

OUR VISION: Future Link, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit, is dedicated to the creation and implementation of a replicable model for offering community support to vulnerable yet motivated young adults aged 16-25 who want to work towards a brighter future.

OUR MISSION: The mission of Future Link, Inc. is to provide youth coaches, self-advocacy education and other academic, vocational and career supports to assist vulnerable yet motivated young adults successfully transition into adulthood.

NET PROGRAM TARGET POPULATION

The NET program is voluntary. Participants are at-risk youth aged 16 to 25. They are:

- Youth seeking adult guidance;
- Youth who want to learn self-advocacy skills;
- Youth determined to create a brighter future for themselves;
- Montgomery County residents;
- Not chronically mentally ill;
- Not violent.

Vulnerable Youth can be defined as:

- Youth emancipating from foster care;
- Runaway and homeless youth;
- Youth involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems;
- Immigrant youth;
- Youth with physical or learning disabilities;
- Young single mothers and fathers;
- High school drop outs;
- Disconnected youth who are neither enrolled in school nor working.

NET Program Philosophy:

- Volunteers can make a difference.
- NET program participation is voluntary. Students have made a commitment to devote time and effort to the work of preparing for a bright future.
- The transition to adulthood is a process that takes time. In today's global economy, youth need time and support to develop the skills necessary to make a contribution to society and to achieve self-sufficiency.

Want to Get Involved?

Contact Mindi Jacobson, Future Link Executive Director at 240-393-9443 or mjacobson@myfuturelink.net



Resources • Support • Mentoring

Be a Part of the Supportive Services NETwork for Vulnerable Youth

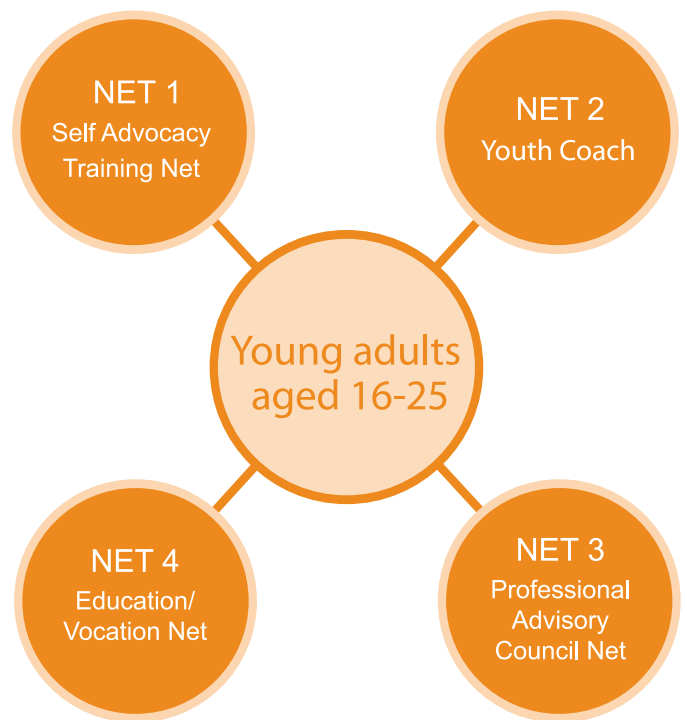
1 Teach Self-Advocacy Skills: Future Link, Inc. offers the *Getting Beyond the System*[®] seminar through a collaboration with the NYC Youth Advocacy Center. This seminar uses the Socratic Method to explicitly teach critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students learn how to establish short and long term career and personal goals, identify and present their strengths and understand the needs of others, ask good questions and obtain useful information when meeting with an adult in an educational or professional setting, present a positive image, develop workable solutions to problems and maintain mentoring relationships.

2 Coach a Youth: Work with a trained volunteer to explore your dreams, set personal goals, and develop educational/ vocational plans with specific details of where, when and how. NET coaches are carefully screened and trained to work with young adults who face significant challenges and obstacles but are determined to have a brighter future.

3 Meet with a Professional in the Field of Your Interest: Informational Interviews are available to NET program participants. These interviews link young adults with professionals in the field of their interest. Students arrive prepared to explain their strengths and interests and to learn more about:

- Career training requirements;
- Internships;
- Entry level job opportunities;
- Specifics of the work environment

4 Obtain a Scholarship/Get a Meaningful Job: Future Link, Inc. assists NET program participants start on their career path by providing scholarships and financial aid application assistance. The Montgomery College Foundation has established a matching tuition fund for those attending Montgomery College. The nonprofit aims to establish additional collaborations and scholarship support to provide additional post-secondary education and training opportunities for qualifying youth.



Interested in Volunteering, Contributing Resources, or Referring a Motivated Young Person?

Contact Clare Herington, NET Program Director at 301-461-5197 or cherington@myfuturelink.net