



STRATEGIC VISION 2025-2031

OUR SEVEN-YEAR IMPACT VISION

Youth with child welfare system involvement in New York City will improve their economic mobility, knowledge and skillsets, and overall wellbeing.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Through expanded post-secondary education programs, peer support, financial safety nets, and pioneering program evolutions, 80% of youth involved in our programs will see a 50% increase in financial stability and a 25% increase in self-defined overall wellbeing.

STRATEGIC PILLARS





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YOUTH FOCUS

Center the voices of the young people we serve and provide trauma-informed, culturally-competent programs and support.

Underpinning all our work is a commitment to further elevate and center the voices of youth we serve in all that we do. We will do this by increasing the role of our Youth Advisory Board, integrating their input into our program design, program delivery, and organizational governance.

We will support the NYC child welfare system's efforts to evolve into a family serving system, rather than a family separating system. We recognize NYC's intention to transform and meet families with supportive services so that far fewer children are removed from families. Over the next four years, our programs will expand to support youth that are involved with the child welfare system more broadly, notably youth from families receiving prevention services and youth involved with juvenile justice prevention, in addition to youth in foster care.

We recognize that Black and Brown youth are disproportionately impacted by the child welfare system. We commit to becoming a more culturally competent organization, by having 100% of staff become trained and practiced in trauma-informed approaches that are grounded in cultural diversity to be the best possible partners for the young people we serve.

POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT

Expand our direct services to reach hundreds more youth who have been impacted by the child welfare system.

In collaboration with the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), launch a comprehensive professional pathways program for youth with child welfare involvement who seek trade or vocation education. The new Program – the design and name of which will be co-lead with youth – aims to cover technical program fees, provide living stipends, offer trauma-informed career counselling, and foster accountability and connection through a peer support model. With impact data and through partnership, we will advocate for public resources to scale and sustain the program.

Simultaneously, deepen our commitment to college access and persistence for youth by providing expert navigation on available public resources for college (city and state) and connections with tutoring and peer mentorship provided both by NYFC (Cohort Connection) and our partner nonprofits across the city.

Expand the number of financial merit awards to youth who have experienced foster care and pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees to honor the legacy of our founder and provide needed technology to support all program youth on their post-secondary education journey.



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SAFETY NET

Continue our long-standing tradition of providing emergency support for youth impacted by the foster care system

Establish the NYFC office as a safe, welcoming touchpoint for older youth in and aged out of foster care by providing intentional hospitality in a world that has largely gone virtual.

Offer access to one-time emergency cash support for youth engaged in our programs that face a financial cliff that threatens to derail their life trajectory.

Launch a re-imagined “Financial Lift Fund” and raise annual resources to provide one-time safety net support to young adults who have aged out of foster care including young parents and those not necessarily in school, coupled with budgeting and financial literacy guidance to help get them back on a stable track.



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PIONEER

Pilot innovations that leverage our agile financial capacity and education expertise to create the most efficient and effective ecosystem of support for youth.

Become razor focused on leading pilots that leverage our finance and post-secondary education expertise, and partner on any other areas outside of these core competencies.

Continue to be a key partner to the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), offering sound grant management support on private funding opportunities, and deepen our partnership with our peer nonprofit organizations overall.

Expand our capacity to deliver direct cash transfers at scale in line with current evolutions in support models for youth who have experienced foster care.