

**Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth:
A Pioneering Child Advocacy Organization (1974 – 2008)**

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ABSTRACT

Coleman Advocates for Youth and Children is a pioneering thirty year old child advocacy organization founded by several affluent community members and children's service professionals to stop housing abused and neglected children in juvenile hall. Today low-income youth and parents in families of color are now assuming leadership in developing a unique hybrid approach that integrates community organizing with more traditional child advocacy strategies and focuses on increasing affordable housing and improving the city's educational system. The strategies employed by Coleman have also evolved, shifting from insider advocacy with administrative officials to public campaigns targeting the city budget process, to local initiative campaigns, and most recently to electoral politics. This organizational history features the issues mission and structure, leadership, managing issues, advocacy strategies and community relations, and funding.

Key Words: Youth, Advocacy, Community Organizing, Organizational History, Nonprofit