What is the National Association of Counsel for Children, or NACC?

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is a national nonprofit advocacy organization and membership association founded to support and train attorneys who represent children. NACC believes all children and youth need lawyers who are well-trained to ensure that their voices are heard, their rights are protected, their needs are met, and that the best possible outcomes are achieved – outcomes where children and youth are raised on a path toward success in loving and supportive families.

Today NACC provides programs and resources that improve the quality of legal representation for children, parents and social service agencies; supports a national community of legal professionals and helps attract and retain diverse talent in the children’s legal advocacy profession; and we advocate for policies that advance children’s rights, including the right to counsel. NACC works to #PromoteExcellence #BuildCommunity and #AdvanceJustice.

What is NACC’s National Youth Advisory Board?

NACC’s National Youth Advisory Board (NYAB) is a group of young professionals, advocates and leaders, representing a diverse population across the country, who have navigated the child welfare system. Applying their personal and professional experience, Board members will help advance the rights and opportunities of children in the child welfare system. (Board members will also determine the official new name of the NYAB).

The Board will advocate for the rights of children in the child welfare system, especially the right to effective assistance of counsel, educate lawyers about how to provide high quality representation, and use what they learn to lead change in their home communities. Board members receive advocacy training and professional development opportunities, in addition to financial stipends for time and travel, and one-on-one professional mentoring.

NACC’s Youth Advisory Board is a two-year commitment. We ask members commit to:

- Attend the first meeting of NYAB by videoconference or at NACC’s annual conference on August 23-26, 2020 in Baltimore, MD, with travel paid for by NACC.
- Participate in a monthly NYAB phone call or virtual training. NACC staff will work with Board members to set the meeting schedule.
- Maintain professional conduct throughout their term representing NACC.
- Interact constructively with peers in a group setting.
- Serve as an active ambassador by identifying needs and opportunities within your home state/tribe/jurisdiction and communicating that information to the Board.
To members of the National Youth Advisory Board, NACC will provide:

- Training on effective advocacy, adult learning, and policy development.
- One-on-one professional coaching and mentoring support.
- An opportunity to network with young professional leaders from other states.
- Recommendation letters for other educational or professional development opportunities.
- All travel costs associated with participating in NACC’s annual conference or other required meetings or trainings.
- Pay: Stipends in the amount of $250 per quarter for quarterly meeting preparation, reports, and attendance; additional work on special projects $15 per hour; Articles for NACC’s publication The Guardian $250.

ELIGIBILITY

Council members must be at least 18-years of age at the start of their service. All members must:

- Have personal experience in the foster care system (including all out-of-home placements, facilities, kinship placements, shelters, etc.)
- Demonstrate the capacity to participate in advocacy or leadership involving child welfare policy, for example through recent or current volunteer positions, related employment, and/or by pursuing education in the legal, child welfare or social work fields.
- Gain permission to travel and be photographed, including ability to obtain required permissions from foster care agency if in extended care.
- Demonstrate responsibility, self-drive and require minimal supervision.

NACC also recommends that applicants to the Board have a sponsor organization within their home community. A sponsor organization might be a service provider or legal service agency that provides individual support and mentorship as the Board member navigates learning and personal challenges during their term of service on the Board (this does not require a financial commitment). If selected Board members do not have a local sponsor organization, NACC will help connect them with one.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

2. One letter of recommendation uploaded or sent to NACCED@NACCchildlaw.org by April 30. This letter can be written by a supervisor of a paid or volunteer position or by a teacher. If you have a sponsor organization, the letter should be from an individual with decision-making authority at the organization. Please let us know if you need additional time to obtain the letter of recommendation after the application deadline.

NOTE: YOUTH COORDINATOR POSITION

NACC is also hiring a part-time Youth Coordinator, whose primary responsibilities will be to lead NACC’s youth engagement work, including managing the activities, training and support. Please click here for more information on the Youth Coordinator position.