**Violence Prevention Programs**

The Illinois General Assembly appropriated $15 million in General Revenue funds to the ICJIA for grants to community organizations specifically for violence prevention programs. These funds have been allocated to Governor Quinn’s Illinois Community Youth Summer Jobs Program and to Governor Quinn’s Neighborhood Recovery Initiative.

**Illinois Community Youth Summer Jobs Program:**

The program will supply employment for approximately 1,900 young people from areas with high crime and violence, high unemployment, and high social disorder.

Goals: The Illinois Community Youth Jobs Program targets Chicagoland communities that have been the hardest-hit by violence. Youth will be provided with temporary, full-time employment with 501(c)(3) non-profit entities. Organizations must provide an orientation that includes showing youth how to open a checking or savings account and encouraging them to do so. The Community Youth Jobs Program aims to achieve documented outcomes: violence prevention, a reduction in risky behavior, an increase in educational achievement. Employment placements must engage youth and offer them opportunities to learn hard and soft job skills including:

• Career exploration and social growth.

• Financial literacy/personal banking.

• Professional behavior and communication.

• Real-world labor expectations like arriving to work on time.

• Increased awareness of services offered by local community-based organizations.

• Appropriate dress and demeanor.

**Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI):**

NRI provides services and jobs for 23 communities in the Chicago area which exhibit high levels of violent crime, poverty, unemployment, low educational achievement and social disorder.

NRI is comprised of four component parts in each community:

* a mentoring plus jobs program,
* a parent leadership program,
* re-entry services for young people returning to the community from the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Corrections,
* and a school-based counseling program which was an expansion of existing Chicago Public School programming in the Chicago communities part of NRI.