

Get Ready for a New Legislative Session

The 2010 New York State Legislative Session will start in early January so it is time to revisit your advocacy tools and refresh your bookmarks.

Over the past year, this newsletter has provided you with many links to websites and publications to help you improve your advocacy efforts and learn more about the issues. Here, again, are some of the most popular:

- A good example of a general advocacy handbook is the [Child Advocacy Primer](#) from Voices for America's Children. As a national organization for children's issues, Voices also has a [2008 Electoral Advocacy Toolkit](#) that can also be downloaded. The Center for an Urban Future has a publication called [Speak Up](#) with good general tips on advocacy.
- *Winning Beginning NY* has an [Advocacy Handbook](#) and Prevent Child Abuse New York has an [advocacy guide designed for parents](#) and [one for providers](#).
- The [Alliance for Justice](#) has information on the legal aspects of advocacy for non-profits.
- On the [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) websites you can read biographies of legislators, look at newsletters and learn about legislation they have sponsored. Each website also contains important information on the procedures used in each house for the introduction and passage of legislation. Both sites also contain a tool for identifying who your legislators are or you can use the feature at the [Commission for Public Integrity](#) website.
- [Thomas.gov](#) provides a wealth of information on Congress, congressional representatives and the federal legislative process. From Thomas.gov you can get to the websites of the [Senate](#) and [House of Representatives](#) where you can learn about the legislative process in each house and visit the websites of individual members of Congress.
- Take some time to look around the internet and you will find many other websites and toolkits to match your interests and ability level. For example, people interested in health and public health may find good tips at the [American Public Health Association](#) website, while others may want to visit the [Child Welfare League of America](#) for advocacy advice.

There are also many organizations in New York State that have websites and resources that can help you plan visits, learn issues and be successful. Be careful, however, when looking at materials from other states or federal organizations: the tips for advocacy may be good, but the legislative process and the regulations vary from state to state and from the federal to the state level.