



Fair Futures Case Study

How System-Impacted Youth Advocates Fought for a “Fair Future” in NYC & Achieved Public Funding to Scale a Youth-Centered Model Systemwide

Based on interviews from key Fair Futures stakeholders.

Written by the Center for Fair Futures.

Recommendations came from the article, [Fair Futures: A Cross-Sector Partnership Transforming How New York City Supports Young People Impacted by Foster Care](#), authored by **Sarah Kroon Chiles**, Executive Director of the Redlich Horwitz Foundation and **Natasha Lifton**, Director of Government Relations at Trinity Church Wall Street.



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Summary

In New York City, a youth-led advocacy movement and coalition of 100+ organizations was successful in securing and baselining \$30.7 million for young people who experienced foster care to have access to the Fair Futures model, making NYC the first in the nation to provide long-term public funding for young people after exiting care until age 26.

The Fair Futures model provides 1:1, long-term coaching and other academic, career development, and housing supports to young people from 6th grade to age 26 so they can achieve their goals and reach their potential. A strategic public-private partnership was formed to support the youth-led advocacy and fund the development of the infrastructure needed to ensure quality implementation of the model systemwide, including a full suite of trainings, materials/tools, manual, online data platform, and online resource directory.

This remarkable cross-sector collaboration between philanthropy, community based non-profit providers, public agencies, and youth advocates led to the success of Fair Futures. In just a few years, the Fair Futures model was fully baselined in the NYC budget, packaged/codified, and scaled across all 26 NYC foster care agencies, reaching nearly 4,000 young people citywide. The model was also tailored and expanded to NYC's juvenile justice population and a pilot was launched in Buffalo, New York. The Center for Fair Futures entity was formed and a team of fifteen now provide implementation and professional development supports to over 500 staff across 36 organizations across the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

To commemorate the 5-year anniversary of Fair Futures, this Case Study summarizes the story from inception (July 2018) to date (July 2023). The last section provides an overview of the critical elements of success that could be used to support similar efforts fueled by other cross-sector collaborations, authored by two key philanthropic partners who were involved in all aspects of Fair Futures.



Leaders Galvanized by Findings that NYC is Failing Older Youth - A Grassroots Movement Ignited

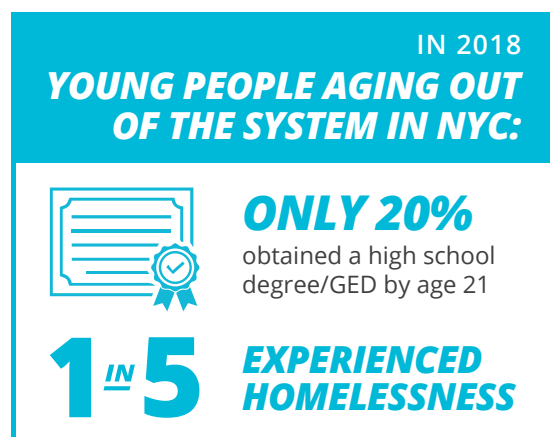
The formation of the Fair Futures coalition was preceded by a task force created in response to the poor outcomes for children and youth in foster care in NYC. At the time, only 20% of young people aging out of the system had a high school degree/GED by age 21 (as compared to 67% nationally), and 1 in 5 experienced homelessness within three years of exit.

To address these outcomes for older youth in care, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) created the **Inter-Agency Foster Care Taskforce**.

Their recommendations, published in March 2018, became a key foothold in the advocacy movement that began to form, as it showed a strong public commitment for a system-wide effort to support older youth impacted by the foster system.¹

To address these outcomes for older youth in care, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) created the **Inter-Agency Foster Care Taskforce**. Their recommendations, published in March 2018, became a key foothold in the advocacy movement that began to form, as it showed a strong public commitment for a system-wide effort to support older youth impacted by the foster system.

The report presented 16 recommendations across five areas (permanency, education, health & mental health, housing, and employment & post-secondary education) designed to improve outcomes for foster-system impacted youth and families. Out of these, there were two recommendations that shaped the work of the Fair Futures coalition; one called for improved support for foster youth in middle school and another identified the need to support youth aged 16-25 with their educational, employment, and housing goals.



1

Rep. Report of the Interagency Foster Care Task Force. NYC Administration for Children's Services, March 2018.
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/testimony/2018/TaskForceReport.pdf>.

UPON THE RELEASE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, A GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MOVEMENT & CROSS-SECTOR COALITION BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE:

- **Members of the Foster Care Excellence Fund** (now renamed [Youth + Families Forward](#)), a philanthropic collaborative that invests in foster system transformation and public-private partnerships, were excited to see alignment of these recommendations with their existing priorities. Foster Care Excellence funders were already supporting several foster care agencies that had developed and implemented model programs to address these needs.

These programs included, among others:



**Graham Windham's
*SLAM***

*Individualized coaching from
9th grade through age 26*



**The New York Foundling's
*Road to Success***

*Robust middle school academic
supports & tutoring*



**HeartShare St. Vincent's
*The American Dream***

*Educational, emotional, & career
advancement programming for
older youth*

- **A group of 11 NYC foster care agencies** that had privately-funded programming for older youth in foster care (including the three mentioned above) were also ignited by these recommendations and started to convene with the goal of supporting their implementation systemwide. All of these agencies needed public funding to ensure the sustainability and scale of their programs to reach all older youth exiting care.

The collective was led by **Jess Dannhauser**, former Executive Director of Graham Windham, whose coaching program achieved successful outcomes for over 400 young people. *(In 2022, Jess Dannhauser became the NYC ACS Commissioner.)*

- **During the course of 2018, a group of youth advocates led a series of panels on the need for 1:1, long-term coaching supports during and after foster care.** These advocates were also excited about the recommendations as a pathway to making this happen. **Their voices were powerful and served as the catalyst for what would become the most successful youth-led advocacy campaign the City has ever seen.**

The momentum that was building around these recommendations from young people, providers, and foundations, combined with her personal experience supporting foster youth, inspired Katie Napolitano (then Program Officer at the Tiger Foundation and member of the funder collaborative), to approach the other funders with an idea: develop a model to support young people up to the age of 26 that incorporates best practices from the programs described above as well as others across the country. While New York City had several programs at different agencies and organizations that provided long-term, individualized support to young people, very few foster system-impacted older youth had access to them.



WHILE NEW YORK CITY HAD SEVERAL PROGRAMS AT DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED LONG-TERM, INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE, VERY FEW FOSTER SYSTEM-IMPACTED OLDER YOUTH HAD ACCESS TO THEM.

There was an opportunity to leverage the recommendations and awareness of the gaps in service delivery for transition-aged youth to develop a program that could be scaled to reach every youth in the foster system. It was necessary, however, to integrate and streamline services for older youth into one cohesive model. The idea was to then propose the model to ACS as a way to implement the task force recommendations systemwide.

Katie left her position to coordinate this grassroots movement and spearhead the model research and development. Emil Ramnarine (who oversaw the growth of the coaching program at Graham Windham), also left his role to partner with Katie to ensure the implementation of this collective goal systemwide. Together they secured private funding from the Foster Care Excellence Fund to conduct a landscape analysis of existing services and programs for this population, distill the most effective practices, and shape the development of an integrated, new program model that eventually was named “Fair Futures.”

Several months later in October 2018, the funders hosted an event with youth advocates, the ACS Commissioner, and others to present and discuss the research findings, model, and generate buy-in for scaling it systemwide. ACS agreed to partner with the foundations, forming the start of a robust public-private partnership. The Foster Care Excellence foundations created a pooled fund to invest in the development of the infrastructure needed to ensure quality implementation.

OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, ~\$4 MILLION IN PRIVATE FUNDING WOULD LEVERAGE \$72+ MILLION IN PUBLIC DOLLARS AND BASELINED FUNDING FOR THE MODEL GOING FORWARD.

With the support and funding from the foundations, Katie and Emil embarked on a 1.5-year process to fully codify/package the Fair Futures model. They looped in foster care staff, lived experience experts, and non-profit partner organizations across child welfare, education, workforce, and housing, and collaboratively created a manual, materials/tools across all areas, an online resource directory ([One Degree](#)), and an online platform (**Care4**) to track youth goals and outcomes.

Just as the model development/codification process began, the grassroots movement began to formalize, leading to ...

The Largest Cross-Sector Collaboration and Most Successful Youth-Led Advocacy in Child Welfare History

"The key to all of it was listening to young people and following through with the advice they gave us ... The YAB was very credible and deeply committed, spending vast amounts of time advocating for investment that would have its greatest impact not on them but children in foster care coming up behind them."

JESS DANNHAUSER, ACS COMMISSIONER

"Usually, language in public policies is not inclusive or do not take into consideration the nuances of specific situations or groups of people, this is particularly true for foster care youth... Shifting from a "traditional model" to meeting youth to where they are was an important message for advocacy. Coaching, education, and building personal relationships became critical for giving youth a platform. Foster youth are not voiceless, they need to be uplifted and be heard... This is critical and impactful because youth do not have familial, academic, or professional support networks."

ERICKA FRANCOIS, INAUGURAL YAB COORDINATOR

Shortly after that initial meeting between ACS, foundations, and providers in October 2018, a **cross-sector steering committee** was formed to launch an advocacy campaign to secure public funding to implement the recommendations.

The committee was comprised of the three agency leaders mentioned above that had robust programming for older youth; three dedicated foundations; and the coordinators, Katie and Emil. The committee engaged a prominent government relations firm, Capalino and Co, to help develop the advocacy strategy. They also engaged Berlin Rosen, a top-tier communication firm, to develop a public awareness campaign around the need for long-term, 1:1 supports for older youth in foster care.

Berlin Rosen created the name "Fair Futures" to brand the advocacy campaign that was forming; "Fair Futures" also became the name of the model that was simultaneously being developed and codified. With the help of these firms, the steering committee built a coalition of over 100 organizations who were supportive of this population and advocacy efforts.



AT THE FIRST FAIR FUTURES RALLY, HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE SHOWED UP.

These young people expressed the need for coaches to help them throughout their foster care experience and transition out of care to adulthood.



Blown away by their voices and leadership at this rally, the steering committee hired a full-time leader and one of the original youth advocates, Ericka Francois, to lead the steering committee and develop a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) comprised of young people with lived experience who were passionate about Fair Futures.

From that moment onwards, **all Fair Futures advocacy efforts were led by the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Coordinator**, working in close collaboration with the steering committee, YAB members, and other impacted advocates. As Ericka had lived expertise, she was able to take a youth-driven approach in engaging YAB members and ensuring their involvement fit their interests, skills and wishes. Stipends were provided, and spaces were created to develop friendships and authentic connections amongst advocates and the steering committee.

This youth-centered, sincere approach to collaborating with the YAB members created a safe space for the members to bond, build rapport, process their experiences, and grow their communication and advocacy skills as a cohort.

The youth-led advocacy was also supported through expert technical assistance from Berlin Rosen and Capalino. These firms, with the strategic guidance of the steering committee, partnered with advocates for youth to amplify their demands to both elected officials and throughout the print and news media.

They provided coaching and training to YAB members around advocacy and tailoring their communications approach and messages to various audiences. As a result, the YAB leader and members led all meetings with City Council leaders, members of the Administration, and ACS Commissioner, and successfully organized several large borough-based rallies.



Photo: The YAB meeting with Assemblywoman Maritza Davila

This inspirational youth leadership resulted in [dozens of stories, opinion pieces](#), and [tweets](#) that reached hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Fair Futures was creating an awareness campaign that shifted the narrative on foster youth from a negative to a positive, optimistic and hopeful one.



In June 2019, just six months after the advocacy campaign officially launched, the YAB was successful in securing the first \$10 million for all 26 NYC foster care agencies to implement the Fair Futures model.

Some cited it as the fastest, most successful advocacy campaign the City had ever seen.

However – the funding was one-year funding, insufficient to reach all young people in need, and young people over age 21 were not eligible to receive the supports. As such, the advocacy efforts continued into a second year – which coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the June 2020 budget came out, Fair Futures suffered an 80% funding cut to \$2.7M. Instead of letting staff go and giving up, the providers, YAB, and steering committee convened to protest this cut. The YAB harnessed their collective experiences and voices to demonstrate the need for restored funding and amplified them throughout NYC. Through virtual and in-person rallies, protests and youth actions outside the ACS building, and a powerful youth-led social media campaign, they were successful in not only persuading city officials to restore Fair Futures funding, but to increase it to \$12 million.

The Fair Futures momentum continued to build, fueled and led by the YAB's efforts, the successful model implementation systemwide, and early results that showed it was having an impact, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. By the third year of the campaign, funding increased to \$20 million. As the model still did not reach all young people who needed it (including those over age 21) and was not fully baselined, advocacy continued into the fourth year.

In 2023, leaders who championed Fair Futures became government leaders – former Brooklyn Borough President and long-time Fair Futures champion, Eric Adams, became the new NYC Mayor. The former leader of Graham Windham and one of the original founders of the Fair Futures model and movement, Jess Dannhauser, became the new ACS Commissioner. A few months later, Fair Futures funding was increased to \$30.7 million, fully baselined in the NYC budget, and eligibility was expanded to age 26, making NYC the first in the nation to serve young people exiting foster care with long-term support. An additional \$7 million in funding was also expanded to the NYC juvenile justice system.

Implementing & Scaling the Fair Futures Model Citywide

“Launching Fair Futures at JCCA, in 2019 and amidst the pandemic, seemed almost impossible. I am in awe of the support provided by the Center for Fair Futures during the implementation phase and beyond. They were there every step of the way, providing invaluable technical support, workshops, thought partnership, and strategic planning advice. They listened to our program's specific needs and challenges, and helped guide us in creating a Fair Future's model that is tailored to support thousands of NYC's most vulnerable youth with coaching and academic/career/housing support.”

TRACY JENKINS, CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR FAIR FUTURES

Tracy oversaw the successful launch and growth of the largest Fair Futures program at JCCA, one of the 26 NYC foster care agencies.

“The progress made during the relatively short period between December 2019 and September 2022 ...is remarkable, particularly given the onset of the COVID19 pandemic and its many disruptions. During focus group conversations with Fair Futures agency leaders and staff, they reported improvements both in the communication and collaboration among staff within agencies and in the quality of practice, particularly in the development of a youth-focused culture.”

CHAPIN HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Quote from the evaluation on the implementation of Fair Futures.

Once the first \$10 million in Fair Futures funding was secured and distributed equitably across all 26 foster care agencies in December 2019, the system was ready to “hit the ground running.” By this time, Katie and Emil and the collaborative had fully packaged and codified all aspects of the model, manual, tools/materials (publicly available on the [Fair Futures website](#)), and developed a full suite of trainings. Partnerships with non-profit experts in middle/high school, college, career development, and housing were built and solidified; these organizations remain Fair Futures implementation partners, five years later.

While ACS encouraged but did not mandate agencies to implement the packaged Fair Futures model (and instead provided general pillars/principles in line with the model), all 26 agencies voluntarily decided to adopt it. Katie and Emil met with the program leadership from each agency to help them prepare implementation plans and integrate the model into their existing programming/staffing structure. The Fair Futures model is intentionally flexible, allowing providers to infuse their services while not compromising its fidelity.

A few months later, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. However, this did not stop a single agency.

BY JUNE 2020, SIX MONTHS AFTER RECEIVING FUNDING:

- **The model was implemented across all 26 agencies**
- **300 staff were hired and fully trained**
- **Over 2,500 young people were (mostly virtually) supported**
- ***Of those connected to a Coach:* 99% engaged with their coach by the end of the six months**

There were many challenges presented by both the pandemic and early days of implementation, from adapting to a virtual setting, educating agency staff on the model, and building a data-driven culture with the rollout of the new online platform.

In addition to providing a suite of trainings and 1:1 TA sessions for staff, the implementation team met every month with all 26 programs to understand their successes and concerns. They also created learning communities where staff from each role came together monthly to share best practices, challenges, and practice self-care, providing continued encouragement and momentum for the model.

By the end of the first year, over 1,000 training and technical assistance sessions were delivered, and a strong systemwide community was built that became known as the “Fair Futures family.”

As the model continued to scale over the next few years, the need to formalize and expand the implementation team emerged. With funding and strategic support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Center for Futures was incorporated, and the team grew from 3 to 15 dedicated, passionate members with deep professional, personal, and lived experience and expertise in all areas of Fair Futures. **The expansion has allowed the team to continuously improve the model, materials, and professional development offerings, using data to pinpoint struggling youth and staff and provide 1:1 support. The Center deeply collaborates with ACS and providers across all areas of implementation, from education to career development to housing.**

To date, the Center has provided implementation support, training, and technical assistance to 500+ staff across 36 organizations implementing the model, reaching nearly 4,000 system-involved young people. The support team’s extensive support, training, responsiveness and collaborative approach were, and continue to be, the backbone of a quality implementation.



"This work can be incredibly complex and overwhelming - because it's not just about engaging and building relationships with young people. Coaches are also helping them navigate so many large, complicated systems – child welfare, education, college, workforce, housing ... and on top of that, NYC has so many amazing programs and opportunities for young people; it can be challenging to connect them to a "best-fit" setting.

That is where the Center comes in – we say we condense years of "figuring it out on your own" into several days of training and ongoing 1:1 support. We walk staff through the full landscape of supports and tips they need to know to meet any young person where they are, and help them where they want to go."

KATIE NAPOLITANO, CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR FAIR FUTURES

EARLY SYSTEMWIDE RESULTS ARE STRONG AND PROMISING:



Before Fair Futures, years of NYC public education data showed that 8th grade students in foster care were entering high schools with average graduation rates significantly below the NYC average and were overrepresented in the City's bottom quartile of schools.

However, the Fair Futures Middle School Specialists reversed this trend with the deep 1:1 supports they provide - **for the first time in history, and for the last 3 consecutive years - 8th graders in foster care are entering best-fit, quality high schools with average graduation rates above the City average.**

These students are now significantly underrepresented in the bottom quartile of schools and achieved parity with their peers in terms of attending top-quartile high schools.



In FY23, **92% of the 2,000 young people coached achieved not just one successful academic, career, or housing outcome, but an average of 3.9 outcomes each.**

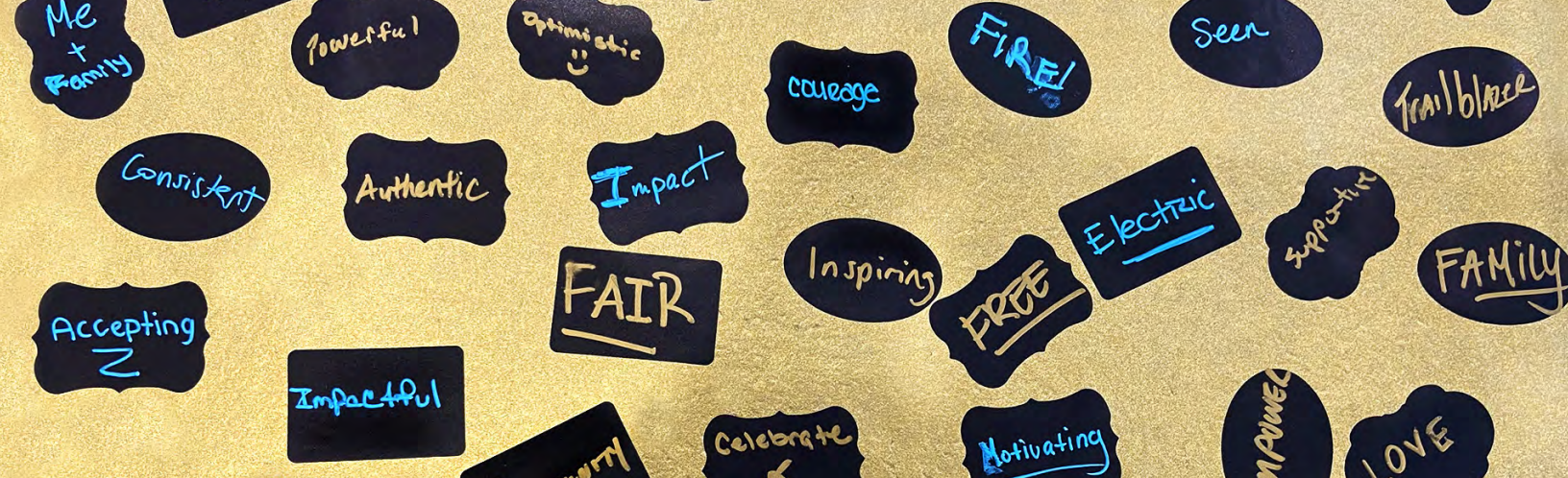
EXAMPLES OF OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

Grade Promotion, Graduation, Postsecondary Exploration & Enrollment, College Persistence, Engaging in a Career Development Experience, Applying to Housing, Obtaining Housing, Maintaining Housing, etc.

Leading national child welfare experts at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago are conducting an evaluation on the implementation and impact of Fair Futures. The 86-page report commends the quality and speed of implementation systemwide during the pandemic, the strong youth-centered culture created by Fair Futures, and the Center's continuous improvement model and range of supports provided to agency staff. All of the recommendations made were underway by the time the report was released and have been fully implemented.

FROM THE CHAPIN HALL EVALUATION ON FAIR FUTURES:

*"In addition to pioneering a new approach to working with youth in foster care, staff described how Fair Futures is driving changes in the dynamics of the foster care and service provision systems at large. Said one staff member, **"Fair Futures is forcing child welfare as a whole — child welfare youth development as a whole — to shift...toward genuine care and attention for the whole person."***



Fair Futures Replication & Innovation

The Center continues to expand and deepen its work in response to the continuous needs faced by impacted youth and to address gaps in the system. The Fair Futures coaching model was recently expanded to new populations and new geographies.

In 2022, Mayor Eric Adams expanded NYC's investment in the Fair Futures model to serve young people in the juvenile justice system, which will reach hundreds of youth. In 2021, Fair Futures began its replication in Buffalo NY through a pilot, made possible by a public-private partnership, representing Fair Futures' first expansion to a new region. In both instances, the Center went on a 1+ year "Listen & Learn" tour of staff and youth experts to tailor and codify the model, manual, tools/materials to these populations; identify and build partnerships; and create a new version of the online platform.

In 2023, the Center for Fair Futures also launched its third pillar to add to the **Youth-Led Advocacy**, and **Youth-Centered Model Implementation** – the **Youth-Informed Innovation pillar**.

The Innovation pillar develops new youth-centered solutions to fill key needs/gaps in the sector that support the well-being, healing, and achievement of system-impacted youth. All initiatives and programs under the innovation arm are youth-informed and are collaboratively developed, piloted and evaluated. Successful program concepts will be scaled.

CURRENT INITIATIVES INCLUDE:



Soul Care, to expand access to alternative mental health & wellbeing services



Emerging Leaders & Innovators, to support young adult entrepreneurs



Opportunity Year, a structured program that provides coaching, training & experiential learning opportunities to advance academic & career exploration & attainment

The Fair Futures model, and the Center for Fair Futures, was developed from a deep-seated belief in the potential of system-impacted young adults as equal partners in system-transformation. We have seen how impacted youth can lead our vision for the future, and how committed partnerships based on trust, honesty, and integrity is foundational in developing and scaling innovations.

Recommendations

WHAT WERE THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS THAT COULD BE USED TO SUPPORT SIMILAR EFFORTS FUELED BY OTHER CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATIONS?

Two philanthropic leaders who were integrally involved in the formation and scale of Fair Futures provide their perspective on what made it successful (*taken as an excerpt from the [Philanthropy New York article](#)*):

- 1. Centering youth leaders:** The perspectives of young people informed the model development, and their voices and leadership drove the advocacy. The FF Youth Advisory Board (YAB) engaged and mobilized young people with foster care experience and built a strong community of supportive peers. Through virtual and in-person rallies, protests and youth actions, a youth-led social media campaign, and innumerable meetings with elected and appointed officials, they were successful in not only persuading city officials to make the first \$10 million investment, but to invest \$30.7M in the full-scale implementation of the model. The Excellence Fund provided funding for a full-time youth coordinator and stipends for participants.
- 2. Highly engaged foundation leaders:** The co-chairs of the Foster Care Excellence Fund, Natasha Lifton, then of the NY Community Trust and Sarah Chiles of Redlich Horwitz Foundation, as well as the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, were involved in every aspect from the development of the model to public partnerships, coalition-building, and advocacy and communications strategies. As active members of the Steering Committee, the funders worked to be nimble and responsive to be able to fund urgent priorities; recruit grantees and others to the coalition; engage deeply with government partners; and leverage relationships for elevated responsiveness from public officials.
- 3. Cross-sector coalition and steering committee:** The committee and coalition included senior leadership from foster care agencies, human services providers, advocacy organizations, foundations, and youth groups. The committee met weekly to devise priorities, strategy and tactics and operated with a roll-up-your-sleeves and leverage-all-you-got culture. The committee coordinated regularly with ACS leadership to share information and align messaging.
- 4. Professional services:** Fortunately, because community foundations are designated as public charities they can fund lobbying, the steering committee engaged a prominent government relations firm, Capalino and Co, as well as Berlin Rosen, a top-tier public relations firm. They provided coaching and training to YAB advocates in strategic sharing and tailoring their communications approach and messages to various audiences. These efforts resulted in hundreds of meetings with elected officials, and dozens of stories and opinion pieces. The campaign reached hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, creating an awareness campaign that shifted the narrative on foster youth from a negative to a positive, optimistic, hopeful one.
- 5. Proof points and model infrastructure:** Private funding expanded pilot programs at foster care agencies; invested in data collection and technology infrastructure; supported the youth leadership; and developed new models for staff training and coaching. These strategic grants bypassed lengthy government procurement process and created the proof points and impact reports needed to communicate the track record of success for government officials, leading them to fully invest in the model, ensuring its institutionalization into the foster care system. Lastly, the Fund and ACS supported an evaluation, conducted by Chapin Hall, on the implementation and impact of Fair Futures. The report commends the quality and speed of implementation during the pandemic, the Center's continuous improvement model, breadth and depth of training and technical assistance, and its strong youth-centered culture.

WHAT COULD WE HAVE DONE BETTER?

While youth leadership came to be a core component of the advocacy campaign and continues to support ongoing implementation and advocacy, this did not happen until year two of the campaign. The Fair Futures advocacy committee is working to be even more authentically led by young leaders. To that end, the new YAB coordinator, Tony Turner, is the co-chair and young people's experiences and voices permeates decision making.

Another challenge is New York City's housing crisis, resulting in a shift in advocacy priorities. The YAB, with support from a consultant and an advocacy committee made up of young people, service providers and funders, is now fully focused on how to ensure youth who leave care can access high quality, affordable housing in neighborhoods of their choice.

Model Impact & Evaluation

IN FY23:

~1,500 YOUNG PEOPLE WERE COACHED FOR 90+ DAYS



90%

Achieved an average of **3.8 academic, career, and/or housing outcomes**

VS. 85% IN FY21

EXAMPLES OF OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

grade promotion, graduation, post-secondary exploration and enrollment, college persistence, engaging in a career development experience, applying to housing, obtaining housing, maintaining housing, etc.



81%

Were engaged in an **academic/career setting**

VS. 62% BEFORE FAIR FUTURES LAUNCHED



50%

Engaged in **at least one career development experience** (e.g., internship, training, employment, etc.) in line with their interests and academic situation



102

Re-enrolled in a best-fit academic setting

Coaches helped 102 young people who had left (dropped out) high school re-enroll in a best-fit academic setting

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE ENTERING BEST-FIT, QUALITY HIGH SCHOOLS WITH AVERAGE GRADUATION RATES AT OR ABOVE THE CITY AVERAGE!

Before Fair Futures, 8th graders in foster care were entering high schools with average graduation rates significantly below the NYC average.



8th graders in foster care were overrepresented in the City's bottom quartile of schools.

Fair Futures Middle School Specialists reversed this trend through deep 1:1 support with the complex NYC high school selection process!

"MY COACH WAS THE MISSING PUZZLE PIECE TO MY LIFE, SHE SAVED ME SO MANY TIMES"



CHEYANNE DEOPERSAUD

Fair Futures YAB Member