



# IMPACT REPORT 2024







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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.

**AURORA HARRIS**  
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL  
STRATEGY



## 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 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



15 years later...

As I reflect back on a decade and a half of progress, setbacks, and change, I am struck by the incredible young people and activists I have the pleasure to work with every day. With the end of 2024 comes a new, unsettling, and uphill battle – one that we have seen before. It is impossible to ignore the political landscape that young adults will face in the very near future. The political landscape of the United States lies in a precarious balance of threats to our civil rights combined with policies that will increasingly harm marginalized communities. But the need for our mission has never been clearer, and we are reminded every day that the rising youth require resources, guidance, and clarity. We are here for exactly that reason.

I want to take this opportunity to not only thank you for your continued support, but to challenge you to confront the uncomfortable truths of this new age. Young Invincibles is more than a nonprofit that checks boxes to meet quarterly goals; we are disruptors and activists to our very core. We are led by young people to break down oppressive structures and reimagine a world where justice is available to all.

If you are truly ready to fight for a world we can all be proud to live in, then we need your continued support and partnership to empower us. Incremental, standard solutions are not enough. We must challenge conventional approaches, re-evaluate outdated priorities, and embrace risk – together.

As 2025 kicks off, I invite you to be a part of this conversation. Join our young people and help us make the world a better place. Take today to reflect on history and use it to spur into action.



IN SOLIDARITY,  
KRISTIN MCGUIRE

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# CELEBRATING YEARS

# 15



In September, Young Invincibles celebrated our 15th anniversary. In true YI fashion, the 15th anniversary celebration brought together **150 young advocates** and partners from across the nation to discuss mental health action for young adults with key legislators, providing a platform for young leaders to share their experiences. Our young adults met with 27 congressional offices to discuss their needs and legislation that is important to them. They used the storytelling skills they learned during our programs to advocate for themselves and their communities.

This anniversary recognized the monumental strides Young Invincibles has made and celebrated the remarkable work young adults have done as today's leaders.

# 150

## Young Adults brought together to celebrate





# NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

YI connected more than

**5,031,000**

young adults with resources on FAFSA



Student debt is one of the leading hindrances to economic mobility. On April 9th, YI's Director of Higher Education Satra D. Taylor was quoted in an Inside Higher Ed article about Biden's new set of plans for student debt cancellation. In April, the Biden-Harris Administration released its first set of draft rules that propose to provide further student debt relief for tens of millions of borrowers, bringing the total number of borrowers getting relief to more than 30 million.

This comes two months after the conclusion of Negotiated Rulemaking, at which YI had a seat at the table. As draft rules and pieces of the Administration's plan to cancel student debt were released, Young Invincibles committed to ensuring young adult borrowers are up to date and well-informed about a path to cancellation.

On February 13th, Young Invincibles was honored to be included in the first-ever interagency White House Youth Policy Summit: Cultivating Possibilities. The event brought together nearly 90 young people from around the country who spoke with policymakers from federal agencies about how to improve policies and programs from a youth perspective.

YI hosted a Thought Leaders Town Hall with Rep. Ilhan Omar in April which was a deep dive into the current state of student debt cancellation. We partnered with NAACP, Student Debt Crisis Center, and Project on Predatory Student Lending on this webinar. During the summer, YI built a multi-pronged effort designed to educate students and young adults about the FAFSA and connect them with local resources where they can complete the form and receive support to complete and submit.

YI's state teams leveraged our existing networks, digital outreach, and communications platforms built over 15 years to ensure access to critical and trusted information about the FAFSA. There was a focus on students with the least access to power and privilege, so completion and submission rates will increase. During the campaign, YI connected more than 5,031,000 young adults with resources on FAFSA through digital and in-person events.



# CALIFORNIA

OUR STUDENT DEBT WORKSHOPS  
FOR LEGISLATORS AND THEIR  
DISTRICTS ENGAGED OVER

**300** ATTENDEES



In 2024, Young Invincibles California stood firmly in our values, unapologetically advocating for young adults and progressive change across the state. Through the collective power of our diverse, intergenerational movement, we demonstrated what real change looks like when we organize, mobilize, and lead with love. Our work wasn't just about policy – it was about building power within communities that have historically been excluded from decision-making spaces and proving that when young people lead, transformative change follows.

In a significant expansion of our consumer education efforts, YI became an official partner of the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC). Through this collaboration, we engaged 10,000 young Californians, raising awareness about Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN), mental health, health care access, and more.

In August, we launched the Student Housing Resource Guide in partnership with the California Affordable Student Housing (CASH) Coalition and Public Advocates. This comprehensive guide, created with direct input from student leaders, addresses one of the most significant barriers to student success by consolidating information about local and campus emergency housing programs, basic needs center contacts, and locally funded housing resources. The guide exemplifies our commitment to creating practical solutions informed by young adult experiences.

Our 8th Annual State of Young California (SOYC) Summit, held virtually on November 14th, brought together young adults from across the state to engage with experts on pressing issues. This youth-led event featured discussions on mental health, financial insecurity, and post-election futures. The summit highlighted emerging leaders through the "Young Adult Leaders - Changing the Future Today" panel, demonstrating the power of youth voices in shaping policy conversations.





# NEW YORK

**YI saw our years-long advocacy on New York's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) result in a major expansion of eligibility and financial assistance.**



Our New York Young Advocates joined the Higher Education Action Day coalition, which met over 100 state legislators to share their lived experience on higher education, basic needs, and health care issues. Young Invincibles created and leads the statewide Postsecondary Basic Needs Coalition, with more than a dozen members, including partner organizations, state agencies, and philanthropic partners, to organize and equitably uplift young adult voices, lived experience, research, and policy priorities. Through this work and collaboration, we helped secure several major budgetary and legislative wins.

Most notably, we successfully advocated for and passed the state's Universal FAFSA policy, expanding support for completing the FAFSA to all New York high school students who want to apply to colleges.

In November, YI hosted our 2024 State of Young New York policy summit, bringing together over a hundred young adults both online and in person to share their perspectives on pressing issues, research, and advocacy to advance equity, affordability, and access in higher education, postsecondary basic needs, and health care across the state and within the City. The summit kicked off with an inspiring keynote address featuring representatives from the New York City Public Advocate's office and State Senator Andrew Gounardes.





# COLORADO

## 30 Young adults shared testimony at the capitol

During Colorado's 2024 legislative session, Young Invincibles mobilized young leaders to advocate for systemic change in health care, higher education, workforce development, and social justice. Grounded in our belief that those closest to the problems should be closest to the solutions, we created opportunities for young adults—especially those furthest from power and privilege—to directly influence policy and engage decision-makers.

We celebrated 13 successful bill outcomes during the 2024 session that will positively impact young people throughout Colorado. These victories were made possible through intentional youth leadership development and sustained advocacy efforts. Thirty young adults shared powerful testimony at the State Capitol throughout the session, bringing their lived experiences into committee hearings to shape and support critical legislation. Our team remained deeply engaged in the broader advocacy ecosystem, attending 41 coalition calls to ensure youth priorities were consistently represented at the policy table.

On December 6th, YI hosted our inaugural Colorado Policy Shark Tank event with more than 50 attendees. Five teams of Advocates pitched innovative policy proposals to a panel of community and philanthropic leaders. The winning proposal, "Equitable Employment Pathways for Undocumented Graduates (EPSA)," outlined a bold vision to remove barriers to employment for undocumented students who have earned degrees in high-need industries. Their plan included personalized case management, financial assistance for employment-related costs, and strategic partnerships with employers. The panel of judges—featuring leaders from the Colorado Health Foundation, Bell Policy Center, Denver Foundation, and state legislature—were deeply moved by the proposal's clarity, compassion, and strategy.



# TEXAS

## YI TEXAS TRAINED YOUNG ADVOCATES

# 50



During the Interim Texas Legislative Session, Texas continued working hard to champion young adults and empower them to lead on the policy issues that matter most to them. Texas remains a trendsetting state, sometimes for better, sometimes for worst. As the 88th Regular Session concluded, we were happy to see critical progress in higher education, including investment in community colleges and dual credit programs, early registration prioritization for parenting students, and the creation of student-parent liaisons at higher education institutions. Our team has also been closely monitoring key legislation, as well as the expansion of Medicaid coverage for postpartum mothers, a bill aimed at streamlining and simplifying the credit transfer process, the launch of a pilot program evaluating workforce development and career education training, and the implementation of anti-DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) legislation.

We also plan to monitor the Texas Workforce Commission's forthcoming report on apprenticeship opportunities and continue our ongoing conversation with the Office of Mental Health Coordination at Texas Health and Human Services regarding the geographic information system (GIS) mapping of Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs). Furthermore, Texas advocates remain actively engaged in shaping higher education policy related to HB8 through collaboration with legislative members.





# ILLINOIS

## THROUGH COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS, YI CONTINUES TO REACH NEW COMMUNITIES



The Illinois legislature made significant advancements in making higher education more affordable and accessible during the 103rd General Assembly. The Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding saw a \$10 million increase, bringing the total appropriation to \$711 million. While this falls short of the initial ask of a \$50 million increase by advocates, this still ensures that Illinois is steadily progressing toward the state goal of a \$1 billion appropriation by 2031. Additionally, the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act (MHEACA) was allocated \$13 million in the FY2025 state budget.

The Coalition for Transforming Educational Funding has significantly progressed and outlined the necessary next steps to members of the House and Senate for how Illinois can revolutionize how the state funds its public colleges and universities. Young Invincibles worked diligently to uplift student voices throughout legislative session and during Subject Matter Hearings. An in-person Advocacy Day was held in Springfield on March 18th to support our Higher Education agenda. YI also hosted a student listening session at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in November to support this work. YI continues to lead in the coalition as a core member, focusing on engaging, training, and involving young adults throughout the process.

## YOUNG INVINCIBLES' MIDWEST OFFICE HAD A BANNER YEAR IN POLICY ADVOCACY, ORGANIZING, AND YOUNG ADULT EMPOWERMENT!

Other policy wins included the Child Tax Credit being incorporated into the FY25 budget, making Illinois the 15th state to implement such a policy.

The Midwest office offered our seminal Young Advocates Program (YAP) in the spring and fall of 2024. This 12-week, paid leadership program onboarded 16 young adults, engaged them in our advocacy campaigns, provided strategic input, and spread the word about YI and our issue areas throughout their communities. Also, our Youth Advisory Board, a group of 10 young adult leaders, advised and led our work around policy agenda setting. On August 7th, YI Midwest hosted our annual Young Adult Policy Summit, adding an informational breakfast for partners, stakeholders, and community members. More than 50 young adults attended. Our December 2024 YAP Graduation and Shark Tank was held at The Revival Theater in Chicago!



# FINANCIALS



FOUNDATION GRANTS

**\$1,179,771**

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**\$33,920**

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE  
WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS

**\$2,328,695**

FEE FOR SERVICES

**\$229,249**





# CONTACT INFO



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