



Mission Statement

At the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY), we champion the safety, health and success of Illinois' children, youth, and families -- by acting as a collective voice for policy and practice, and by connecting and strengthening the organizations that serve them.

Vision Statement

ICOY envisions an Illinois state culture that values and invests in ensuring that all children, youth, and families are healthy, inter-generationally successful, and thriving toward their full potential.

Core Belief Statement

ICOY believes that children and youth have the right to enter adulthood with the tools and capacity to succeed, and that Illinois only succeeds when its children, youth, and families thrive.

DEI Statement

Our mission is best achieved when we embrace our values of boldness, collaboration, equity, innovation, and strategy, with an enduring commitment to inclusion that must find full expression in our organizational culture, values, norms and behaviors.

Throughout our work in policy, advocacy, and capacity building, we will advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its forms, encompassing but not limited to age, ability, economic circumstance, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

As an association, we will make diversity, equity, and inclusion a core and abiding strength of the nonprofit sector by leading through our words and actions.

Core Values

- Equity
- Strategy



- Innovation/forward thinking
- Boldness
- Collaboration

Policy Advisory Committee Guiding Principles

- Policies and programs that are trauma-informed, evidence-supported, family-focused, culturally-responsive and community-based.
- Policies and programs that support families, empower communities and prevent involvement in the formal juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
- Policies and programs that ensure out-of-home placement in juvenile detention or foster care is used only when necessitated by safety concerns that cannot otherwise be mitigated, and occurs in the least restrictive setting, for the least time possible, and close to the child's family and community.
- Policies and programs that advance racial equity and reduce the entrenched patterns of disproportionate representation and disparate outcomes for minority children, youth and families involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
- Policies and administrative practices that provide full funding for community services to enhance the well-being of children, youth and families.
- Policies and administrative practices that support a well-qualified, trained and stable workforce serving children, youth and families.
- Policies and administrative practices that safeguard the interests of marginalized children, youth and families throughout the State's design, implementation and administration of Medicaid and managed care arrangements for community social services.
- Policies and administrative practices among community youth service, juvenile justice and child welfare providers to measure their performance, evaluate outcomes and apply sound continuous quality improvement practices.
- Policies, legislation and programs that fulfill ICOY's strategic imperative to take a strong stance on social justice issues that impact Illinois' children, youth and families.