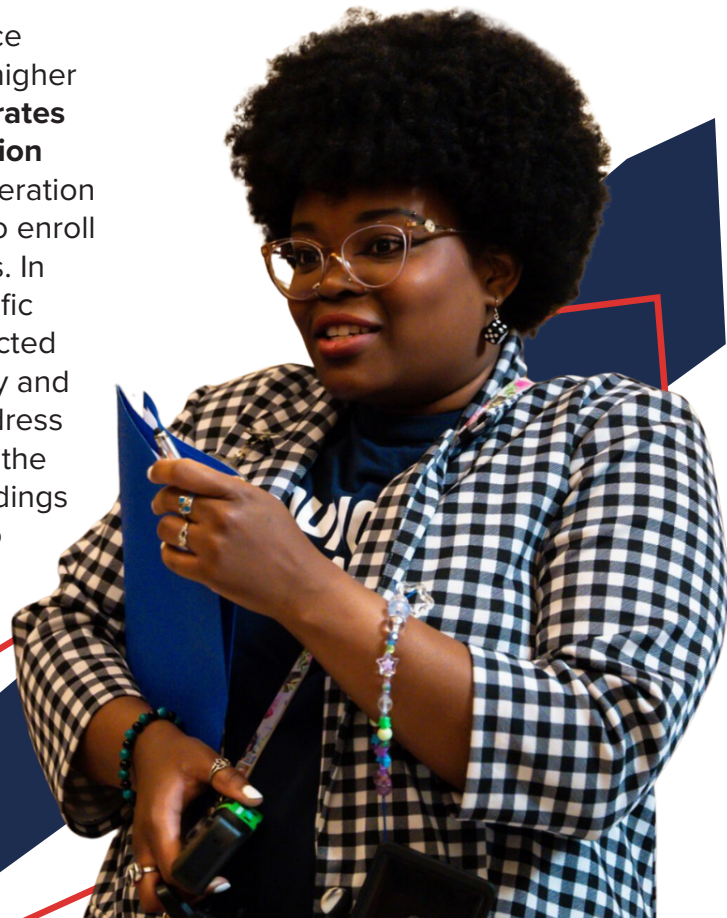


COLORADO

This year, YI Rocky Mountain was hard at work fighting for health equity and economic opportunity for young adults across Colorado. **During the 2023 legislative session, our office elevated a record-breaking number of young adult stories at our State Capitol through public testimony (more than 90 stories shared) and engaged on over 33 pieces of legislation across our agenda priorities of health care and basic needs access.** We partnered with Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Finance, the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, and Centennial State Prosperity to hold non-profit hospitals accountable to funding health equity through federal standards around Community Benefit spending. We supported numerous bills to expand Medicaid access for young adults with mental health struggles, improve quality of care, address gaps in reproductive/maternal care that disproportionately impact Hispanic, Black, and rural Coloradans, and cement access to gender-affirming care.

YI hosted our annual day at the Colorado State Capitol and brought over 30 young adults to meet key legislators. Advocates will discuss critical issues outlined in their 2023 policy agenda. The day started with an activism event powered by the Generation Vaxxed Campaign. Young adults, partners, and legislators enjoyed and discussed art as a medium for activism. Following the activism breakfast reception, current and former Colorado Young Advocates spoke with elected officials and engaged in the political process. **Young Coloradans met with over 15 legislators and discussed topics such as higher education supports, mental health, and health care access.** These conversations invited young adults to voice their concerns and desire for change.

Young adults from rural communities across Colorado face unique and specific barriers when attempting to access higher education. **For instance, rural communities have lower rates of student enrollment and completion of higher education than urban communities.** Students of color and first-generation students living in rural communities are even less likely to enroll or complete higher education than their rural white peers. In addition to wanting to address and identify barriers specific to the rural population, our YAP class of Fall 2023 conducted an extensive stakeholder engagement process to identify and highlight steps that policymakers could implement to address and mitigate these barriers. As young adults from across the state of Colorado, they wrote a white paper with their findings from their qualitative interviews and recommendations to address this issue.



ILLINOIS



This past Illinois legislative session has been one for the books! **YI had a significant win: a bill authored by our young adults was signed into law!** HB 1119 provides that the membership of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority shall include 3 individuals who report having been incarcerated in a Department of Corrections facility and 3 members of the general public (instead of 6 members of the general public). Our Young Advocates developed the bill, a policy solution designed during our 2022 Fall YAP cohort, culminating at Policy Shark Tank, where Rep. Guzzardi served as one of our judges. He was so inspired by our Advocates' creativity and thoughtfulness that he then worked with them to introduce a bill designed based on their solution. This is a milestone for many reasons: it's a young adult-led and -designed policy and it will ensure the community is more deeply connected to the systems intended to serve their needs.

In 2023, YI fought and won "the students' budget." This budget provided massive investment in the IL higher education system by both increasing spending on universities directly, but also student supports. **This FY24 budget includes \$100 million additional dollars added to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant, a 7 percent increase in direct funding for IL public universities, and \$12.6 million to fund the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act.**

In 2021, the Illinois 102nd General Assembly adopted HR 270, urging improved financial literacy practices by higher education institutions. The legislation established a task force within the Illinois Office of Comptroller to develop recommendations designed to improve financial capability and increase the availability of resources for students enrolled in Illinois public colleges and universities. **The task force met and conducted research throughout 2022, which culminated in the Financial Empowerment Task Force report, released in early 2023.**

For two days in April, YI and the YAP traveled to the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield to advocate for the needs of young adults in Illinois. Advocates, ages 18-34 from across Illinois, met with their legislators to share their stories on how higher education, health care, and workforce-related policies actually impact their lives. Additionally, four Advocates testified in front of the Illinois House Higher Education-Appropriations Committee, detailing how underfunding the Monetary Award Program denied them financial aid and how their mental health struggles strain their ability to complete college. **The two-day event allowed the Advocates to apply the legislative advocacy, leadership, and research skills they learned through YAP.**



NEW YORK

New York faced a difficult state budget season that resulted in some wins ensuring affordable and accessible public higher education and health care for New Yorkers. **Our Young Advocates across the state came together on Students Take Albany advocacy day to meet with over 25 legislators and speak on key higher education and health care issues.** Young Invincibles also partnered with members of our own statewide Higher Education Basic Needs coalition and many other organizations to organize and speak up for young adult policy priorities, which helped secure some significant budgetary and legislative wins for the 2024 budget.

YI launched the nation's first policy brief about medical debt among young adults, Living with a Debt Sentence: The Impact of Medical Debt on Young Adults in New York. Through our research, it has become clear that medical debts are also more likely to affect young adults and marginalized groups, such as LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities, and result in higher rates of medical debt. Furthermore, debt is magnified for those with intersecting marginalized backgrounds, such as the Black transgender community. These debts fall starkly along racial, socioeconomic, and generational divides, with those impacted disproportionately experiencing financial burdens and barriers to their health and financial security. The brief outlines necessary recommendations to more effectively address, mitigate, and prevent medical debt in New York.

On December 1, we held the 2023 State of Young New York policy summit, bringing together over a hundred folks both online and in person to discuss and hear from young adults about the most pressing issues, research, and advocacy to advance equity and access in higher education, workforce development, and health care in New York State and New York City, especially. The summit kicked off with an inspiring keynote address featuring the New York City Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams, State Senator and Chairman of Committee on Budget And Revenue Andrew Gouardes, and Council Member Chi Ossé, the youngest-ever member of the New York City Council.



TEXAS



During the 88th Texas legislative session, YI fought for equity in higher education, adequate mental health resources, support for parenting students, student debt relief, and accessible health care. We saw monumental investments in community college finance, workforce development, and increased support for parents—both in health care and higher education. **During this session, we brought over 1,300 young people to the Capitol, testified 20 times, tracked over 175 pieces of legislation, and had 20 bills passed and signed by the Governor.**

Texas Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity (PACE) worked to assemble the Texas Community College Student Advisory Council, a group of over a dozen students that YI helped empower and activate leading up to—and throughout—this legislative session. This group actively informed and advocated for the policy proposals included in the commission’s recommendations (in which they wrote a nod to our amazing advocates) and the new law, proving to be instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of student perspectives and needs. Formed in 2022, the SAC followed the work of the Commission, provided feedback and recommendations, and engaged directly with Commission members. SAC members sessions focused on storytelling, policy analysis, media training, legislative training, advocacy, and more. **During 2023, members of the SAC testified at the Capitol before the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee and the House Higher Education Committee** in support of proposed legislation based on the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance, which the SAC helped advise. The recommendations became House Bill 8 (HB 8). We’re proud to announce that Governor Greg Abbot signed HB 8 into law. **Now, over \$680 million of funding will be available to community colleges across Texas, realizing the first step in SAC members’ goal to improve access, support, and outcomes for community college students across Texas.**

YI Texas brought nearly 100 young adults to the Capitol at our Deep in the Heart of Advocacy day in April, where we advocated on five key policies. On March 31, Young Invincibles hosted Deep in the Heart of Advocacy, a version of the annual advocacy day the YI Texas office holds. This is the first time the event was in person after three years of virtual events due to Covid-19. Deep in the Heart of Advocacy allowed students to connect with their legislators and voice their concerns. Nearly 100 young adults from Austin, Houston, and East Texas rallied together for accessible higher education, increased workforce opportunities, equitable health care access, and civic engagement. To ensure the event was accessible, American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish translators were available throughout the day for those in attendance.



DONORS

ORGANIZATIONS

- Albert Pick Jr. Fund
- Alfred Bersted Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Altman Foundation
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Inc.
- Arnold Ventures
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Chicago Community Trust
- Civic Nation
- CME Group Foundation
- College Futures Foundation
- Colorado Gives Foundation
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Community Catalyst
- The Education Trust–New York
- Episcopal Health Foundation
- Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
- The Ford Foundation
- Funders for Adolescent Science Translation
- GenHTX (Collective Action for Youth)
- Greater Texas Foundation
- Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
- Houston in Action
- The Sixteen Thirty Fund
- Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation
- Joyce Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Lumina Foundation
- The Meadows Foundation
- The Michelson 20MM Foundation
- Molina Family Foundation
- The New York Women’s Foundation
- Philanthropy Advocates, a collaboration with Educate Texas Polk Bros. Foundation
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Potomac Health Foundation
- Public Health Institute (PHI)|Together Toward Health (TTH)
- Rise Education Fund
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Rose Community Foundation
- Sentara Healthcare
- Sierra Health Foundation
- St. David’s Foundation
- Stupski Foundation
- Texas Network of Youth Services
- Texas Women’s Foundation
- Virginia Poverty Law Center



PROGRAM REVENUE

FOUNDATION
GRANTS

\$5,739,881.54

INDIVIDUAL
CONTRIBUTIONS

\$85,081.66

ORGANIZATION
CONTRIBUTIONS

\$36,580.00

CONTRIBUTIONS
CONDITIONAL

\$1,457,010.64

TOTAL PROGRAM
REVENUE

\$7,577,846.58

FEE FOR SERVICE

\$259,267.74

PROGRAM INCOME

\$25.00

REVENUE - OTHER

\$304,706.82

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE **\$7,882,553.40**

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