NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE NETWORK

Youth Justice Leadership Institute
Building a Movement

Information and Application Instructions 2017

Thank you for your interest in the National Juvenile Justice Network's (NJJN) Youth Justice Leadership Institute. The Institute's mission is to create the foundation for a more effective juvenile justice reform movement by developing 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 juvenile justice field, who may also be young adults who are 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 build, 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 systems change.

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 juvenile justice reform community through participation in NJJN's listserv, webinars, and teleconferences. Each fellow will be assigned a mentor to guide them in their development as a juvenile justice leader. Upon completion of the program, fellows will be entered into the Institute's alumni program, during which they will also be 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 utilize the knowledge and skills that they attain through the Institute in on-the-ground action. 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 juvenile 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 juvenile 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 juvenile justice reform activities or interest in juvenile justice reform.
5. Have a desire to lead efforts to reform/transform the juvenile justice system.
6. Have access to basic technology.
7. Reside in the continental United States.
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. Applicants are evaluated based on their prior experience, their commitment to juvenile 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 2017 in Washington, DC and in March or April 2018 (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, teleconferences, and on-going evaluation activities is required.

Tuition

The tuition 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 +
Tuition	$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 during the work week 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 juvenile 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 37 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 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 will be required to speak with Institute staff before a final invitation to be a fellow is extended))
- ☐ Employer affirmation form (if organizational affiliation is not the applicant's employer / the signer will be required to speak with Institute staff before a final invitation to be a fellow is extended)
- ☐ Current resume

Full and complete applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM Eastern time, April 18, 2017. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Finalist candidates will be interviewed prior to selection. Notification of final acceptance decisions will take place by June 12, 2017.

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).

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Timeline of Application Process and Institute Programming

Important Dates	
February 27, 2017	Applications released
April 18, 2017	**Application deadline** (must include application form, two nomination forms, and organizational affiliation form)
June 12, 2017	**Final acceptance decisions; offers extended to prospective fellows**
June 14, 2017	Deadline for acceptance of offers by prospective fellows
Mid-September 2017	**First in-person Institute session**
March or April 2018 (Dates TBD)	**Second in-person Institute session**
Monthly from Aug. 2017-June 2018	Contact between Institute fellows and mentors
Monthly from Sept. 2017-June 2018	Group check-in calls
Monthly from Oct. 2017-June 2018	Distance learning teleconferences/webinars
July 2018 (Dates TBD)	Alumni participation at the annual forum

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