

NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE NETWORK

Youth Justice Leadership Institute *Building a Movement*

Information and Application Instructions 2019

Thank you for your interest in the National Juvenile Justice Network's (NJJN) Youth Justice Leadership Institute. The Institute's mission is to facilitate the foundation for a more effective youth justice reform movement by supporting a strong base of well-prepared and well-equipped leaders who reflect the communities most affected by juvenile justice system practices and policies. Our program is geared for individuals of color working as professionals in the youth justice field, who may also be system survivors themselves, or family members of someone in the system. Through a year-long engagement with each cohort of fellows, the Institute seeks to elevate, nurture and expand the group of emerging advocates and organizers that has optimal capacity for social change leadership, is knowledgeable about juvenile justice system structures and change needs, and is well-informed about effective advocacy and organizing techniques to achieve system change.

We strongly encourage you to thoroughly review these instructions and [FAQ](#) before applying.

Structure

The year-long Institute curriculum is comprised of three components: leadership fundamentals, juvenile justice system overview, and advocacy skills development. Throughout the year, fellows will engage with the Institute through two in-person gatherings and a variety of distance-learning activities. Fellows will also be connected to the larger youth justice reform community through participation in NJJN's listserv/community platform, webinars, and teleconferences. Each fellow will be assigned a mentor to assist them in their development as a youth justice leader. Upon completion of the year-long program, fellows are welcomed into the Institute's alumni program and invited to continue their participation in NJJN's activities by formally become NJJN members, which gives them the opportunity to attend the annual membership gathering, participate in committees and working groups, and participate in activities specifically dedicated to their continuing development.

Leadership Fundamentals: This curriculum will impart to fellows the knowledge necessary to identify and exercise effective leadership. Fellows will engage in self-assessments, critiques of notable leaders, and visioning for their roles as leaders.

Juvenile Justice System Overview: Fellows will examine the fundamentals of juvenile justice system processes, reform issues, and current knowledge on best practices for the treatment of youth in trouble with the law. This knowledge will be grounded in information on the broader historic, social movement, and theoretical contexts of juvenile justice reform.

Advocacy Skills Development: Through the creation and implementation of a juvenile justice advocacy project coupled with presentations on community organizing, legislative advocacy, and other social change tactics, fellows will explore and improve their competency in a broad set of reform skills.

Advocacy Project: The advocacy project provides an opportunity for the fellows to connect the knowledge and skills that they attain through the Institute to concrete activity. The actual project can take many forms. It can be one in which the applicant is currently engaged or be newly developed, be large or small in scale, be oriented around process (i.e., forming a coalition) or outcome (i.e., passage of legislation) etc. All projects, however, must be finished by the close of the Institute's year. (Further details about the project's requirements can be found in the [FAQ](#).) Fellows will be supported by staff and mentors to ensure the completion of the project.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Institute, each applicant must:

1. Be an advocate of color 18 years of age or older, engaged in reforming our youth justice systems or working in a related social justice field.
2. Be affiliated with an organization advocating for or serving those directly affected by the youth justice system or in a related field (please refer to the [FAQ](#) for more information about the affiliation requirement).
3. Show support from a current employer (if employer is not the affiliated organization) for the applicant's proposal to the Institute.
4. Be able to demonstrate involvement in youth justice reform activities or interest in youth justice reform.
5. Have a desire to lead efforts to reform/transform the youth justice system.
6. Have access to basic technology.
7. Be a resident of the United States (the 50 States, DC, or Puerto Rico).
8. Have demonstrated leadership.
9. Be willing and able to commit to the full year of the Institute, including all related activities.
10. Be able to devote time to an advocacy project during the course of the Institute year.

Fellow Selection and Requirements

Fellows are selected by an application review committee and interview subcommittee. Applicants are evaluated based on their experience, their commitment to youth justice reform, and their potential for long-term success in the field. The Institute accepts 10 individuals for the Institute each year.

Once selected, each fellow is required to undertake the following:

1. Complete all tasks assigned prior to the first in-person gathering.
2. Make the required revisions to the advocacy project proposed in the application.
3. Carry out that project to the satisfaction of Institute staff.
4. Identify at least one auxiliary mentor for their mentor team and fully engage in their mentoring relationships (once a month contact with the primary mentor is required).
5. Attend both in-person sessions.
6. Participate in at least 80% of distance-learning activities.
7. Participate in all evaluation activities.

All fellows must commit to the full year. In-person sessions will take place September 2019 in Washington, DC and in March or April 2020 (location TBD). Attendance at both is required. Fellows must be willing to actively engage their mentors throughout the year. Participation in monthly group check-in calls, presentations, and on-going evaluation activities is required.

Registration Fee

The registration fee for the year-long program is based on a sliding scale. Use the following annual salary guide to determine your tuition amount:

Income Level	\$0 - \$30,000	\$31,000 - \$40,000	\$41,000 - \$50,000	\$51,000 +
Registration	\$100	\$150	\$225	\$330

PLEASE NOTE: Lack of funds will not prevent an accepted fellow from participating. The Youth Justice Leadership Institute has a generous scholarship policy, and will find funds to cover all accepted applicants in need of support. If you have questions about the scholarship policy, please contact Diana Onley-Campbell, Institute Coordinator, via email at diana@njjn.org.

Support and Logistical Details

NJJN provides the following for all Institute participants:

- Funds for transportation to two in-person sessions
- Room and board for each in-person session
- A primary mentor for the duration of the Institute year
- Technical assistance support from NJJN staff
- Up to 8-1/2 days of face-to-face learning with peers and faculty, split between the two in-person sessions
- A Youth Justice Leadership Institute handbook

About the National Juvenile Justice Network

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) leads a national movement of state-based youth justice coalitions, organizations, and individuals to secure state and federal laws, policies and practices that are fair, equitable and developmentally appropriate for all children, youth and families involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the justice system. NJJN currently has 53 organizational members in 43 states and the District of Columbia, and 54 Institute alumni members. To learn more about NJJN, visit www.njjn.org, or e-mail info@njjn.org.

Application Instructions (Please Read Carefully!)

Only fully completed applications will be considered. Applicants are required to submit the following:

- Fully-completed contact information form (to be submitted by applicant)
- Fully-completed application form (to be submitted by applicant)
- Two nomination forms (to be submitted directly by each nominator)
- Organizational affiliation form (to be submitted directly by affiliated organization / the signer may be required to speak with Institute staff before a final invitation to be a fellow is extended))
- Employer affirmation form (to be submitted directly by employer, if organizational affiliation is not the applicant's employer / the signer may be required to speak with Institute staff before a final invitation to be a fellow is extended)
- Current resume

Please use Times New Roman font and place all responses directly in the appropriate document, submit as an email attachment.

Full and complete applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM Eastern time, April 29, 2019. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Finalist candidates will be interviewed prior to selection. Notification of final acceptance decisions will take place by end of June 2019.

Submit all completed application forms by email to:

Diana Onley-Campbell
Institute Coordinator, Youth Justice Leadership Institute
National Juvenile Justice Network
diana@njjn.org

If you have any questions about the Institute, the application itself or the application process, please contact Diana Onley-Campbell via email at diana@njjn.org. All applicants are strongly advised to review the Institute [FAQ here](http://bit.ly/YMWjut) (<http://bit.ly/YMWjut>).

[SEE NEXT PAGE]

Timeline of Application Process and Institute Programming

Important Dates	
February 25, 2019	Applications released
March 21, 2019	Informational Webinar (first)
April 4, 2019	Informational Webinar (second)
April 29, 2019	Application deadline (must include application form, two nomination forms, and organizational affiliation form)
June 27, 2019	Final acceptance decisions; offers extended to prospective fellows
July 1, 2019	Deadline for acceptance of offers by prospective fellows
Mid-September 2019	First in-person Institute session
March or April 2020 (Dates TBD)	Second in-person Institute session
Monthly from Aug. 2019-June 2020	Contact between Institute fellows and mentors
Monthly from Oct. 2019-June 2020	Group check-in calls
Monthly from Oct. 2019-June 2020	Distance learning teleconferences/webinars
July 2020 (Dates TBD)	Alumni participation at the annual forum

The Youth Justice Leadership Institute is supported by generous grants from the Andrus Family Fund, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and the Tow Foundation.