



Overview & Impact Report

September 2023

The Center For
FAIRFUTURES ➤



CENTER FOR FAIR FUTURES OVERVIEW & IMPACT REPORT

We are so grateful to our funders and the Adam's Administration for supporting Fair Futures and thousands of system-involved young people in achieving their potential!

This report contains information and key progress on Fair Futures:

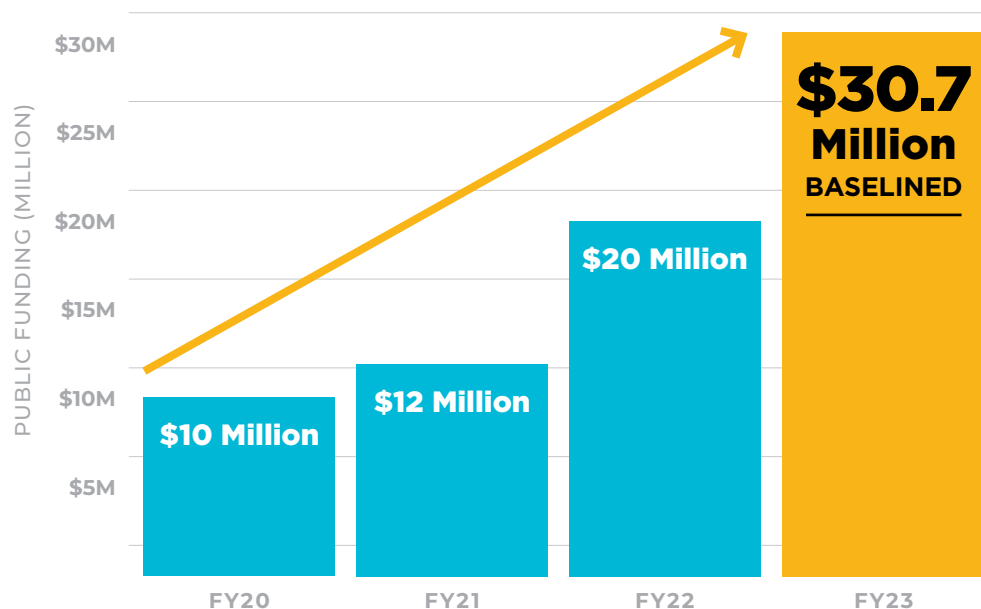
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Fair Futures Youth-Led Advocacy & Public-Private Partnership - Sustainability and Leverage

Fair Futures (FF) is a youth-led advocacy movement and coalition of **100+ organizations** that was successful in **securing and baselining \$30.7 million** for all young people in NYC's foster care system to have access to the FF model from **6th grade through age 26**.

THE FF YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB) ADVOCATED & SECURED:



This monumental achievement made **NYC the first in the nation** to support young people exiting foster care with **long-term public funding**.

A dedicated group of foundations formed a public-private partnership with NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to fund the infrastructure needed to ensure quality implementation of the Fair Futures model systemwide. **From FY20-23, nearly \$4 million in private funding leveraged \$72.7 million in public funding** in just those years and resulted in baselined funding going forward!

Fair Futures Youth-Centered Model: Systemwide Scale & Implementation Supports

Fair Futures is a **codified, comprehensive model completely centered** around the needs, goals, and aspirations of each individual young person. It includes a robust middle school program that prepares students for success in high school and a coaching program that provides 1:1 coaching and tutoring to help young people achieve their academic, career development, housing, and life goals from 9th grade through age 26.

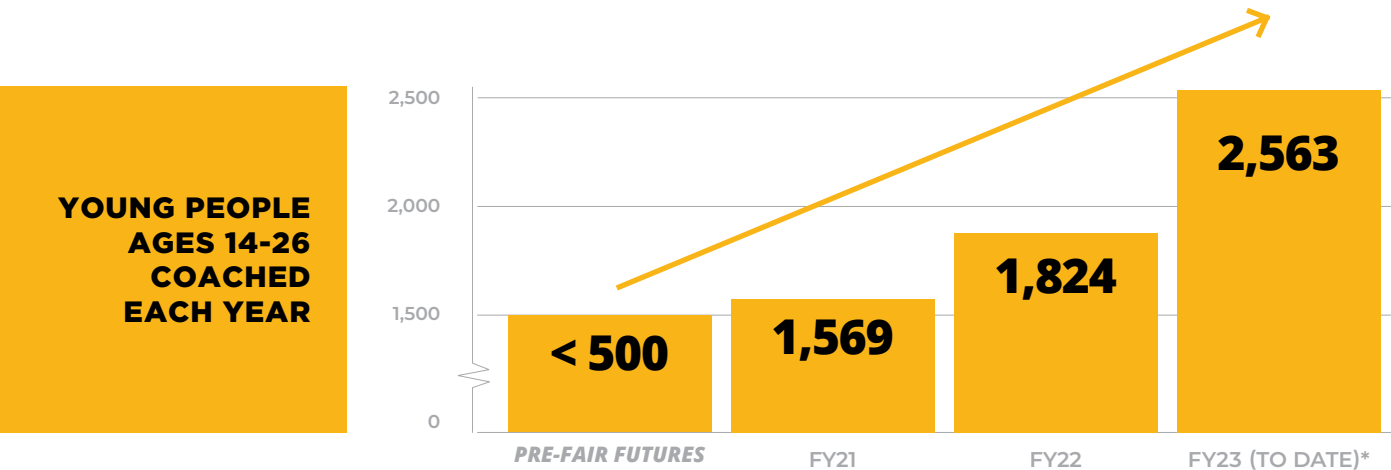


Trained, professional Coaches build trusting relationships with young people, provide ongoing emotional support, and help them connect to and persist in school, programs, and opportunities in line with their interests and goals.

PICTURED LEFT: ANA & HER COACH, MECCA

The Fair Futures model has been launched and scaled across all **26 NYC foster care agencies**, reaching nearly **4,000 young people ages 11-26** in FY23:

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS	YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 14-26	
933	2,563	400+
Received support from a Middle School Specialist and/or 1:1 Tutoring	Received 1:1 Coaching	Received Targeted Academic, Career, and/or Housing Supports*



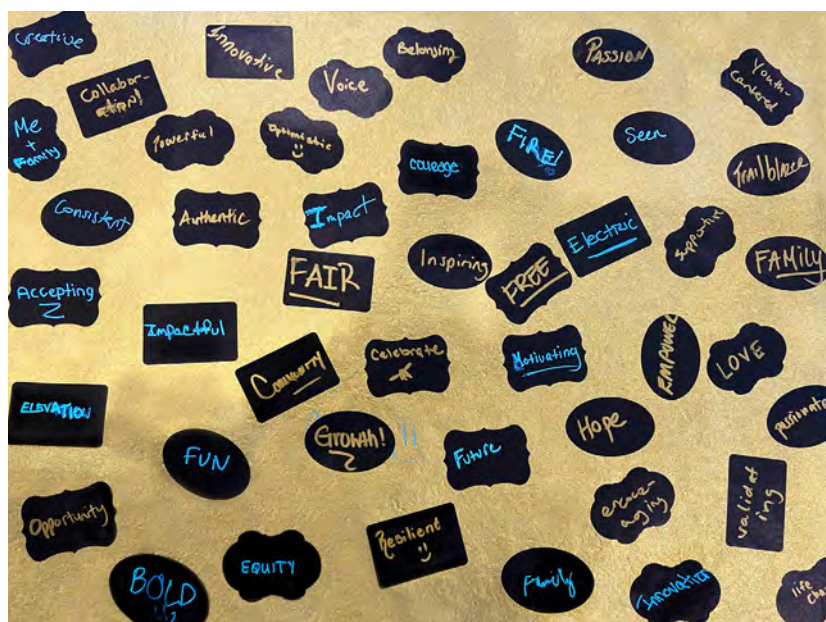
*YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 14-26 WHO WERE NOT COACHED BUT RECEIVED 1:1 TARGETED FAIR FUTURES SUPPORTS



The Center for Fair Futures

The Center for Fair Futures is a team of 15 passionate professionals who provide implementation support to **over 500 Fair Futures staff** across **36 organizations** implementing the model.

The Center has helped create a strong systemwide community (the “Fair Futures Family!”) through trainings, technical assistance sessions, learning communities, workshops, and celebrations each year that bring together staff from across providers.



“FAIR FUTURES REALLY MEETS EACH INDIVIDUAL WHERE THEY’RE AT AND GOES THE DISTANCE”

Fair Futures Staff Member, in reference to the Fair Futures Model; Chapin Hall Evaluation on Fair Futures Implementation

PICTURED LEFT: FAIR FUTURES CULTURE BOARD

Staff and young people were asked to describe the Fair Futures culture.

Model Impact & Evaluation

IN FY23:

~2,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WERE COACHED FOR 90+ DAYS



92%

Achieved an average of **3.9 academic, career, and/or housing outcomes**

VS. 90% IN FY22
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.



85%

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

VS. 62% BEFORE
FAIR FUTURES LAUNCHED



60%

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



105

Re-enrolled in a best-fit academic setting

Coaches helped 105 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 ABOVE THE CITY AVERAGE!

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



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

For the last 3 consecutive years, Fair Futures Middle School Specialists reversed this trend through deep 1:1 support with the complex NYC high school selection process!

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!

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



CHEYANNE DEOPERSAUD

Fair Futures YAB Member

In Their Own Words

Staff quotes from the Chapin Hall Evaluation on Fair Futures Implementation

THE FAIR FUTURES MODEL:

"The Fair Futures model creates a very structured framework for us Coaches in terms of the layout and setting goals, obtainable goals, for youth in order to help them successfully be independent and transition into adulthood."

[The Fair Futures Model] "gives the kids a voice now. It's not just showing them one road, but letting them know they have options... so they'll be able to choose what path they want to take."

"It often leads to young people feeling like, **"This person cares about my dreams, my goals and, like, they want to help explore it with me. This is dope."**

"The youth just get an actual person for once. And that person can follow them through some of the toughest periods of their lives or some of the happiest times of their lives."

THE CULTURE:

"Supportive"	"Collaborative"
"Very youth-driven"	"Inclusive"
"A family"	"A strong network"
"Focused on relationship-building"	

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.

THE CENTER SUPPORTS:

"The type of support, first of all, that [the Center] gives to staff, I think is absolutely amazing. I've never seen that before."

"With Fair Futures, it's like – here's the manual, job descriptions, overview, training, the 1:1 technical assistance. Like anything and everything you need, they'll give it to you."

"I think it's like, kind of like a wand, full of resources ... a very detailed wand to help staff and the kids pursue whatever they need to accomplish at that specific time."

"We have so much support ... I just feel like it's just... you almost can't—you can't lose, you just can't lose."

IMPACT EVALUATION

The impact of Fair Futures is being evaluated by Chapin Hall through a 5-year evaluation, and the results of Chapin Hall's Phase 1 report on the launch and systemwide implementation of Fair Futures will be published soon!

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!

Expansion & Replication

This past year, the Fair Futures model expanded to the juvenile justice sector in NYC and was successfully replicated in a new geography – Buffalo!

NYC JUVENILE JUSTICE

We are extremely grateful to the Adams Administration for baselining additional funding for the Fair Futures model to expand to the NYC juvenile justice population.



The Center completed a year-long Listen & Learn Tour to hear from young people, staff, and key justice partners about how the model can be tailored to this population. The model was implemented across 10 provider organizations and these new Fair Futures staff are supporting over 75 young people.

Check out the [Juvenile Justice materials on our website!](#)

BUFFALO / ERIE COUNTY

Fair Futures also launched a pilot in Buffalo, New York in 2022 as a result of a robust public-private partnership between the Erie County Department of Social Services, Say Yes Buffalo, the Redlich Horwitz Foundation, and local philanthropy.

The [Fair Futures manual/materials and trainings were fully codified to the Buffalo context](#) in partnership with local organizations and experts. The pilot team has been fully trained and are supporting young people who need coaching.



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“I’ve worked in child welfare for 25 years, **I feel like Fair Futures is one of the rare, true success stories** .. it’s had such a clear impact on the young people that the coaches work with. And I know, that’s not just true at our agency... **you hear the stories from young people across all of the agencies about the impact on their lives of having a coach. And it’s, it’s really remarkable.**”

*Fair Futures Staff Member, in reference to the Fair Futures Model;
Chapin Hall Evaluation on Fair Futures Implementation*

Youth-Informed Innovation Pillar Launched

The Center launched a **Youth-Informed Innovation Pillar**, which will collaboratively develop, pilot, evaluate, and scale initiatives and programs that fill systemwide gaps that directly contribute to young people's success and well-being.

All initiatives are youth-informed, designed in conjunction with young people, and (wherever possible) public-private partnerships to ensure future sustainability.

FUNDED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:



SOUL CARE

A youth-informed, public-private partnership between the Center, ACS, and the Mayor's Office of Mental Health to improve access to culturally appropriate therapy and alternative mental health and wellness supports.



OPPORTUNITY YEAR

A structured, year-long program to help system-involved high school graduates gain experiences and build their skills, self-esteem, and peer network so they are better prepared to enroll in college, vocational training, or the workforce.



EMERGING LEADERS

A program to support young professionals ("**Emerging Leaders**") and entrepreneurs with lived experience to scale their organizations ("**Innovators**").