



How Can **Future 5** Earn Your Bank CRA Credit?

What is CRA?

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) is a United States federal law that encourages banks to meet the credit needs of the communities they serve, including low-and-moderate-income (LMI) people and areas.

How does CRA help banks?

CRA initiatives are important to the financial health of local economies that rely on bank services. When banks can help their communities economically grow, banks in turn will also grow through increased deposits and loans.

How does CRA help community organizations?

Community organizations need financial support to serve their clients and achieve their mission. CRA creates incentives for banks to provide this support.

Future 5 helps motivated, low-income high school students in Stamford connect to their full potential.

Future 5 | 135 Atlantic Street, Stamford, CT 06901 | (203) 358-8787 | futurefive.org

Tax ID #: 46-2986201 | A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



CRA Qualifications

In relation to financial institutions, **Future 5** strongly aligns with CRA credit qualifications. **Future 5's** mission and services are consistent with both the definitions of “Community Development” and “Community Services” under the Community Reinvestment Act.

Community Development

How Future 5 fits this definition individually: In the 2015-2016 school year, 80% of **Future 5's** student members qualified for free or reduced lunch. Additionally, 86% of **Future 5** student members will be the first generation in their families to go to college.

Ethnically/racially, 38% of our student members identify as Hispanic/Latino, 34% identify as Haitian American, 21% identify as Black, 1% identifies as white, and 6% identify as Other.

How Future 5 fits this definition geographically:

The per-capita household income in the 06901 zip code, where Future 5 is located, is \$43,290.

Under the Community Reinvestment Act, Community Development can be defined as “Community services targeted to low-or-moderate-income individuals.”

According to the United States Census Bureau the median household income in Stamford, CT is \$79,359.

Community Services

How Future 5 fits this definition: **Future 5** serves motivated, low-income high school students in Stamford, CT who are in danger of graduating without the resources or an actionable plan to move on to a two-year or four-year college, trade school, professional job, or the military.

Under the Community Reinvestment Act, Community Services, under the category of **Education**, can be defined as, “Financial institutions may receive favorable consideration for grants to support the programs of a not-for-profit organization with a **primary purpose of improving the education of low-and-moderate-income children, who are at-risk of academic failure or simply to enhance child development among LMI children.** The program targets students who are in danger of dropping out of school with intensive counseling and support services. Such grants would meet the definitions of ‘community development’ and ‘community services,’ targeted to low-and-moderate-income families.”

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Description

Mission

Future 5's mission is to help motivated, low-income high school students connect to their full potential.

Goals

Our goal is to help our members connect to the resources essential to making the transition to post-secondary education, careers, and ultimately financial independence and productive citizenship.

Who We Serve

High School Student Members

- **Academics:** Our student members academically range from 1.5 GPA to a 4.0 GPA.
- **Demographics:** 50% male, 50% female, 80% Free/Reduced lunch, 86% 1st generation college student, 38% Hispanic/Latino, 34% Haitian American, 21% Black, 1% White, 6% Other.

College Alumni

- Additionally, we continue to serve 45+ local Norwalk Community College students, as well as all of our college alumni as they graduate from college, seek jobs, and connect with coaches for advice.

Points of Difference

Membership-based Community: Future 5's point of difference centers on the power of belonging to a positive, caring membership-based community. We engage our students as members throughout high school and beyond. Our community-based model is holistic and begins with helping our members connect to themselves. Specifically, Future 5 provides student members with services that help them learn the skills to take ownership of their own education, how to make and sustain connections, and create opportunities for themselves. Our students self-select to participate in our community – they choose to come to Future 5 based on recommendations from siblings and friends.

The Power of Connection: Although we serve motivated students, our members are in danger of graduating from high school without the resources or an actionable plan to move on to a two-year or four-year college, trade school, professional job or the military. This is often due to their low-income economic status, and the consequential lack of resources and support. We believe that providing meaningful connections and teaching them the skills to maximize connections and resources to our students decreases the opportunity gap. When young people are connected to themselves, coaches, and the community, they are better able to navigate obstacles and systems that may hinder their academic, professional, and personal success.

Network of Volunteers: In addition to staff, our network of more than 70 Volunteer Coaches is a vital part of our community and membership philosophy. Our Volunteer coaches provide professional and academic guidance, as well as a new network of connections to our student members. In the 2015-2016 academic school year, our volunteers committed to over 5,000 hours providing \$415,000 of *pro bono* guidance, support, and tutoring.

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Our Services

Here to There	An eight-week workshop that helps students connect to themselves. Through the mandatory workshop students address the importance of motivation, commitment, self-control, and overcoming obstacles. <i>Here to There</i> concludes with the students working one-on-one with trained coaches to create their personalized “Game Plan.” The Game Plan document is continuously updated and is the student's executional framework as they develop. Students become "members" of Future 5 upon completion of <i>Here to There</i> .
Job Prep	A four-month member workshop with coaches who teach the skills companies expect in their employees. Students experience mock interviews, corporate tours, job shadowing at local companies in Stamford and Fairfield County. Students graduate with increased self-confidence, a letter of recommendation, business cards, and new connections.
College Prep	Is open to high school seniors in September and runs for a full year until each student has made his/her final college acceptance decision in May. This preparation includes developing student essays, searching and selecting colleges, completing the Common Application, searching for scholarships, comparing financial aid offers, and final college commitment. In addition to the ongoing workshops and college tours, each senior is paired with an individual volunteer coach who works with the member through his/her entire college search and application process.
Community Service	Future 5 believes in the importance of connecting to one's community. For that reason, Future 5 offers weekly community service opportunities for students assisting other non-profit organizations including Mill River Park, Person-to-Person, Building One Community, The Boys and Girls Club, Fairgate Farm, and many others.
Academic Tutoring	Future 5 offers weekly on-site small group and one-on-one academic tutoring.
Future 5 at Norwalk Community College (NCC)	Launched in 2015, Future 5 has a campus office that is staffed by 3 volunteers who address the needs of Future 5's 45+ enrolled alumni. This office was established to answer the challenge that approximately 80% of low-income community college students will not attain an Associate's degree within 3 years. The volunteers counsel and track the students to make sure they have the support they need to stay in school and complete their Associate's degrees and/or certification programs.

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Impact

We base our impact on connections made, number of high school students graduated, number of students with a post-secondary game plan, and the percent of students who follow through on their game plan.

In the 2015-2016 school year, our programming has been effective in fulfilling organizational goals in the following ways:

81% average increase of personal connections per student with the help of Future 5	100% of our seniors graduated from high school	86% of our student members are the first generation in their families to go to college
98% of our 40 seniors committed to college or career training following high school graduation 25 enrolled in a four-year college 13 enrolled in a two-year college 1 enlisted in the military	21 out of 22 students who started at NCC in the fall of 2015 returned for the spring 2016 semester	15 Future 5 alumni graduated from college this year. Colleges that these members graduated from include: American University University of Connecticut Norwalk Community College University of St. Joseph Harvard Syracuse University Franklin Pierce University

*A "connection" is defined as an individual the student can reach out to for help, support, advice, and guidance in achieving their goals.



If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sydney Fine sfine@futurefive.org

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