



Building Better Lives for a New Generation



Our Mission

Voices for Illinois Children champions the full development of every child in Illinois to ensure the future well-being of everyone in the state. We work with families, communities and policy-makers on all issues to help children grow up happy, healthy, nurtured, safe and well-educated.

Our Values

We are committed to the well-being of every child. All children, regardless of circumstances, are vital to the preservation of a vigorous democracy. We believe children do well when they grow up in strong, supportive families, and that families do well in supportive communities. We believe in focusing on preventing problems by employing comprehensive, well-researched strategies to improve children's education and health care and to strengthen their families' economic security and the social services on which they depend.



What We Do

Founded in 1987, Voices is a statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that bridges ideological and political boundaries. We work toward comprehensive, effective and cost-efficient public policies to build better lives for Illinois children. Better lives are defined by a set of social, economic, and community factors, including high-quality early childhood and K-12 education, access to high-quality medical and mental health care, and family economic stability.



Voices for Illinois Children:

- Conducts policy research and analysis
- Initiates public policy solutions
- Builds coalitions and supports community empowerment
- Raises public awareness about crucial issues affecting children
- Mobilizes individuals, groups and communities to speak up for children
- Communicates and deliberates with policymakers



Letter from the President

These are difficult times for Illinois children and families. As we predicted in *Illinois Kids Count 2010: "Children and Families in a Time of Crisis,"* child poverty has continued to increase. In Illinois, 19 percent of children now live in poverty – an increase of 27 percent since 1990 and the highest since 1993. And 389,000 children (13 percent) live in families where at least one parent is unemployed.

The combined impact of the economic recession and the state fiscal crisis has been devastating to families. When families are suffering and services are in jeopardy, our work at Voices keeps policymakers focused on what's important – today's children. When we fail to invest in their development and education, we put the future of our state at risk.

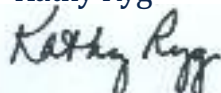
There are no easy answers to the state's fiscal problems. Voices points policymakers in the right direction – toward budget and fiscal solutions that are fair, balanced and responsible. In 2010, we provided critical budget analysis to advocates and policymakers, as well as technical assistance to the Illinois Human Services Commission and Education Funding Advisory Board.

Voices takes a whole-child approach, starting at birth and embracing children's physical, cognitive and social-emotional needs. We work across issue areas affecting children from infancy to adulthood in their families, schools and communities. Over the past two years, we have launched two initiatives building on our long-term work in early childhood education:

- Great at Eight expands our birth-to-5 work into grades K-3, engaging educators, parents and policymakers in envisioning and advocating for a robust statewide birth-to-8 system that will lay the foundation for children's success in school, work and life.
- ACT Now (Afterschool for Children and Teens Now) campaigned successfully for passage of the Afterschool Youth Development Act in 2010. We are leading the ACT Now Coalition and will be supporting the Youth Development Council as it moves Illinois toward the goal of providing all young people between the ages of 6 and 19 with access to quality afterschool programs.

The situation for the children of our state is urgent. They need every adult to become educated and engaged in the issues. Your participation is vitally important. Please join our efforts to ensure a bright future for Illinois children.

Kathy Ryg



President

Our Partners in Building Better Lives

Changing policy requires a broad base of support. Voices for Illinois Children brings together people with commitment, expertise and good ideas to educate the public about such issues as education quality, children’s mental health, the return on investments in early learning, and the impact of state budget decisions on families’ economic security. We work in partnership with individuals and organizations to protect hard-won gains for children in health, education and human services. In addition to providing leadership, advocacy and communications for coalitions, we act as fiscal agent and provide space for several groups.

Voices’ collaborating partners include:

- ACT Now (Afterschool for Children and Teens Now)
- Foster Kids Are Our Kids Campaign Agencies
- Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition
- Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership
- Illinois Commission to End Hunger Children and Families at Risk Committee
- Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) Technical Advisory Committee
- Illinois Early Learning Council
- Illinois Home Visiting Task Force
- Illinois Partners for Human Service
- Illinois Project Launch
- Kids Count Network
- P-20 Education Council Family, Youth and Community Engagement Committee
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- Responsible Budget Coalition
- State Fiscal Analysis Initiative
- Strengthening Families Illinois
- Voices for America’s Children



Voices Leadership Committees help citizens and communities throughout Illinois raise their voices collectively for children. The **Associates Board** engages emerging leaders from various professions in supporting Voices for Illinois Children. We are grateful to the individuals who provide leadership for these two groups.

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Advocates and policymakers rely on Voices' annual Kids Count data book for accessible, relevant information about children's well-being. Expert advisory committee members enrich the publication with their valuable input and ideas. Their generous contribution of time and expertise is much appreciated.

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Financial Statement of Support, Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the Year Ending December 31, 2010.

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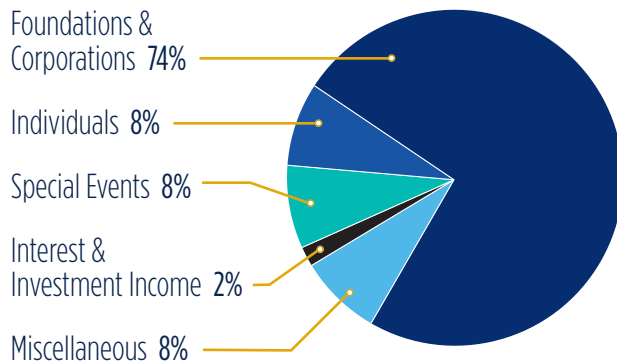
Current Assets

Cash	\$ 1,627,719
Investments	\$ 453,239
Pledges and Accounts Receivable	\$ 814,867
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 11,390
Total Current Assets	\$2,907,215

Fixed Assets

Furniture and Equipment	\$ 298,378
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (278,672)
Net Furniture and Equipment	\$ 19,706
Total Assets	\$2,926,921

Revenues



Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 186,235
Amount Held for Others	\$ 871,874
Accrued Vacation	\$ 32,147
Deferred Lease Costs	\$ 8,108
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,098,364

Deferred Lease Costs (future)

\$ 12,163

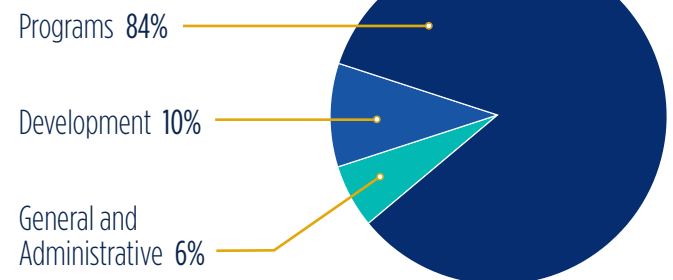
Total Liabilities

\$1,110,527

Net Assets

Unrestricted-Undesignated	\$-
Unrestricted - Designated	\$ 333,490
Unrestricted- Contingency	\$ 283,706
Total Unrestricted	\$ 617,196
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,199,198
Total Net Assets	\$1,816,394
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,926,921

Expenses



Thank you for your generous support

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The Irving Harris Foundation

\$50,000 & Up

The Chicago Community Trust
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\$20,000 & Up

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