

Friends of **ICOY**:

The upcoming New Year brings with it “Renewal Time” for **Illinois Collaboration on Youth** memberships. In this spirit of renewal and time to recommit, let’s look at the past year and what **ICOY** has accomplished.

This past year, **ICOY** has:

- Aggressively advocated in the Governor’s office and legislature for no cuts and restoration of funds to the youth services budget lines
- Was awarded a three year federal grant for Mentoring Children of Prisoners to be brokered to **ICOY** member organizations
- Arranged for key Governor’s cabinet members to meet with **ICOY** membership and present their agendas and hear issues
- Took a statewide high-profile media advocacy stance for no cuts and restoration of youth service dollars in the Governor’s budget
- Executed **ICOY** membership’s legislative policy agenda on issues such as truancy and lock-outs
- Continued to advocate for a federal earmark set-aside to fund Juvenile Justice Mental Health programs to be provided by **ICOY** members, while taking on key leadership roles in the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership
- Operated highly successful statewide training and TA for **ICOY** member agencies to keep local professional staff on the cutting edge of youth services
- Provided support to members for developing federal grant applications
- Sent up-to-date communications regarding support and funding opportunities specific to youth service organizations

Renewing NOW gives you:

- Unlimited consultation with **ICOY** Chicago and Springfield staff to assist with your state youth programming needs
- Opportunities to be included in cross-community competitive grant applications
- Scheduled legislative receptions and organized personal meetings with your legislators and appointed government officials to advocate for the youth and families you serve
- Structured opportunities to shape the statewide **ICOY** agenda with your own personal input
- Unlimited access to **ICOY** staff to personally assist you with your governmental relations issues
- Assistance in advocacy for state funds necessary to address needs in your community

If you are not a member, take a “second look” at what membership affords YOU. In this time of tight budgets where every dollar must count, it makes good sense to be a member of **ICOY**. Where else can you buy this much agency assistance for such a small price?

Join **ICOY** today, and then begin to use the Chicago and Springfield offices to grow and develop your agency and community. Membership forms are enclosed. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact **ICOY's** administrative office at: 312-704-1257.

We look forward to continuing our essential work during 2005, and wish you the very best during the Holiday Season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Ventura

Daniel R. Ventura, Chair
ICOY Board of Directors

J. Harry Wells

J. Harry Wells, Chair
ICOY Policy Board